

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

“Cut, use, plant”  
Contribution to the cyclical utilization  
of forests



Inside a company-owned forest

## Koshii & Co., Ltd.

Wood use that emphasizes yield  
Rejuvenating forests and  
strengthening CO<sub>2</sub> absorption ability

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

346 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year

### Main Management Items



Thinning: 40 ha  
Hinoki  
Age-class 3 to 13



Weeding: 3 ha  
Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 1

### Forest management contributing to SDGs and decarbonization

The company was founded in the Meiji era to handle the preservation of wooden telephone poles and railroad ties, and acquired forests for the procurement of raw materials. The company now owns approximately 800 hectares of forest across six prefectures in Kansai and Kyushu.

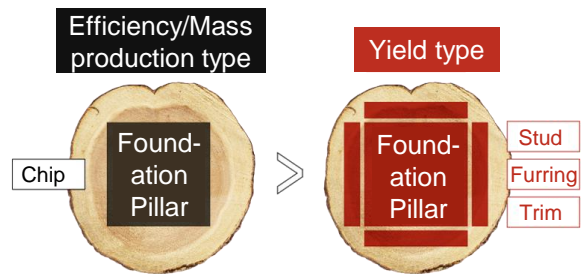
Believing that proper management of their own forests contributes not only to the 15th SDG, “Life on Land,” but also to the 13th SDG, “Climate Action” by ensuring the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by the forests, they are committed to sustainable forest management, including planting and wood use, with the approval of the Collecting Forest Management Plan.

Amid these circumstances, a so-called “wood shock” occurred around the second half of 2020 due to factors such as increased demand for housing in the United States and increased demand for wood, causing a surge in wood prices worldwide.

Imported wood was not available in Japan as it had been in the past, and due to growing interest in domestic wood and a growing demand for a stable supply of it in the market, the company endeavored to build a new supply chain for domestic wood utilizing the thinned wood of their own forests.

### Building a new supply chain

When a log is sawn, careful consideration is given to the standard of sawn lumber to be produced in accordance with the size of the logs without any waste, resulting in the reduction of leftover wood after sawing lumber, increasing the yield. By increasing the yield,



Wood sawing method to increase yield

### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: Koshii & Co., Ltd.
- Representative Name: Jun Koshii, President and Representative Director
- Address: 1-2-158 Hirabayashi-kita, Suminoe Ward, Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture
- Business: Wood preservation, insect repellent, fire prevention, dimensional stability treatment, manufacturing of vehicle floorboards, wooden sashes and silviculture business, etc.

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winner's website  
(in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

We develop products with a focus on yield and create a system of continuous supply for many customers, while increasing the value of each log and returning the added value to the mountain, leading to reforestation and silviculture. By leaving resources behind for future generations and continuing this circle of activity, we will make a sustainable decarbonized society a reality. I would like gratefully accept this award together with our partners from around the country.



President and Representative director  
**Jun Koshii**

the value of each log will increase, and by returning profits to the mountain, will in turn lead to reforestation.

For this reason, along with sawmill companies in each region, major builders, and hardware stores handling sawn lumber that agree with the idea of prioritizing yield over efficiency, they have established a domestic wood supply platform, "KISM," and have developed new products, such as materials for outer fences using leftover wood and DIY products, and expanded sales channels.

The "KISM" initiative involves Forest Owners' Cooperatives and the wood market in each region, and has built a supply chain for domestic wood in seven regions across the country, with an average of 500 cubic meters of logs per month being utilized in 2021.

Efforts that started in their own forest are spreading nationwide.

Through these efforts, some sawmills that sympathize with their philosophy have started making proactive efforts, such as hiring new staff to succeed and further develop the business, and discussing the introduction of a wood-drying kiln jointly with a group of sawmill companies.

The mountain that supplies logs, the sawmill that saws them, and the consumer who purchases wood products can carry out transactions that are beneficial to all parties, enabling reforestation after harvesting. This leads to sustainable forest management and the enhancement of forest absorption through rejuvenation of the forest.



Work being conducted at a partner sawmill in Oita



Outer fence using a back plate



Hardware store event

## Review by the Review Committee

Despite efficiency being mainstream, the priority on the "yield of the sawmilling industry" using human skills and sparing no labor, should be highly regarded in terms of sustainable forestry management, and thus SDGs and decarbonization. In addition, their efforts are spreading throughout Japan through partners in the sawmilling industry, and I expect that it will spread through the entire lumber distribution system in the future.

Kaoru Hara

### ■ Regarding the so-called "wood shock"

For more information, please refer to Special topic 1 of the FY2021 Annual Report on Forest and Forestry: "Response to the wood shortage and price surge in FY2021."

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FY2021 Annual Report on Forest and Forestry in Japan (in Japanese)

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Forest management (thinned wood for use)

## TOKYO WOOD Co., LTD.

Raising houses and forests in Tokyo  
"TOKYO WOOD" from the Tama region

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

42 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Thinning: 8 ha  
Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 10

### Using Tokyo's trees to protect Tokyo's forests

Tokyo is thought of as a big city, but in fact, forests cover 40% of its area, and about 70% of that area is concentrated in the western part of the Tama region.

Approximately 60% of the forests in the Tama region are planted forests of sugi (Japanese cedar) and hinoki (Japanese cypress) planted after the war to be used for building materials, etc., and it is necessary to conduct thinning at appropriate times. However, due to sluggish domestic demand and competition with inexpensive imported wood, the price of logs of domestic wood decreased over a long period of time. The forestry industry stagnated, and planted forests began to be left unmanaged.

Amid these conditions, forestry workers, sawmills, pre-cut business operators, and home builders in the Tama area launched TOKYO WOOD Co., LTD., with the phrase "Made-in-Tokyo homes" as a motto

with the aim of maintaining a healthy forest through the establishment of a lumber production cycle in the forests of Tokyo.

### Made-in-Tokyo homes

What would make consumers in Tokyo, a major consumer area, where competition with imported wood and wood from other regions is fierce, choose to build their homes using Tama wood? The answer chosen was in the method of using woods that conveyed the good quality of Tama wood.

Wood is a natural material, and each piece is unique and also has a different moisture content, so it is important for house builders, who make extensive use of wood, to have a mutual understanding with suppliers and to be supplied wood of stable quality. Through trial and error, the company has set strict quality standards for the wood supplied by its members, and builds houses from naturally dried solid wood that has met these standards, allowing you to feel the warmth and aroma of the wood.

#### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: TOKYO WOOD Co., LTD.
- Representative Name: Hiroyuki Nakajima, Representative
- Address: 5-8-15 Maihara-cho, Koganei City, Tokyo
- Business activities: Housing sales and planning, design, manufacture and sales of furniture and interior accessories, web media operations

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winner's website  
(in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

I have always vaguely felt that our efforts to expand the use of trees in Tokyo also contributed to decarbonization, but I feel that this award has made it more clear. In the future, we will continue to conduct forest management and wood distribution that can exhibit the trustworthiness and concrete foundation of the local area, contributing to the realization of carbon neutrality by 2050.



TANAKA FORESTRY CO.,LTD.  
Representative director,  
**Soichi Tanaka**

The wood that meets these standards is called "TOKYO WOOD," and efforts are being made to make Tama wood into a brand.

## Raising houses and forests in Tokyo

Trees are cut and used, profits are returned to the mountains, and forest management continues. If this cycle doesn't work, it will be impossible to maintain a healthy forest in the future.

Tanaka Forestry Co., Ltd., a member of the company, has received certification for their Collecting Forest Management Plan and is working on forest creation with an awareness of transformation into mixed forests of conifers and broadleaf trees by repeated thinning and selection cutting.

The harvested logs are steadily supplied to contractors through the sawmill, which is also a member of the company, and an average of 60 houses are built annually using TOKYO WOOD.

In addition, bus tours of the forest, wood market, and sawmill are held for families who plan to build houses using TOKYO WOOD. The participants were impressed and surprised by the "forests of Tokyo" and the fact that "houses were built even from trees in Tokyo," and they have earned high praise.

From forestry workers to home builders, everyone is working together to promote wooden houses and sustainable forest management.



Construction of a house using TOKYO WOOD



Bus tour for families planning to build houses using TOKYO WOOD

## Review by the Review Committee

The entire team works together to contribute to sustainable forest management and decarbonization by using domestic solid wood to build houses, promoting the benefits of wood use and its contribution to the environment, and distributing profits upstream.

We also highly valued their overall efforts, including forest management that takes into account the landscape and ecosystem.

Kaoru Hara

### ■ What is natural drying?

It is one of the drying methods for wood. In contrast to "kiln drying," in which the temperature and humidity are controlled artificially using a dryer, the wood is stacked in a place with good conditions, such as ventilation, for a certain amount of time to dry.

### ■ What is selection cutting?

This is a method of logging (harvesting) a section of the trees in the area, which is part of the logging process to renew the forest, including gathering. It is sometimes scheduled to be repeated every few years or every few decades to turn the forest into a mixed forest of conifers and broadleaf trees.

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to the development of hilly and mountainous rural communities

## NPO

# Environmental Relations

Give a "Present Tree" to a loved one  
Aiming for reforestation and regional development



Planting a Present Tree in Ashigawa, Fuefuki

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

100 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Planting and weeding: 37 ha

Broadleaf trees, etc.  
Age-class 1 to 3

## Planting commemorative trees in places where forests should be created

Japan has abundant forests, but there are cutover areas and forests that have been damaged by weather or disease and are not being managed, due to reasons such as lack of funds or the owner's age.

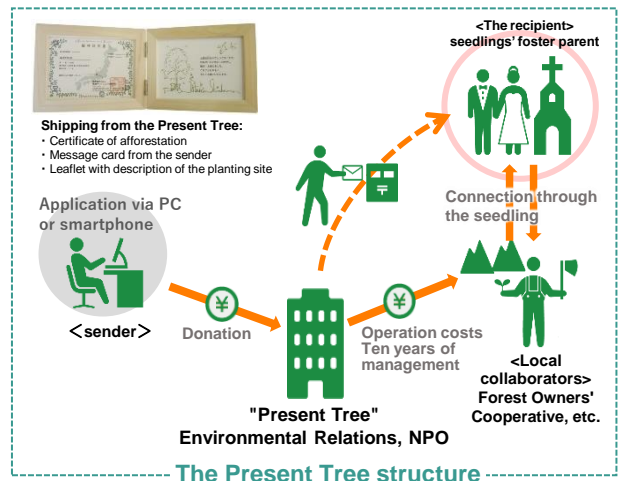
The organization decided to plant a tree as a gift and started the "Present Tree" initiative in 2005, leading to forest regeneration and regional development by planting commemorative trees as "gifts" in such places. To date, the organization has engaged in forest creation in 37 locations in Japan.

## Taking care of the forest with the region

The Present Tree program solicits donations from residents and businesses in urban areas for planting trees. A person can donate as a gift to a loved one or themselves, and the person who receives the gift will become the seedling's "foster parent."

The organization and the foster parent will work with the local area to care for the forest over the next ten years.

Regarding the planting of trees and care afterwards, such as weeding, the organization has concluded a 10-year (20 years in some places) forest management agreement with the forest area owners and local governments, and has also concluded a contract with the Forest Owners' Cooperatives in each region to conduct forest management.



### Overview of Award Winner

- Company Name: NPO Environmental Relations
- Representative Name: Atsuko Suzuki, President
- Address: 2-3-12 Kanda-ogawamachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
Kanda-ogawamachi Building, 8th floor
- Business activities: Management of the forest restoration project "Present Tree," environmental education, support for reconstruction and community development

Click here!



winner's website  
(in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

Plant a tree as a gift! 17 years have passed since we first said those words. Since then, we have received a number of awards, but it is a great honor to receive an award from the Forestry Agency, the central figure of the forestry industry. Although the present tree forest is still young, small in scale and small in absorbed CO<sub>2</sub>, we will continue this project and pass on our trees to future generations, along with several local communities and foster parents, as a present to the future.



President  
**Atsuko Suzuki**

The key to planting trees is the species selection.

For the Present Tree initiative, the aim is to create forests that are small but diverse and fulfill public beneficial functions by selecting tree species that are suitable for the vegetation of each region, mainly broadleaf trees.

### Aiming for reforestation and regional development

Through the Present Tree program, "Foster parents" are invited to the planting area to conduct planting activities and care for the trees while interacting with locals by enjoying delicious food, beautiful scenery, and various experiences in the local area through "Present Tree planting events" that are held in each region every year.



L'Occitane Tree Planting Ceremony (Present Tree in Yamato, Kumamoto)



Chopstick making workshop (Present Tree in Ashigawa, Fuefuki)

In 2021, the "CreCla Forest" was established in Fuefuki City, Yamanashi Prefecture through a donation from NAC CO.,LTD., the company of "CreCla" water server, and its users were invited to the tree planting event. With the cooperation of the city's Forest Owners' Cooperative, planting activities and chopstick making workshops were held, and were highly acclaimed by participants.

The total number of foster parents recruited so far has exceeded 300,000 and the local governments of the planting areas also have high expectations for this as a way to increase the exchange population and related population through forest management activities.

### Review by the Review Committee

The concept of "caring for the trees for 10 years" has many benefits, not only promoting exchange between the local area and cities, but also for regional economic activity. We hope that this 10-year period will be used even more effectively and further developed as an effective measure for promotion of hilly and mountainous rural communities.

Toru Kodera

#### ■ Efforts to promote reforestation

For more information, please refer to Special topic 1 of the FY2020 Annual Report on Forest and Forestry in Japan: "Sustainable Forestry Management that Leverages the Potential of Forests"

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FY2020 "Annual Report on Forest and Forestry in Japan"

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

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Contribution to the development of hilly and mountainous rural communities



Gogin Kibo no Mori (Forests of Hope) activities

## The San-in Godo Bank, Ltd.

Protecting the hometown forests and livelihood

"Partnership Power" through the strength of regional banks

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

41 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Planting and weeding: 5 ha

Broadleaf trees, etc.

Age-class 1 to 3

### Protecting the hometown forest

Tottori and Shimane are the prefectures most affected by population decline, low birthrate, and aging society. In other words, they are facing issues, and problems related to regional economic sustainability, such as labor shortages in various industries, have emerged earlier than in other regions. Recently, responding to environmental issues and climate change have also been taken up as regional issues.

In light of these circumstances, San-in Godo Bank, as a regional financial institution, has been working toward to the resolution of social and environmental issues, thereby contributing to the local economy and improved sustainability of the community.

The forest situation is no exception. Although both prefectures are areas of lush nature, with over 70% of their area being covered by forests, the area of forests that have not been adequately managed has increased due to factors such as a lack of labor. Amid these circumstances, the bank has been taking efforts for many years,

with the mottos of "protecting our hometown forest" and "everyone doing what they can," such as communicating the current state of forests and the importance of preservation through practical activities by bank directors and employees and exchanges with local volunteer organizations, while caring for forests with locals and passing the torch to the next generation.

### "Gogin Kibo no Mori (Forests of Hope)" activities

In the "Gogin Kibo no Mori (Forests of Hope)" program ("Gogin" is an abbreviation of Godo Ginko (Bank)), which started in 2006, directors and employees of the bank and their families actually enter one of six forests in Tottori and Shimane prefectures twice a year, create forests with scenery worthy of a World Heritage Site, and conduct forest management that handles challenges faced by forests in each region, such as cutting invasive bamboo in water conservation forests and converting it to broadleaf trees. To date, approximately 9,700 people have participated and planted about 17,600 trees, among other efforts.

#### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: The San-in Godo Bank, Ltd.
- Representative Name: Toru Yamasaki, President and Representative Director
- Address: 10 Uomachi, Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture
- Business activities: Banking

Click here!



winner's website (in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

It has been 15 years since the bank began forest preservation activities, and we are full of gratitude to 10,000 directors and employees in total who have participated, as well as those who have supported us. We will continue contributing to decarbonization through our "own sweat" and will pass the torch to the next generation. In addition, we will work with other organizations and strive to raise environmental awareness and disseminate information to contribute to the creation of sustainable communities.



Head of the Regional Development Department  
**Yasushi Mori**

In addition, CO<sub>2</sub> absorption in the forests has been certified by the "Shimane CO<sub>2</sub> Absorption Certification System" in Shimane Prefecture. Furthermore, regarding the status of "Gogin Kibo no Mori (Forests of Hope)" activities, a report called "Morimori Newsletter" is published twice a year. Efforts are being made to publicize and educate on forest preservation activities by disseminating information, such as posting it on the website, distributing it to administrative agencies, and showing it to bank visitors.



activity report "Morimori Newsletter"

## Expanding the Forest Preservation Circle

In addition, in an effort to expand the circle of forest preservation activities in cooperation with the region, a network of volunteer organizations and non-profit organizations from Tottori and Shimane was formed. "Protect Our Forests! The San-in Network Council" was established in 2006, and the bank serves as the secretariat, providing opportunities for members to interact and exchange information. As of the end of March 2022, there are 50 members in Tottori and Shimane.



Members exchange at "Protect Our Forests! The San-in Network Council"

In addition to providing support for workshops, exchange projects, and other events held by members, the bank has provided support for the revitalization of activities by member organizations since 2018 through the "Friendship Branch System" by stocking PR magazines for members' forest-creating activities at the bank's branch offices and through employee participation in events held by members, contributing to regional development through forest preservation.

## Review by the Review Committee

It is wonderful that financial institutions based in the region are actively promoting forest preservation activities by making use of their strengths and expanding their circle to include various other groups. We hope that forestry workers will join the circle in the future in order to further develop forest management and utilization.

Ryosuke Aoki



# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to the development of hilly and mountainous rural communities



Technical training course for the management of broadleaf forests

## Ikeda Town, Hokkaido

Town-led broadleaf forest management

Revitalization of local nature and industry

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

10 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Thinning: 4 ha  
Broadleaf trees  
Age-class 9

### Charcoal-producing tradition and forest management

Hokkaido's Ikeda town is located slightly east of the center of Tokachi Plain, and about 60% of the town is covered by forests. About half of them are broadleaf forests made up of a variety of tree species. These forest resources have been used for charcoal production since about one hundred years ago, and the town is known as one of the leading charcoal producing areas in Hokkaido.

However, as the charcoal production industry declined with the spread of fossil fuels, many of the broadleaf forests in the town were left completely unmanaged after they were clear-cut and coppiced about 50 years ago. In such forests, the simple structure of the canopy layer makes it difficult for the sun to enter and the presence of many thin trees make it challenging to conduct the management and maintenance necessary to develop a healthy forest. Furthermore, the Karamatsu (Japanese larch) that account for about 40% of the town's forests are approaching the point of being used as wood,

so forestry workers are focusing on cutting and replanting them, making it difficult to secure workers to cut down broadleaf trees for charcoal production. This has posed a threat to a valuable local industry as charcoal producers in the town face a shortage of lumber.

### Enriching the forest with the cooperation of various people

Facing this situation, the town began holding technical training workshops for local residents interested in forest management in 2017, in cooperation with the Ikeda Town Forestry Group, which consists of forest owners and other people interested in forests and forestry, in order to train the next generation of broadleaf forest managers. As for workshops, experts from within Japan and overseas are invited to the SGEN certified town-owned forests to conduct training on the techniques for handling chainsaws necessary for forest management, methods of selecting trees and creating of forestry operation roads in consideration of the environment, and to create mixed forests of various species and sizes of trees with high biodiversity.

#### Overview of Award Winner

- Name: Ikeda Town, Hokkaido
- Representative Name: Yoshihiro Yasui, Mayor
- Address: 7-11, Nishi 1, Ikeda Town, Nakagawa District, Hokkaido
- Activities: Town governance

Click here!



winner's website (in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

At first, the aim was to develop local industry, but thanks to the participants, we were able to conduct a wide range of activities, such as supplying raw materials to woodworking brands and implementing forest environmental education. If the results of forest management, including decarbonization, can receive high praise, I think that many people can get involved in forest management and feel like they're a part of it.



Industrial Development Division, Ikeda Town  
Head of Forestry **Kenta Yamamoto**

These forest creation activities have contributed to the expansion of the connected population, as not only residents of the town, but also people from neighboring municipalities participate. They have also led to efforts spreading to other regions, such as forest owners who come to observe managing their own broadleaf forests.

## Local industry utilizing broadleaf forests

In order to provide a stable supply of broadleaf logs to charcoal producers in town, the town started a reward system in 2019, aimed at participants in technical workshops and others, for cutting and carrying logs for these producers. As a result, charcoal producers are now supplied with enough logs to make approximately 1.7 tons of charcoal annually from town owned forests, etc. Furthermore, the town supplies white birch bark and logs to the craft brand "White Birch × Ikeda," which was formed by woodworkers and designers in 2020, and contributes to developing local industry through broadleaf forest management.



Japanese white birch debarking experience with  
Ikeda High School

Also, the forests are used as a place for local high school students to get practical experience by making products from forest resources.

Through the management of the broadleaf forests, the town protects the local nature and traditional industry while supporting budding new industries, leading to regional development.



"White Birch × Ikeda" White Birch Coaster

## Review by the Review Committee

This is a good example of fostering collaboration with forestry workers and residents, while spreading to private forests, neighboring municipalities, and local industries. I thought it was wonderful that the town was working from a large perspective, such as inviting experts from overseas and obtaining an internationally accepted certification, despite being a small scale effort.

Miyako Enokibori