

For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Participates in “Satoyama Maniwa Forest Development Project” in Maniwa City, Okayama Prefecture to Achieve Regional Revitalization through Revitalization of Forests and Forestry

Begins work on establishing Forest and Forestry Master Plan that enables sustainable forest usage

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) announced today that it has been chosen as a partner in the Satoyama Maniwa Forest Development Project being implemented by Maniwa City in Okayama Prefecture (Mayor: Noboru Ota), and that work has begun on establishing a Forest and Forestry Master Plan that enables sustainable forest usage.

Through the establishment of the Forest and Forestry Master Plan being promoted by Maniwa City, Sumitomo Forestry aims to improve capacity to meet the city’s growing demand for timber and to contribute to realizing forest management practices that promote a proper balance between forest maintenance, forestry promotion and environmental conservation.

Revitalization of the forestry industry and its subsequent jobs creation and local economic development are considered important for achieving regional revitalization of municipalities across Japan, and in hilly and mountainous areas^{*1} in particular. Following adoption in 2013 of the ICT Urban Development Project^{*2} of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Maniwa City has been conducting various initiatives aimed at revitalizing the local forestry industry, such as implementation of its forest ICT platform^{*3}, the ICT Regional Development Project Utilizing Maniwa’s Forests. The city has also launched the Satoyama Maniwa Forest Development Project because of the need for promoting forest maintenance that incorporates environmental conservation and disaster prevention, while meeting growing demand for new timber such as cross laminated timber (CLT) and timber for wood biomass power generation. With our considerable experience in and knowledge of forest management, Sumitomo Forestry was chosen as a partner in this project, and together we are currently working to establish a Forest and Forestry Master Plan. The Satoyama Maniwa Forest Development Project name was chosen to reflect the local residents’ hopes of maintaining the current Satoyama landscape for the future, which they treasure, while expanding utilization of the forests.

As of April 1, 2015, Sumitomo Forestry had 46,247 hectares of company-owned forests around Japan. We are currently utilizing our long experience in and knowledge of forest management to expand our forests and forestry consulting business, and have so far provided a range of support to several municipalities, including implementing ICT in forest management and helping establish and implement other similar forest and forestry master plans. Going forward, we will continue to expand our consulting business in a wide range of fields utilizing the know-how of the Sumitomo Forestry Group, and will work to contribute to regional revitalization and to the revitalization of forests and forestry around Japan.

Establishment of the Sumitomo Forestry Master Plan**- Understanding the amount of forest resources**

Establish a model zone of about 5,700 hectares within Maniwa City and implement the latest airborne laser surveying techniques. Collect the necessary basic data for establishing the plan,

including detailed topography and the current situation with forest resources.

- **Implementing zoning*4**

Using the basic data collected to establish zones focused on the growth potential, convenience, environmental conservation ability and other factors of each forest.

- **Creating harvesting plans and logging road network plans, and verifying logging systems**

Define policies for forest treatment according to zone, and establish concrete harvesting plans for achieving a sustainable timber supply and optimal logging road network plans for carrying out the cut timber.

Also use Sumitomo tower yarders to harvest a portion of the Maniwa City plantations within the zones, carry out the timber, and conduct cost and productivity analyses.

- **Solving issue of damage caused by animals**

Conduct fact-finding surveys and implement solutions for reducing damage to forestry caused by deer.

- **Interviewing midstream and downstream parties requiring timber**

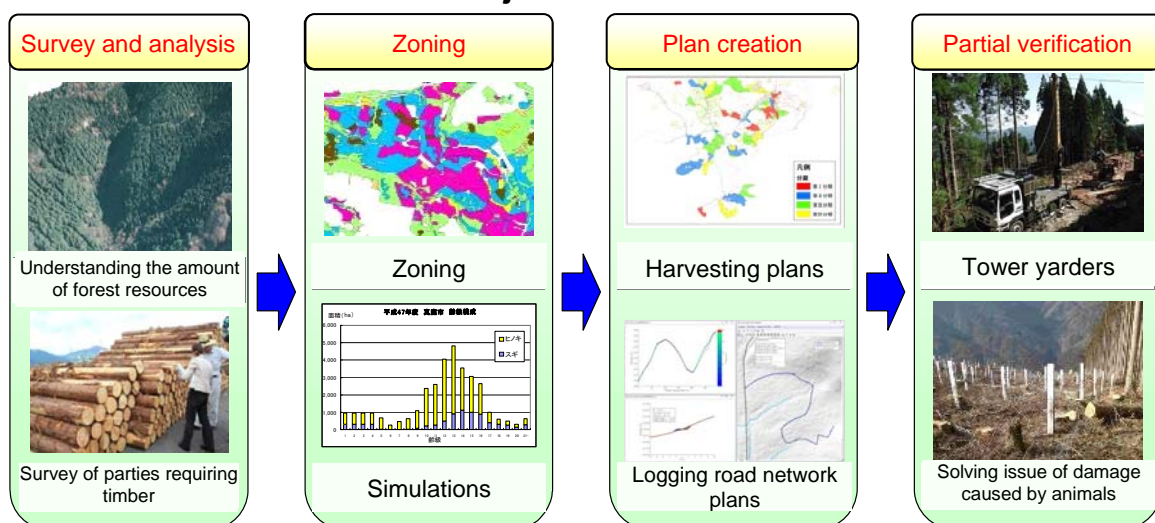
Conduct interviews of the local log markets, sawmills and others requiring timber in order to create plans focused on future timber demand trends.

Project period

- **July 9, 2015 (contract date) through March 31, 2016**

1. Regions with a lot of sloping land between the plains and the mountains.
2. Project conducted under contract to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications for verifying new urban development that utilizes sensors, the cloud and other cutting-edge information and communications technologies to achieve early realization of the ICT Smart Town, which enables a range of objectives such as achieving disaster-resilient urban development, solving a range of complex issues facing regional areas, revitalizing economies, creating employment, contributing to the global community and enhancing international competitiveness.
3. System for efficient forest management and centralized cloud management of numeric data and map data of various forests, including data on ownership, the current state of forests, and planning of forest roads and forestry.
4. Classification of areas according to usage.

Project Overview



**Maniwa City Forests (100 year-old
Japanese cypress forest)**



Maniwa City Biomass Power Plant

