

## OUTLINE OF FIELD SESSION

### Itinerary

	<b>Places</b>	<b>Location</b>
8 Sep Afternoon	1. Tokyo Timber Terminal	2-8-16, Shiomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo
	2. Woody Land Tokyo	6 Wakasu, Koto-ku, Tokyo
9 Sept Morning	3. Forest Nishikawa (a cooperative)	708-1, Ashi-Kariba, Hanno, Saitama, Tel: 81-429-71-2622
	4. Agano Raw Log Center	203, Hirato, Hanno, Saitama, Tel: 81-429-78-1286
	5. Private forest at Bungi	Bungi, Koshuu Hanno, Saitama
9 Sept Afternoon	6. Higashi- Agano Forestry Cooperative	45, Torahide, Hanno, Saitama, Tel: 81-429-78-2016
	7. Forestry Center of Hanno City	343, Asu, Hanno, Saitama Tel: 81-429-75-1545

### Profile of Visiting Place

#### **1. Tokyo Lumber Terminal Co., Ltd. (T.L.T.)**

T.L.T. was established in 1973 as a semi-public corporation to operate the Tokyo Lumber Terminal that was constructed under the port development project of Tokyo Metropolitan Government. T.L.T. handles approximately 1.3 million cu m (550 million FBM) of lumber annually. This figure is equivalent to about 20% of all lumber imported to Japan, and about 90% of timber imports to Tokyo port. The T.L.T. storage capacity is no less than 200,000 cu m (85 million FBM), making it the world's largest lumber terminal.

Today, T.L.T. plays an important role as a stock point and supply and distribution center of lumber and wooden products for construction in Tokyo and its surrounding area.

#### **2. Woody Land Tokyo**

Woody Land Tokyo was opened in 1985 by the Tokyo Regional Forest Office of the Forestry Agency. The purpose of the facilities is to promote wood consumption in coordination with the Japanese government, semi-public corporations and private enterprises in the forestry industry.

Woody Land Tokyo conducts the following activities: circulating information about domestic timber and wood products, giving exhibitions of wooden houses, buildings and various wood products, holding events and woodcraft courses for citizens, and consulting consumers on wood use.

#### **3. The Forest Nishikawa Association**

Forest Nishikawa Association (FNA) was founded to promote sales of locally produced timber and to revitalize forestry and the wood processing industry within Nishikawa region. Four timber sellers in Hanno City and the Hanno City Forestry Cooperative hold membership in FNA.

Within Japan, over 40 percent of post and beam houses are built from pre-cut

sawn timber. Pre-cutting is to process sawn timber, which used to be done manually by carpenters at house-building sites. Because of the shortage of skilled workers, the demand for pre-cut timber is increasing. Selling non-processed sawn timber is expected to get more difficult as the pre-cut timber market grows.

In response to this market change, FNA constructed a pre-cutting sawmill in Kariba, Hanno. FNA is trying to provide more value-added to members' products by pre-cutting lumber and getting it into the market. The sawmill is a part of a project for vitalizing the forestry and mountainous regions planned by Hanno city. Only locally produced cedar pillars are used for the structure of the building.

As a new scheme to make a breakthrough in the severe situation facing the forestry and wood industry, FNA activities are gathering more attention from local foresters, the wood processing industry, and citizens.

#### **4. The Agano Raw Log Center Co.**

Hanno city is located in the core of the Nishikawa region. Forestry in this region has a 300-year history. Nishikawa has gained prestige as a source of Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) and cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*).

The business of raw logs was originally based in mountainous villages. Sawmill operators individually purchased raw logs from wholesalers or bought standing trees directly from forest owners. Then from mid 1950s to the 60s, raw log markets emerged and began expanding all around the country.

In the Nishikawa region, the Association of Forestry Cooperatives in Saitama Prefecture first opened a log market in Hanno city in 1960. Now there are four raw log markets in the city, though there were eight of them in the forestry's golden days.

#### **5. Private Forest at Bungi**

This is a one of forest owned by Mr. Junji INOUE who is one of the leading foresters in the Nishikawa area. He planted two types of coniferous species at a density of 3000 to 4500 seedlings per hectare on a steep incline. In addition, in order, to maintain the quality of his timber products, he manages his forest with frequent thinning and careful pruning, spending much attention to human resources and considering the quality of lumber. Usually most of the trees are harvested at the age of 45 to 80 years, but 10 to 15 trees per hectare are left for another 100 to 150 years as superior trees with high profitability. Such a management style is typical and traditional in this area.

#### **6. The Higashi-Agano Forestry Cooperative**

In the Nishikawa region, forestry in Higashi-Agano area is the most matured. Since the Edo Period (AD 1603 to 1867), people have been intensively nurturing their forests here, which has resulted in high quality timber production. Today 'Nishikawa' has become a brand name for node-less and well-colored timber produced in the region.

Most of the forest blocks are small-sized, privately owned and run by domestic workers. Some forest owners have been practicing what is called the 'Tateki' regime, in which they do not clear-cut, but leave several trees standing to grow into high quality large-diameter logs.

The Higashi-Agano Forestry Cooperative aims to achieve sustainable forest management in cooperation with its members. For more value-added, it undertakes raw log processing plant operations, product sales, and forest tending commissions.

In recent years because of the depression in Japan's forest industry and the aging

and shrinking workforce, it is getting difficult to produce high quality logs. The Higashi-Agano Forestry Cooperative is trying to attract young workers through active recruiting, adopting a salary system and providing support for accommodation, and introducing new machines and facilities.

#### **7. Forestry Center of Hanno City**

This center was built for the purposes of contributing to the growth of Japanese forestry with the cooperation of the Japanese government and Saitama Prefecture. Since almost 70 percent of the land area of Hanno City is forested, the building is made of timber cut nearby.