

July 10, 2013

For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.
Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd.

42nd WorldSkills Competition (Leipzig, Germany) Medallion for Excellence in the Carpentry Category

—Yuki Okamoto, Employee of Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering—

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) announced today that Yuki Okamoto, an employee of Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd. (President: Yasuyuki Yamamoto; Head Office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo; wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. and responsible for construction and supervision of *Sumitomo Forestry Home* houses)) won the Medallion for Excellence in the carpentry category at the 42nd WorldSkills Competition, which was held starting July 2, 2013 in Leipzig, Germany.

This brilliant achievement follows several other wins by Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering employees in the past, namely a Medallion for Excellence won in the 35th competition by Akira Kajita (Tokai Office), a silver medal won in the 39th competition by Michinori Ikeda (Hyogo Office), and a silver medal won in the 41st competition by Shota Mori (Hyogo Office).

■Results in WorldSkills Competition

42nd event in Germany (Leipzig)	2013	Yuki Okamoto (Tokai Office)	Medallion for Excellence (4th)
41st event in UK (London)	2011	Shota Mori (Hyogo Office)	Silver
39th event in Japan (Shizuoka)	2007	Michinori Ikeda (Hyogo Office)	Silver
35th event in Canada (Montreal)	1999	Akira Kajita (Tokai Office)	Medallion for Excellence

Mr. Okamoto participated in the carpentry category, which took place over four days, starting on July 3. He was required to build a wooden model within a 22 hour time limit, as one of 13 participants from 13 countries. Participants were given the complex task of creating a polygon shaped roof for a wooden structure. Point-scoring aspects included the creation of accurate drawings and marking out in accordance with the challenge, technical abilities such as the accuracy of processing of the materials, dimensional accuracy and accuracy of assembly, and speed of work.

Judging categories included “processed condition,” “dimensional accuracy,” “assembled state” and “workmanship.” Marking out, processing, assembly, and installation are vital techniques used in wood construction. In this event, competition took place in the three modules of “foundations,” “posts, beams and sheds,” “skylights.” From the start of the event, Mr. Okamoto carefully carried out each step. He earned high scores, mainly for accurate measurements and processing techniques, despite the tense atmosphere. Mr. Okamoto won the Medallion for Excellence.

Mr. Okamoto attended the Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques (Institute Director: Seiji Suzuki; Location: Yotsukaido, Chiba Prefecture), a corporate boarding school for vocational training. He participated in the 50th National Skills Competition (Suwa and Matsumoto Cities, Nagano Prefecture). In the carpentry category, he was selected from among 78 national participants to represent Japan in the WorldSkills Competition.

Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques offers a one-year program that provides students the necessary basic knowledge and practical skills required as a construction craftsman and a feature of the curriculum is that it provides a training program that is well-balanced mentally, technically, and physically. The school aims to train the next-generation of carpenters in wood homebuilding techniques ranging from the traditional Japanese wooden post-and-beam construction method to the latest technologies. After completion of the training course, graduates work as carpenters at Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering, partaking in the construction of *Sumitomo Forestry Home* houses, the building of structural framework for *Sumitomo Forestry Home* houses using advanced technologies, and promoting safe and reliable homebuilding.

Held once every two years, the WorldSkills Competition is an international competition which has the objectives of promoting work training in the participating countries and promoting friendly relations between young craftsmen from different countries. The winners (high achiever) of the National Skills Competition held in the year preceding the international competition are selected as the Japanese representatives on condition that they meet the entry requirements (except for certain job categories, participants must be 22 years old or younger). In this year's international competition, over 1,000 young craftsmen from 53 countries and regions participated, and events to find the world's best were held in 46 job categories.