

December 27, 2011

For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

**Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Employees
Win Silver Medal, Fighting Spirit Award
in Carpentry Category at 49th National Skills Competition**

Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Tetsuya Kobayashi; Head Office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)'s employees Ryoei Matsuya and Keisuke Kato, won a Silver Medal and a Fighting Spirit Award, respectively, in the Carpentry Category at the 49th National Skills Competition held from December 16 mainly in Shizuoka Prefecture. Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering is wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) and its employees now won an award for 11 straight years, since the 2001 annual event.

The National Skills Competition is Japan's foremost competition for young craftsmen. The event offers the nation's future craftsmen concrete goals to strive for and provides an opportunity for young people in the event location to witness some of the most advanced craftsmanship in Japan. The event also widely promotes the importance and necessity of skills while fostering respect for craftsmanship.

At the 49th event, some 1,000 craftsmen aged 23 or under represented their prefectures in 40 different job categories. Carpentry was the most popular category, with 79 contestants.

The contestants from Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering were selected from among employees who had completed necessary carpenter training at the Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques (Institute Director: Seiji Suzuki; Location: Yotsukaido, Chiba Prefecture).

Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques is an internal vocational training institute founded in 1988 with the purpose of fostering craftsmen to build high-quality *Sumitomo Forestry Home* houses. "Fostering craftsmen with a balance of heart, skills, and body" is the training philosophy on which the school provides a distinctive one-year curriculum necessary for a construction craftsman, balancing fundamental knowledge and practical skills. The school's mission is to foster the next generation of Japanese wood house craftsmen with the ability to build not only wooden houses using Sumitomo Forestry's proprietary methods, but to build structures using traditional Japanese wooden post-and-beam construction methods. After completion of their courses, the students begin working as employee carpenters for Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering, building *Sumitomo Forestry Home* houses. The carpenters construct structural frameworks for technologically sophisticated *Sumitomo Forestry Home* houses, providing safe and reliable home buildings for their residents.