

For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd

**Gold Medal, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal, and Fighting Spirit Awards
All seven participants receive awards in the Carpentry Category
at the 56th National Skills Competition**

Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd. (hereinafter, Home Engineering) that carries out contract construction in the Sumitomo Forestry Group, won Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals, and the Fighting Spirit award in the carpentry category of the 56th National Skills Competition held in Okinawa Prefecture. This is the 18th consecutive year the company garnered awards, and this year all seven participants, including the technician from the affiliate construction company, received awards.

Carpentry Category

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| Gold Medal | Daiki Iwahara Yokohama Shonan Center, Kanagawa Office (Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques student of class 29) |
| Silver Medal | Kosuke Takemura Sendai Center, Kita Nihon Office (Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques student of class 29) |
| Silver Medal | Kohei Sakai Saitama Center, Saitama Office (Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques student of class 30) |
| Bronze Medal | Toshiya Nakayama Jyonan Center, Tokyo Office (Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques student of class 30) |
| Fighting Spirit Award | Natsuki Ueno Jyonan Center, Tokyo Office (Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques student of class 30) |
| Fighting Spirit Award | Naoyuki Konno Fukushima Center, Kita Nihon Office (Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques student of class 30) |
| Fighting Spirit Award | Tsurugi Kashima Haruta Construction* (Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques student of class 30) |

At the National Skills Competition, young craftsmen test their skills to be the best in Japan. The competition also aims to give the next generation of young craftsmen concrete goals to strive toward, to widely promote the importance and necessity of craftsmanship by providing young people with a chance to see some of the most advanced craftsmanship at the competition site, and to foster a respect for craftsmanship.

This year the competition was held over a four-day period from November 2–5 in Okinawa Prefecture. Around 1,300 participants under the age of 23 represented their respective prefectures in 42 categories. The event attracted a record high of 83 participants in the carpentry

category individual skills competition held in Urasoe Athletic Park, in which seven students of the Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques took part.

The contestants were selected from among employees who had completed necessary carpenter training at the Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques. Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques is an in-house educational institute founded with the purpose of fostering craftsmen to build high-quality Sumitomo Forestry Home houses. Since its foundation in 1988, a total of about 1,200 students completed the carpenter training, and after completion of their courses the students have been employed as carpenters at Home Engineering, building Sumitomo Forestry homes. “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. In future, Sumitomo Forestry Group will continue to build safe and reliable homes using on superior techniques.

* The Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques has been accepting trainees from the affiliate construction company since 2015.

■ Reference Material ■

Scenes from the Competition



Daiki Iwahara, (Kanagawa Office)



Kosuke Takemura, (Kita Nihon Office)



Kohei Sakai, (Saitama Office)



Toshiya Nakayama, (Tokyo Office)



Naoyuki Konno, (Kita Nihon Office)



Natsuki Ueno, (Tokyo Office)



Tsurugi Kashima, (Haruta Construction)

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

1. Established April 1, 1985
2. President Toshiharu Takahashi
3. Capital 75 million yen
(wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.)
4. Sales 79.8 billion yen (fiscal year ended March 2018)
5. Head office 1-23-7 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
6. Offices Eight office and eight departments nationwide (October 1, 2018)
7. Number of employees 1,015 (As of April 1, 2018)
8. 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 Susumu Higuchi
3. Location 1144 Shikawatashi, Yotsukaido, Chiba, Japan
This vocational training school which is certified by the Chiba Prefectural Government, is operated by Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Forestry Home Tech Co., Ltd.
4. Website <http://sfc.jp/kgs/index.html>