



The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had a grave impact on our lives, including restrictions on movement and disruption of supply chains. The very frameworks of social and economic activities have been greatly altered. As natural disasters have simultaneously grown increasingly severe throughout the world, people are becoming more aware of the threat posed by climate change and activities geared toward a decarbonized society are accelerating in many different countries. The vulnerabilities of our modern society which have been revealed by the pandemic and these disasters are driving a shift in values away from short-term economic efficiency and toward an emphasis on sustainability. Companies are also expected to play a larger role than ever in contributing to the sustainable development of society.

Sumitomo's Business Philosophy which the Sumitomo Forestry Group has inherited includes the concept of *Jiri-rita*, or "Benefit self and benefit others," and *Koushi-ichinyo*, or "Private and public interests are one and the same." To put it another way, Sumitomo's business "must benefit the nation and society." Our corporate history dates back to involvement in procuring timber for charcoal and mine building in conjunction with the opening of the Besshi Copper Mines in 1691. Since then, the spirit of harmony with the public interest has been ingrained in the fundamentals of our management long before age of concepts such as ESG and the SDGs. One example is the Large-Scale Reforestation Plan created in 1894 to revitalize forests through large-scale tree planting, which was launched when the forests surrounding the Besshi Copper Mines were in danger of being devastated.

In addition to the management of precious natural capital of forest resources, the Sumitomo Forestry Group has carried on the emphasis our predecessors placed on the public interest, supporting the environment and society through our business in a wide variety of fields from forestry management, the distribution and production of timber and building materials, as well as wooden construction in Japan and abroad, renewable energy, and elderly care. Together with all of our stakeholders, we will continue adapting to the changing times and creating business that solves social issues and serves a purpose in people's everyday lives in order to contribute to the realization of a prosperous, sustainable society.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and strokes.

Akira Ichikawa
Chairman and Representative Director