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For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

Aiming for Safe and Secure House Development
**Beginning of Field Tests to Verify Construction Methods to Cope
with Liquefaction as Commissioned by the City of Urayasu**

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Head Office: 3-2 Otemachi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) was selected from among many submissions on March 6, 2012 by the City of Urayasu in Chiba Prefecture to participate in validity tests to analyze the efficacy of construction methods to cope with liquefaction. Since then, after making proposals, including a presentation for execution plans, the company signed a written agreement with the City of Urayasu to carry out independent field tests to verify construction methods to cope with liquefaction.

The City of Urayasu, which suffered considerable damage due to ground liquefaction triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake, plans to allow private-sector companies to use athletic parks and other land managed by the city to carry out validity tests for new construction methods to cope with liquefaction, and also plans to support the commercialization of new construction methods that prove effective. The city invited private-sector companies to submit useful construction methods. Nine companies, including Sumitomo Forestry, were selected to conduct field tests.

Prior to the Great East Japan Earthquake, few companies had commercialized construction methods that were effective against ground liquefaction which also allowed for implementation in detached houses at a reasonable price. In addition, conventional construction machinery was large and not suited for work in ordinary housing lots.

To solve this issue, Sumitomo Forestry has been striving to develop technology that is amply effective and provides the required durability that can be deployed in detached houses at reasonable cost. For some time, the company has been examining a construction method that suppressed ground slippage directly underneath buildings by using steel plates to reinforce the area surrounding the building's foundation. The construction method is still in the verification stage.

By actually using the liquefied ground of Urayasu for its tests, Sumitomo Forestry can present the city with proposals for effective technologies to cope with liquefaction and will also likely be able to supply these technologies in other areas where there is potential for ground liquefaction due to an earthquake.

Sumitomo Forestry Archi Techno Co., Ltd. (President: Fumitoshi Habuchi; Head Office: Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry, and Sumitomo Forestry will handle overall component development and overall construction, while Nisshin Steel Holdings and Nisshin Kokan Co., Ltd. will carry out component manufacture and supply. (Nisshin Steel's highly corrosion-resistant hot dip

coated steel sheets, ZAM[®], will be used.)

Since its entry into the custom-built wooden detached housing business in 1975, Sumitomo Forestry has worked to thoroughly modernize wooden houses by constantly developing new technologies and systems, and making subsequent reforms. Going forward, the company aims to pour its efforts into the improvement of house functions, including earthquake resistance, and continue to tackle the development of safe and secure houses.