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For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co. Ltd.

Successor trees to the Miracle Pine return home

～Rikuzentakata City, Takatamatsubara Tsunami Memorial Park
tree-planting to commemorate the opening of the park～

Sumitomo Forestry Co. Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter Sumitomo Forestry) has announced the return of successor trees grafted from the Miracle Pine by Sumitomo Forestry to their homeland in Rikuzentakata City for the first time on September 22, 2019.



Japan Landscape Contractors Association Iwate Division
Manager Kichiei Yoneuchi (center)
Forestry and Greening Research Center Manager Kentaro
Nakamura (left),

The “Miracle Pine” was the sole surviving pine tree from the tsunami caused by the Great East Japan

Earthquake. Immediately following this disaster,

Sumitomo Forestry attempted to cultivate successor trees to the Miracle Pine and, in 2011, was successful in using grafts and seedlings to propagate new trees. Three of these successor trees were planted for the opening ceremony of the Takatamatsubara Tsunami Memorial Park*.

It is hoped that these successor trees propagated from the Miracle Pine will become a symbol of protection against disaster and remind those to come of the Great East Japan Earthquake. These successor trees, together with Rikuzentakata City that recovered strongly from the disaster, will live on to a new tomorrow.

■ Sumitomo Forestry’s endeavour to cultivate successor trees to the Miracle Pine

Apr. 2011 Japan Landscape Contractors Association Iwate Division Manager Yoneuchi launches the Miracle Pine Rescue Project. Cuttings, graftings, tissue cultures and seedlings are all examined as possible methods of propagation.

Dec. 2011 3 grafted saplings and 18 seedlings germinate.

Sep. 2012 Approximately 1,000 pinecones are harvested when the Miracle Pine is felled. Breaking down all of these pinecones, 75 seeds are collected.

Mar. 2013 Seeds collected in September of the previous year are planted.

Jun. 2013 The 18 seedlings that germinated in 2011 all wither and die. 9 seedlings are successfully cultivated from the 75 seeds collected in 2012.

Present 3 grafted trees and 9 seedlings are growing well.

■ Sumitomo Forestry Group's upcoming initiatives

Sumitomo Forestry Group is supporting initiatives to inherit old and precious trees on temple, shrine and local government land and are planning preservation projects and carrying out the restoration and propagation of successor trees based on the results of the Group's arboreal and ecological investigations and investigation of DNA forms. Sumitomo Forestry will continue with their initiatives to preserve pine, cherry, plum and other trees deemed important to history and society in order to hand over the traditional landscape to the next generation.

■ Overview of the achievements in clone propagation

- Jul. 1998 World's first successful propagation of *dipterocarp* plant by tissue culture
- Apr. 2000 World's first successful propagation of *shidare-zakura* cherry by tissue culture at Daigoji Temple, Kyoto
- Mar. 2009 Successful propagation of *choukouzan shidare-zakura* cherry by tissue culture at Shotaiji Temple, Odawara
- Feb. 2010 Successful propagation of *omuro-zakura* cherry by tissue culture at Ninnaiji Temple, Kyoto
- Apr. 2011 Successful propagation of *yuten-zakura* cherry by tissue culture at Seiganji Temple, Shinagawaku
- Feb. 2012 Successful propagation of *naki-zakura (yodo-zakura)* cherry by tissue culture at Ninnaiji Temple, Kyoto
- Apr. 2012 Successful propagation of *myoho-zakura* cherry by tissue culture at Ankokuronji Temple, Kamakura
- Mar. 2013 Successful propagation of *ebayama-zakura* cherry by tissue culture in collaboration with a Senior High School attached to Hiroshima University
- Mar. 2015 World's first successful propagation of ornamental plum (Kitano Tenmangu Shrine *Beniwakonbai*, Kyoto) by tissue culture
- Apr. 2015 World's first successful propagation of *someiyoshino* cherry (Tsuchiura City Natural Monument "*Manabe no sakura*") by tissue culture
- Apr. 2016 Successful propagation of *kitano-zakura* cherry by tissue culture at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, Kyoto
- Feb. 2019 Successful cultivation of a seedling successor tree to the *izumi no ichiyo matsu* pine from Minamisoma City Natural Monument, Fukushima

* Takatamatsubara Tsunami Memorial Park was constructed in cooperation with the Japanese government, Iwate prefecture and Rikuzentakata City as a memorial to the enormous damage done to the Takatamatsubara area by the Great East Japan Earthquake. The park was created on the basic principle for "the Miracle Pine left standing here to be thought of as a memorial to the victims and act as lesson of the power of earthquakes and a symbol of revival which in the future will be told of as an essential part of the restoration of Takatamatsubara."