

**Three Employees Win Fighting Spirit Awards in
the Carpentry Category at the 52nd 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: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo), announced that three employees participated in the 52nd National Skills Competition held at various locations within Aichi Prefecture and won fighting spirit awards in the carpentry category. This is the 14th consecutive year the company garnered awards.

Carpentry category:

Fighting spirit awards	Ryuta Adachi	(Nagoya Center, Tokai Office)
Fighting spirit awards	Kento Akifusa	(Nagoya Center, Tokai Office)
Fighting spirit awards	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. This year the competition was held over a four day period from November 28 to December 1 at various locations around Aichi Prefecture. Around 1,200 participants under the age of 23 represented their respective prefecture in 41 categories. Employees from Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering took part in the carpentry category, which attracted 65 participants.

The contestants from Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering were selected from among employees who had completed necessary carpenter training at the Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques (Institute Director: Toshiaki Watanabe; Location: Yotsukaido, Chiba Prefecture). 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

■ Reference Material ■

Award winner comments:

Fighting spirit awards: Ryuta Adachi, (Tokai Office)

Having entered the competition, I aimed to win a medal, and if possible I wanted a higher level medal. Looking back now that the competition is over, I feel relieved that at least I won some kind of medal, and at the same time my mind is a blank. At the National Skills Competition, I aimed to produce a good product in the limited time allowed and I also believe it is very important in the actual workplace to produce good homes while adhering to the construction schedule. I want to thank the people in my business unit who supported me with their good wishes.



Fighting spirit awards: Kento Akifusa, (Tokai Office)

I am pleased that I was able to win a fighting spirit award. But I regret not being able to make best use in the competition of things that I had practiced. I feel that if I had been able to do that, I might have won a higher level prize. It does not matter how hard you practice, in the competition you only have one chance, and you cannot redo it. It made me realize that you cannot do really good work if you have the security of being able to redo it. In the future, I want to value each and every job I do, even if it is the same task.



Fighting spirit awards: Takuma Kudo (Higashi Kanto Office)

Being my second National Skills Competition, during practice this year I put more pressure on myself to succeed. This year I entered together with my juniors. Last time I won the same level fighting spirit award, but this time, more than anything, I was happy that we all managed to finish in time. In the National Skills Competition, you are required to complete and deliver your product within the time allocated. I strongly felt that this is the same as in the workplace, and so I want to put that feeling to use back at work. This time was good experience for me because I learnt how to teach my juniors and how to interact with them.



■ Overview of Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd.

1. Established April 1, 1985
2. President Yasuyuki Yamamoto
3. Capital 75 million yen (wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.)
4. Sales 88.3 billion yen (fiscal year ending March 2014)
5. Head office 1-23-7 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
6. Offices 2 offices and 15 departments nationwide (fiscal year ending March 2014)
7. Number of employees 910 (fiscal year ending March 2014)
8. Business Handles construction of Sumitomo Forestry Home houses
9. Website <http://www.sumirin-he.co.jp/>

■ Overview of the Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques

1. Established April 1, 1988
2. Institute Director Toshiaki Watanabe
3. Location 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>

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.