

**Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Employees Win
Silver & Bronze Medals and the Fighting-Spirit Award
in Carpentry at 50th National Skills Competition**

Five employees from Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Yasuyuki Yamamoto; Head Office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo) received awards for the carpentry category, including Silver and Bronze medals, and the Fighting Spirit award, at 50th National Skills Competition held in Matsumoto and Suwa Cities in Nagano Prefecture from October 26 to 29. Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo). This is the ninth time all participants from Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering came away with awards.

Carpentry category

Silver medal	Yuki Okamoto (Nagoya-nishi Center, Tokai Office)
Bronze medal	Genya Nagaiwa (Fukuoka Center, Kyushu Office)
	Keisuke Kono (Shizuoka Center, Shizuoka Office)
Fighting-spirit award	Shunichi Sakai (Ota Center, Jyoshin-etsu Office)
	Takuya Kuriyama (Ishikawa Center, Hokuriku Office)

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 50th event, some 1,000 craftsmen aged 23 or under represented their prefectures in 40 different job categories. The carpentry category had 78 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.

Additional information: Mr. Okamoto was selected to participate in the 42nd WorldSkills Competition, to be held in Leipzig, Germany in July 2013. The qualification for Japanese representatives at the WorldSkills Competition is that the participants must have been winners (high achievers) in the National Skills Competition held the year prior to the WorldSkills Competition and have been 22 years old or younger at the time of the WorldSkills Competition (exceptions for some categories).

In the past, participants from Sumitomo Home Engineering in the WorldSkills Competition came in sixth at the 35th competition held in Montreal, Canada in 1999, won a silver medal at the 39th competition held in Shizuoka, Japan in 2007, and a silver medal at the 41st competition held in London, UK in 2011.