

Message from the Chairman

Centered on Pacific Rim countries, the Sumitomo Forestry Group is engaged globally in a diverse range of businesses related to forests and trees, extending from forestry management and the production and distribution of timber and building materials to the construction of wooden homes and the operation of wood biomass power generation plants.

The start of the Sumitomo Forestry Group's business goes back to 1691 with the commencement of operation of the Besshi Copper Mine and management of the surrounding forest. Although unimaginable for a forest today, excessive logging and smoke pollution from the copper smelter had devastated the forests around the copper mine. The manager of the mine at that time, Teigo Iba, launched the Large-Scale Reforestation Plan in 1894, planting more than two million trees per year. Over a long period, the mountains were eventually returned to a state of rich greenery.

Our operations are rooted in the Sumitomo Spirit as we engage in management from a long-term perspective for the benefit of the nation, society and its citizens. With our eyes always on the next 100 years, we believe our mission is to pass along to the next generation the assets and principles that we have inherited from our ancestors.

It is said that the 21st century is the age of symbiosis with the environment. Trees provide a public benefit by absorbing and fixing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Furthermore, trees are a precious natural resource and by planting, growing and harvesting them, they can be enduringly renewed.

Sumitomo Forestry has contributed to the preservation of the environment through sustainable business centered on trees. In October 2016, our track record of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our businesses was recognized with the selection of Sumitomo Forestry as a Climate Change A List company, the highest ranking given by CDP, a leading global SRI scoring entity. Sumitomo Forestry was one of 193 companies selected for this designation out of roughly 5,000 companies worldwide that had been reviewed by CDP. Of the 500 Japanese companies surveyed, we were one of the 22 selected for the highest ranking. As a recipient of this designation, we feel the weight of responsibility for fulfilling our role in the future, as it signifies the expectations that have been placed on us by society.

The Sumitomo Forestry Group contributes to people, communities and the global environment through its business activities, while aiming to be a company valued by society. Moreover, we engage in the sound management of our businesses so that they will form a bridge for society to advance into the future.

Under 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 will continue to contribute to the creation of a sustainable society through our distinctive business activities based on our long history of working with trees.

Ryu Yano
Chairman and Representative Director



