

Opening Remarks of Hideo Namiki  
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International Symposium on Legality Verified Wood 2010

As the Chairman of the Japan Federation of Wood Industry Associations, and member of the Board of Directors of the Japan Lumber Inspection and Research Association, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all and to say a few words about this Symposium.

Before all else, I wish to welcome the many participants who have joined us in the International Symposium on Legality Verified Wood 2010 to be held over the two-day period of today and tomorrow. I would like to extend a special welcome and to express my gratitude to the presenters, panelists, and numerous participants that have traveled long distances from Indonesia, Sarawak in Malaysia, China, the European Union, and the United States to be with us here. Please allow me to also welcome Director-General Yoshitsugu Minagawa of the Forestry Agency, to whom we are deeply indebted for his constant guidance and advice, for making time in his very busy schedule to attend this Symposium.

This Symposium was organized with a view to eradicating illegal logging from the world. More specifically, it is our earnest hope that this Symposium will lend fresh impetus to activities against illegal logging by providing a forum for presenting and discussing the measures being taken in Japan and the other participating countries, and that these discussions will contribute to the development of shared awareness and cooperation in these activities. Four and a half years have passed since Japan's forestry, lumber, and wood industries launched their full-fledged activities against illegal logging in 2006. It was in February 2006 that the Forestry Agency of Japan issued the Guideline for Verification on Legality and Sustainability of Wood and Wood Products. The Guideline was drafted to promote measures taken by the Japanese government mandating procurement by government, etc. of legality and sustainability verified wood and wood products in accordance with the Law on Promoting Green Purchasing.

Responding to these government actions and policies, Japan's forestry, lumber, and wood industry associations and other related organizations came together in 2006 to establish industry-wide voluntary mechanisms and arrangements to ensure compliance with the Guideline of the Forestry Agency with an aim to creating systems for supplying wood and wood products whose legality and sustainability have been verified and to promoting the use and proliferation of such products. We are also engaged in introducing and informing other countries of the various systems and

activities that have been undertaken in Japan for legality verification. Among these activities is the Action Plan formulated by Japan and Indonesia for promoting countermeasures against illegal logging. Based on this Action Plan, our two countries are cooperating in the development of wood traceability technologies.

This two-day Symposium is organized around presentations on issues related to illegal logging with the aim of stimulating an active and frank exchange of views among participants. It is our most earnest hope that these discussions will promote activities against illegal logging in countries throughout the world. In closing, I wish to state that our highest goal is the elimination of illegal logging from the face of the earth, and our ultimate dream is that symposiums such as this will become completely unnecessary in the future.

Thank you.