

**Employees Win Silver Medal and Fighting Spirit Award  
in the Carpentry Category at the 51<sup>st</sup> National Skills Competition!**

Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd. (President: Yasuyuki Yamamoto; Head Office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo) a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Head Office: Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo), announced that five employees participated in the 51<sup>st</sup> National Skills Competition held at Makuhari Messe in Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture and won a silver medal and fighting spirit award in the carpentry category. This is 13th consecutive year the company garnered awards.

<<Carpentry category>>

Silver medal

Akihiro Shiraishi (Kanagawa Center, Kanagawa Office)

Fighting spirit awards

Hiroya Yamamoto (Ishikawa Center, Hokuriku Office)

Takuma Kudo (Mito Center, Higashi Kanto Office)

At the National Skills Competition, young craftsmen test their skills to become No. 1 in Japan. The competition also aims to give the next generation of young craftsmen goals to strive towards, to widely promote the importance and necessity of craftsmanship, such as by providing young people where the competition is held the chance to see first-rate craftsmanship up close, and to foster a respect for craftsmanship. The 51st competition was held over a four day period from November 22–25 (Friday–Monday). This year around 1,100 participants under the age of 23 represented their respective prefecture in 40 categories. The carpentry category attracted 86 participants—the most of any category.

The Opening Ceremony for the 51st National Skills Competition was held together with the 34th National Skills Competition for Disabled Employees. Hiroya Yamamoto, employee of Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering's Hokuriku Section and representative of Chiba Prefecture where the competition was held, read out the athlete's oath for fair play along with the representative for the disabled employees' competition, who entered the computer data input competition, and spoke on their aspirations for the competition.

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.

■ Company profile Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd.

1. Established April 1, 1985
2. President Yasuyuki Yamamoto
3. Capital ¥75 million (wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.)
4. Sales ¥83,800 million (fiscal year ending March 2013)
5. Head office 1-23-7 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
6. Offices 2 offices and 15 departments nationwide (fiscal year ending March 2013)
7. Employees 913 people (fiscal year ending March 2013)
8. Business Handles construction of *Sumitomo Forestry Home* houses
9. Website <http://www.sumirin-he.co.jp/>

■ Profile of the Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques

1. Established April 1, 1988
2. Institute Director Seiji Suzuki
3. Address 1144 Shikawatashi, Yotsukaido, Chiba, Japan
4. Curriculum This vocational training school, which is certified by the Chiba Prefectural Government, is operated by Sumitomo Forestry Co. Ltd., Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd., and Sumitomo Forestry Home Tech Co., Ltd. The school's mission is to train the next generation of construction craftsmen in traditional techniques and the theories of new techniques to pass on wooden post-and-beam construction methods to the next generation.
5. Website <http://sfc.jp/kgs/index.html>