

**Participation in the Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+**

The first platform to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through forests in developing nations,  
working together with the public and private sectors

On November 7, Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. entered into a partnership agreement with the Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+, established by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, an independent administrative corporation. The move is hoped to contribute to conservation of forests in developing nations, mitigating climate change, preserving biodiversity, and encouraging sustainable development such as poverty reduction.

Redd<sup>+</sup><sup>1</sup> is an initiative to control, absorb and retain CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through the preservation of forests in developing nations in an effort to mitigate climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is working to build consensus regarding establishment of the system.

This platform aims to promote REDD+ activities, engaging the cooperation of private companies and organizations along with government agencies that support the intent of an urgent action plan. It will (1) share ideas concerning REDD+, (2) convey information to the public about REDD+ activities, and (3) discuss the promotion of REDD+ related business. Sumitomo Forestry is one of around 40 private companies, organizations, and government agencies that have announced their participation. Moving forward we hope to expand that circle to contribute to global warming countermeasures through public-private collaboration.

Previously, Sumitomo Forestry was selected in fiscal 2011 to conduct a feasibility study for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), a program implemented by the Global Environment Centre Foundation (GEC), the operator commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment. From this beginning, we have undertaken various activities in collaboration with government departments including the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Forestry Agency along with JICA, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute and other government agencies. Recently, we participated in and assisted the Workshops on the Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP), held in July 2014, in Vietnam's Dien Bien Province. The move aims to mitigate global warming through maintenance and preservation of forests in Vietnam, Indonesia and Southeast Asia as a whole and cooperate to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

The Sumitomo Forestry Group will actively promote environmental initiatives such as this platform that leverage the Group's strengths.

Link to news release from JICA:

[http://www.jica.go.jp/topics/news/2014/20141016\\_01.html](http://www.jica.go.jp/topics/news/2014/20141016_01.html)

<sup>1</sup> REDD+ is an acronym for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, which aims to control CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally through its actions. The "plus" was added to reflect the conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. Presently, as one countermeasure against climate change, funds are being distributed globally to support emission reduction through forest preservation in developing countries

for REDD+ promotion by the United Nations and others. Discussions have been held to use the funds as an incentive to promote forest preservation and additionally, investigation is underway for it to be adopted as a project for credit issuance under the JCM system currently being prepared by the Japanese government.

### **About Sumitomo Forestry**

Founded in 1691, Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. and its Group companies have broadened business activities focused on wood. Based on its corporate philosophy—“utilize timber as a renewable, healthy and environmentally friendly natural resource, and contributes to a prosperous society through all types of housing-related services”— and with its approximately 250,000 hectares of owned and managed forest, the global network that spans more than 20 countries and expertise and technology in housing-related businesses, Sumitomo Forestry Group is developing the Forestry and Environment Business, the Timber and Building Materials Business, the Housing Business, the Overseas Business, the Lifestyle Service Business and other businesses both in Japan and abroad. Adding such businesses as wooden biomass power generation and Timber Solution, it will continue to pursue the potential of timber.

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