

Message from the Chairman



Pursuing the Unlimited Potential of Trees and Sustainable Growth

The start of the Sumitomo Forestry Group's business goes back to 1691 when the Sumitomo family's Besshi Copper Mine started operation and we took on the management of the surrounding forests. Since founding through to now, we have always been guided by the Sumitomo Spirit of "We conduct business that is beneficial to society based on the principles of integrity and sound management" at the base of our corporate philosophy, and responded to the requirements of the times to spread from the Forestry Business into the Timber and Building Materials Business, and further onward to the Overseas Business and Housing Business.

In the long period of more than 320 years since our founding, we have protected forests and pursued the limitless possibilities of wood. Forests not only absorb carbon dioxide, they function as a public asset by maintaining biodiversity, preventing soil erosion and supporting water resources.

Globally, responding to problems encompassing the environment has become an urgent task due to factors such as the increase of climate irregularities associated with deforestation and large-scale natural disasters. Furthermore, the environment and energy issues are becoming even more pressing due to factors including economic development and rising populations in emerging countries.

Under these conditions, the Paris Agreement for mitigating global warming at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held last year in Paris, France, included policies emphasizing forestry, highlighting how trees and forests are expected to play such an increasingly important role.

Trees can be renewed with planting, possess outstanding heat insulating properties and durability and provide alternative energy sources as biomass fuel. Now, technological innovations using trees have enabled the use of lumber not just in housing construction, but also in large-scale, non-residential buildings and demand has started to spread in fields such as the nursing care and medical care fields.

In times such as these, we consider it our mission to maximize the power of wood resources, aim for sustainable growth and contribute to realizing a sustainable society through our business. Looking ahead, we remain committed in areas all over the world to implementing our corporate philosophy, which states, "The Sumitomo Forestry Group utilizes timber as a renewable, healthy, and environmentally friendly natural resource, and contributes to a prosperous society through all types of housing-related services." We thereby apply even greater effort to become a corporate group trusted by stakeholders and societies.

Ryu Yano
Chairman and Representative Director

