

Support for Construction of Temple Schools in Myanmar
Opening Ceremony for Temple School No. 1,
Completed by the Myanmar Temple School Support Team

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. has since December 2013 been involved in the Myanmar Temple School Support Team, a body which it established to support the construction of Temple School-style community schools in Myanmar. The first school building has now been completed, for which an opening ceremony was held on March 19. Ryu Yano, Chairman of Sumitomo Forestry attended along with 20 representatives of the 12 Japanese companies who supported the project, and all received a warm welcome from the students of the school.

The Temple School was completed by the end of October 2014 through the generosity of 18 companies and 4 individuals. The three story building, constructed in the Mingaladon district in northern Myanmar, is presently attended by around 260 eager students, ranging in age from 5 to 16 years old. The building can also act as a refuge for members of the local community during heavy rain. Moving forward, the Myanmar Temple School Support Team aims to assist in the construction of one school per year.

Public schools are tuition-free in Myanmar; however, students are required to pay facility fees and donations, so many children are unable to attend school for economic reasons. Temple School, which is affiliated with temples and operated by priests, play an important role in the education of these children. At the opening ceremony, Ryu Yano gave a congratulatory speech, telling the students that "This Temple School will provide you with the opportunity to learn. I hope that you will follow your dreams, thinking and striving to enjoy a life without regrets. If you have ambition, doors will open for you."



<The Temple School opening ceremony>

In December 2014, Sumitomo Forestry established a joint venture in Myanmar, (MOS Lumber Products Co., Ltd.) for the manufacture and sale of building materials made mainly using timber from rubber trees. The company aims to grow along with the region and contribute to Myanmar's ongoing economic development both through support for the Temple Schools and through business.

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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