

Host Address to Round Table Meeting on Goho-wood for the G8 Summit

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Greetings to you all. My name is Hideo Namiki, and I am Chairman of the Japan Federation of Wood-Industry Associations.

We are gathered here today for the Round Table Meeting on Goho-wood for the G8 Summit, to discuss with members of GLOBE International future measures for a legal wood supply system. It gives me great pleasure to welcome [Mr. Elliot Morley, President of GLOBE International](#) and the two co-chairs of forestry, Mr. Minister Elvis Ngolle Ngolle from Cameroon and Mr. Minister Barry Gardiner from the UK, as well as distinguished parliamentary representatives of GLOBE International from many nations around the world. From Japan, meanwhile, we welcome Mr. Masatoshi Wakabayashi, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; [Mr. Yoshio Yatsu, President of GLOBE Japan](#); Mr. Masayoshi Yoshino, joint session chair at GLOBE International; and many others who are active in the field. May I take this opportunity to offer my sincerest appreciation to all of you.

Amidst mounting worldwide concern over global environmental issues, we have been working to set up supply regimes of timber verified to be legal and/or sustainable, in accordance with the Japanese government policy on illegal logging. The Goho-wood Provider scheme, in which timber industry associations accredit their members as legal timber suppliers, has accredited some 7,000 domestic firms over the last two years. The industry has also held international seminars on illegal logging over the past two years as a means of promoting the scheme outside Japan.

During today's meeting we will describe these initiatives in greater depth and encourage discussion concerning potential improvements and enhancements. It is hoped that the discussions will provide important insights for other international programs.

GLOBE International will convene a meeting of the Tokyo Legislator Forum beginning tomorrow to present proposals in advance of the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. Our deliberations today will be reflected at the Forum. With the assistance of influential delegates from around the world, we have an invaluable opportunity to develop a coordinated global initiative to tackle the problem of illegal logging.

Today's discussions will be moderated by Dr. Motoaki Okuma, professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo. I trust that it will be a fruitful and productive session and I wish you every success.

Thank you for your time.