



**Two Employees Win Silver Medals in the Carpentry Category
at the 53rd National Skills Competition!**

Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd. (President: Susumu Higuchi; 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 two employees participated in the 53rd National Skills Competition held at Makuhari Messe in Chiba Prefecture and won silver medals in the carpentry category. This is the 15th consecutive year the company garnered awards, and the 8th time that all employees who participated received awards.

Carpentry category:

Silver Medal Ryuta Adachi (Morioka Center, Tohoku Office)

Silver Medal Kento Akifusa (Jyonan Center, Tokyo Office)

At the National Skills Competition, young craftsmen test their skills to become the best in Japan.

The competition also aims to give the next generation of young craftsmen concrete goals to strive towards, to widely promote the importance and necessity of craftsmanship by providing young people with a chance to see some of the most advanced craftsmanship in Japan, and to foster a respect for craftsmanship. This year the competition was held over a four day period from December 4 – 7 at Makuhari Messe in Chiba Prefecture. Around 1,200 participants under the age of 23 represented their respective prefectures in 41 categories. Employees from Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering took part in the carpentry category, which attracted a record-high of 78 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 carpenters employed by Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering, building technologically sophisticated “Sumitomo Forestry Home” houses and providing safe and reliable homes for their residents.

■Reference Material ■

Award winner comments:

Silver Medals: Ryuta Adachi, (Tohoku Office)

I'm really happy that I was able to attend the National Skills Competition this year even though I'm here as part of a support team in Tohoku. I was able to win this medal thanks to the people in my office who made it possible for me to join the competition despite the busy schedule at work, and thanks to the instructors who have supported me throughout my training.

I don't want to simply be satisfied with this result, but to keep working hard to improve my skills even further.



Silver Medals: Kento Akifusa, (Tokyo Office)

I'm really happy that I could enter the National Skills Competition again this year. When I heard that I'd be awarded with a Silver Medal, I first felt a mixture of happiness and disappointment, but then when I went up on the stage and saw how many participants there were in the competition, I was really glad that I was able to win a Silver Medal.

I was able to do this thanks to having as much training as possible under the guidance of my instructors. I am really thankful for all the support I've received.



■ Overview of Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd

1. Established	April 1, 1985
2. President	Susumu Higuchi
3. Capita	75 million yen (wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.)
4. Sales	82.9 billion yen (fiscal year ending March 2015)
5. Head office	1-23-7 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
6. Offices	1 office and 15 departments nationwide (fiscal year ending March 2015)
7. Number of employees	947 (fiscal year ending March 2015)
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 as well as new techniques in order to hand on wooden post-and-beam construction methods, aiming to foster craftsmen with a balance of 'spirit, skill, and strength'.
5. Website	http://sfc.jp/kgs/index.html