



Utilizing wood to build a future in harmony with trees

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere condolences to those who have passed away and express our sympathies to those who have fallen ill due to COVID-19. At the same time, I extend heartfelt gratitude to the people working on the front lines in medical sites and those who are doing their utmost to maintain the foundations of society.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has not only taken many lives, but also had a considerable impact on the world economy. In recent years, massive natural disasters have struck around the world, exacerbated by climate change. It is important to ensure the sustainability of society as a whole while properly addressing such global-scale risks. Instead of only pursuing profits, companies are strongly expected to responsibly engage with all stakeholders.

The Sumitomo Forestry Group's origins can be traced back to the opening of the Besshi Copper Mine in 1691. In those days, we managed the forests surrounding the copper mine, procuring timber for charcoal essential for copper smelting and wood used for tunnel support posts. All our efforts for nearly 330 years since then have been based on Sumitomo's Business Spirit, which places prime importance on fairness and integrity for the good of society. Back in 1894, before ESG was a concept, the Sumitomo Forestry Group came up with the Large-Scale Reforestation Plan to restore forests that had been damaged by smoke pollution from the copper smelting. In this way, harmony with the public benefit has been in our DNA for generations.

As a renewable resource, trees absorb and stabilize carbon dioxide. Forests serve a function for the public benefit by preserving biodiversity, cultivating water sources, protecting the soil and preventing damage from landslides. Trees and forests will play an even more important role in our futures, which are threatened by ever-larger natural disasters.

Since its founding, while keeping abreast of the changes of the times and fulfilling social needs, the Sumitomo Forestry Group has engaged in a broad range of businesses centered on trees, including forestry management, the distribution and production of timber and building materials, the construction of wooden homes, and wood biomass power generation. Amid growing uncertainties in the business environment, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and large-scale natural disasters, the Sumitomo Forestry Group will continue to strongly promote businesses that utilize wood. In a post-pandemic world, we will continue to contribute to the realization of a prosperous, sustainable society.

Akira Ichikawa
Chairman and Representative Director

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Akira Ichikawa', positioned to the right of the name and title.