

November 27, 2014

For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

## Sumitomo Forestry and Nelson Pine Industries Ltd To Sponsor the New Zealand Golf Open

Sumitomo Forestry today announced its sponsorship of New Zealand's premier golf event -2015 BMW New Zealand Open, being held at The Hills and Millbrook Resort in Queenstown from March 12-15 2015, in association with Nelson Pine Industries Ltd (NPIL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry.

New Zealand and Sumitomo Forestry have built close and significant relationship for more than half a century. As Japan's number one timber and building materials trading company, Sumitomo Forestry began handling New Zealand radiata<sup>1</sup> pine in the 1950s, and still being one of the top leading import shares among Japanese trading companies today.

In 1984, aiming to effectively utilize radiata pine, Sumitomo Forestry established a joint venture with a local company to manufacture the medium density fiberboard (MDF)<sup>2</sup>. NPIL became a wholly owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry in 1993, and with MDF production lines and a veneer and laminated veneer lumber (LVL)<sup>3</sup> line, NPIL is one of the world's largest MDF production capacities for a single site. NPIL's products are sold in Japan and overseas through the Sumitomo Forestry Group sales network. NPIL marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation last month.

This sponsorship is highly significant in our relationship with New Zealand from the perspective of not merely we exchange economically but also culturally, through sport promotions such as this iconic golf tournament.

Mr. John Hart, a Tournament Chairman of the BMW New Zealand Open, said in the press release issued on 26 November that the Japanese sponsors have been "testament to the work we have done in producing an event", adding this partnership will continue to build bridges between New Zealand and Japan.

The tournament will be broadcast live in New Zealand by Sky Television and also in Japan through Golf Network, the only television network dedicated to golf.

The Sumitomo Forestry Group will continue to actively promote its recognition from New Zealand across the Oceanian region through this historic and iconic sporting event in the region.

### 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.

President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa    Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

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<sup>1</sup> Native to California, U.S. Introduced to Southern hemisphere countries such as New Zealand and Chile in large-scale plantations.

<sup>2</sup> A material with smooth, even surface quality and which has highly reliable dimensions. Used in home interiors such as flooring, doors, and stairs, as well as in furniture such as tabletops and countertops.

<sup>3</sup> A wood material in which cut veneer panels are layered with grains aligned and affixed with adhesive. Used as a core material for furniture and fittings, and as a building material in applications such as house foundations and rafters.