

# Our sustainable business model draws out the potential of trees

## 1691

### Founding of Sumitomo Forestry

Opening of the House of Sumitomo Besshi Copper Mine  
Beginning of copper mine forestry business

## 1600s



Picture scroll depicting the Besshi Copper Mine in Iyo Province, present-day Ehime Prefecture (Sumitomo Historical Archives Collection)



Picture scroll depicting the Besshi Copper Mine in Iyo Province, present-day Ehime Prefecture (Sumitomo Historical Archives Collection)

### The Sumitomo Business Spirit which started it all, passed down through generations

The Monjuin Shiigaki left by Masatomo Sumitomo (1585-1652), founder of the House of Sumitomo. The preamble of this brief explanation of philosophical business rules states, "Do your best prudently and meticulously, not only in business, but in every aspect of your life." He emphasizes that care should be exercised in all matters and everything should be done with consideration and respect.

Sumitomo also left behind writings such as "Value trust and make certainty a principle" advocating the importance of integrity, "Refrain from the pursuit of easy gains" which warns against being blinded by thirst for quick profits, and "Harmony between your interests and those of the public" with which Sumitomo urges harmony with the public interest - between the individual, the nation and society.

These words through which our predecessors have kept the company marching forward throughout its long history, as well as the thoughts behind them, are devotedly observed as the *Sumitomo Spirit* even in the present day.

**1865**

Saihei Hirose appointed manager of Besshi

**1882**

Rules of Governing the House of Sumitomo established

**1894**

Teigo Iba appointed manager of Besshi  
Launched the Large-Scale Reforestation Plan

**1899**

Masaya Suzuki appointed manager of Besshi  
Established the sustainable forestry approach



Teigo Iba (stored among Sumitomo Historical Archives)

**1909**

House of Sumitomo mountain forestry business transferred to Sumitomo Sohonten upon its establishment

**1919**

Forestry Section established at Sumitomo Sohonten

**1948**

Six companies formed (established) from the Forestry Department of Sumitomo under the government's zaibatsu dissolution order  
After two mergers, they became two companies: Toho Agriculture and Forestry (Toho Norin) and Shikoku Forestry (Shikoku Ringyo)

## 1800s



The Besshi Copper Mine was in a state of degradation during the Meiji era due to the effects of mining operations (stored among Sumitomo Historical Archives)



Mount Besshi in the present day

### Sumitomo Forestry's origin in the copper mine forestry business

Sumitomo Forestry was established back in 1691 with the opening of the Besshi Copper Mine in present-day Niihama, Ehime Prefecture. It began with the management of forests surrounding the Besshi Copper Mines in order to procure timber for fuel and wood to support mine walls, which was essential to the copper smelting business, and also timber and other materials for the construction of housing for people who lived and worked in mining and smelting.

### Start of the Large-Scale Reforestation Plan and sustainable forestry

In the late 19th century, the forests surrounding the Besshi Copper Mine were in danger of being devastated after a long period of

excessive logging and smoke pollution. The then manager of the mine, Teigo Iba, believed "allowing this land to be degraded while moving forward with business made possible by its fruits runs counter to the proper course of our relationship with nature. We must return all the mountains of Besshi to their verdant state." With this belief, he launched the Large-Scale Reforestation Plan in 1894 to restore the forests that had been lost.

Through a process of trial and error, and by implementing large-scale planting efforts of a maximum of more than two million trees per year, the mountains were eventually returned to a state of rich greenery. This concept of sustainable forestry has been passed on to the present day.



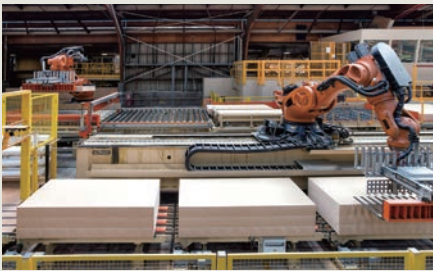
The history of Sumitomo Forestry

Expanding business in response to the needs of the times

During the over 330 years since our establishment, we have expanded our business areas to meet the needs of the times and built our current global business structure. While keeping our corporate philosophy rooted and drawing out the potential of trees, we will respond to diversifying values and social changes and aim to achieve sustainable growth.

**1964**  
Established a dedicated plywood production company in Japan

**1986**  
Full-scale operation of MDF production plant by Nelson Pine Industries Ltd. (NPIL) in New Zealand



NPIL plant

**2003**  
Started housing business in the United States



Spec homes in Seattle

**2005**  
Developed first wooden beam Rahmen structure (Big-Frame construction method) in Japan

**2011**  
Entered medium- and large-scale wooden construction business  
Started renewable energy business



Sophia University Building 15



Mombetsu Biomass Power Plant

**2018**  
Started full-scale real estate development business in the United States  
Unveiling of W350 Plan aimed at realizing "Environmentally-friendly and timber-based cities"



Example of Crescent Communities construction in the United States

1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s 2010s 2020s

**1955**  
Toho Norin Co., Ltd. and Shikoku Ringyo Co., Ltd. merge with Shikoku Ringyo Co., Ltd. as the surviving company to form Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.  
Nationwide network to procure and sell domestic timber established

**1956**  
Started the timber import business



Waterfront at the Port of Vancouver  
Sumitomo Forestry employees performing inspections at timber yard facility

**1970**  
Established PT. Kutai Timber (KTI) and launched full-scale construction materials business mainly for plywood

**1975**  
Started the custom-built wooden housing business

**1977**  
Entry into the greening business

**1991**  
Tsukuba Research Institute established, unified the R&D organization for building materials, housing, and resources



New research building at Tsukuba Research Institute

**2007**  
Full-scale entry to the elderly care business

**2008**  
Started housing business in Australia



Gran Forest Kobe Mikage

**2021**  
Full-scale entry into the detached apartment housing development business in the United States



Harmon Foxbank project



Custom-built wooden housing

Composition by segment (fiscal year ended December 31, 2021)

