

March 14, 2013

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

Cosponsoring the *Kyo-no-Mori* Project, hosted
by World Heritage Daigoji Temple

**Sumitomo Forestry to Donate Cloned Cherry Tree Saplings
to Daigo Elementary School**

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) announced today that it will donate cherry tree saplings to elementary schools, as a part of its role as cosponsor of “*Kyo-no-Mori* Project—cherry trees linking people together.” The project is sponsored by Daigoji Temple, which is the head temple for the Daigo school of Shingon Buddhism (Head priest: Junna Nakada; Fushimi-ku, Kyoto).

The *Kyo-no-Mori* Project aims to make effective use of fallen leaves, which are in abundance at temples and shrines. The objective of the campaign is to help create a recycling-oriented society by turning the fallen leaves into fertilizer and using the fertilizer to grow plants. The Daigoji Temple has put the children of the neighboring Daigo Elementary School in charge of gathering fallen leaves, producing fertilizer, and raising cherry trees. Once the trees have grown, the temple will send them to elementary schools in Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture, with which the temple shares ties, in a region devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

In 1998, Sumitomo Forestry began attempts to clone saplings using tissue culture from the *Taiko* weeping cherry tree that stands in front of the Sanboin Temple within the Daigoji complex. Since its success in 2000, the company has taken charge of raising cherry trees, that will eventually replace older trees at Daigoji Temple, and also is responsible for managing the gardens on the temple grounds. The *Kyo-no-Mori* Project provides children with the opportunity to experience the cycle of nature. This project is in harmony with Sumitomo Forestry’s own goal of contributing to the realization of a recycling-oriented society. Since the project’s launch in November 2012, the company has cosponsored advertising activities on a radio program aired by Kyoto Broadcasting System. Employees also partook in an event in November to gather the fallen leaves on the grounds of Daigoji Temple. Also, the company donated two pots of *Taiko Chiyo* saplings, cloned from the *Taiko* weeping cherry tree, to the Daigo Elementary School and are helping students to raise the trees.

As a part of the project, Sumitomo Forestry Group plans for employees to conduct an environmental education course for elementary school students. The group also intends to assist in exchanges between elementary school students in Kyoto and Miyako City, Iwate, by cosponsoring a radio show that will report on the progress of this project.