

(Wood suppliers' side)

Name	Koichi Sato
Title	Secretariat
Organization name	Ibaraki Morikaraie-Housing Network

1. Brief introduction of the organization

Establishment: March 1, 2012

Purpose of the association: (1) To provide regional housing trusted by consumers; (2) To conserve the regional forest and dwelling environment; (3) To ensure the proliferation of excellent long-lasting houses and to enhance construction techniques; (4) To develop successors of the organization according to the abovementioned purposes; and (5) To establish wood circulation systems from upstream to downstream.

Number of members: 126 companies

Log market: 3 companies, sawmillers: 15 companies, precut factories: 5 companies, distribution: 33 companies, design: 10 companies, construction: 79 companies. (Total does not match because one company operates in multiple fields.)

Major activities: Holds various kinds of training seminars and workshops (for members). Provides housing information to consumers via a website.

2. Outline of measures for the utilization of Goho-wood

Delivery of the wood to "Ibaraki wood using campaign" (An activity conducted by Ibaraku Co., Ltd, which is the administrative body of the network).

Perzentation of pillars to customer: A system to donate pillar wood worth a maximum of 200,000 yen to houses constructed by the traditional wooden method in Ibaraki Prefecture (a system unique to Ibaraki Prefecture). Granted to 450 houses in FY2012 (including 150 houses for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake).
Examples of grant conditions: Delivered by a company authorized as a "Goho-wood Supplier" located in Ibaraki Prefecture. Amount of Goho-wood utilized in the structure should be 50% or more, etc.

Delivery of wood to public property: To deliver "wood produced in Ibaraki Prefecture" (Goho-wood) to public property (elementary and junior high schools, etc.) constructed in Ibaraki Prefecture based on the "Law regarding Promotion of Wood Utilization in Public Buildings, etc."

3. Background of measures for the utilization of Goho-wood

Adopted for the FY2012 Subsidy Programs of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, "Regional Residence Branding Program" (First period)

Conditions for the adoption of the "Regional Branding Program" (First period)

(1) Volume of Goho-wood

By utilizing the Goho-wood certification system, this association set the following criteria: the use of Goho-wood for at least 90% of the structure materials. In addition to this, this association added the obligatory provision for setting a quantity of Goho-wood used for secondary structure materials (Total number of "tsubo" for the building $\times 0.05 \text{ m}^3$ / number of "tsubo", or more)

We established a system to supply Goho-wood to houses provided by member builders, by requiring all types of wood-treating businesses (log market, sawmills, pre-cut factories, distributors) to be member companies of the Goho-wood certification system.

(2) Utilization of "Kizukai CO2 fixation certification system" conducted by the Japan Wood Youth Group Association.

The total volume of delivered Goho-wood (the structure materials and secondary structure materials only) to each house for the subsidy is calculated according to the rule of the CO2 fixation certification system, and the calculated results will be evaluated by a third party.

We demonstrate our environmental protection efforts to the building owners and customers by expressing numerically the "quantity of CO2 fixed" by the relevant house.

(3) Utilization of CASBEE house - newly built (B+ or more)

CASBEE, sponsored by the Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation (IBEC), is a system to "comprehensively evaluate the quality of buildings including the comfortableness of the rooms and concern for the landscape by assessing and rating the buildings in terms of environmental performance," which cannot normally be assessed with excellent long-lasting houses.

The objective of our house building is clearly shown to the building owners and consumers by using the numerical figures obtained by rating (calculating) the "environmental performance" of the house.

In addition to these, there are many other conditions.

4. Requests on the supplier's side

Though the use of Goho-wood of this association was limited to the "structure materials and secondary structure materials" in this adopted program, we are aiming to limit all deliverable wood including wood fixtures and interior/exterior furnishing wood to Goho-wood in the future.

To realize this aim:

Regarding domestic wood: establish a system to show the log producing district on sawn wood (in the case of the log market in Ibaraki Prefecture), because logs having different producing districts are mixed for sale after being classified into grades in order to lower the cost when being sold at the log market (a log distribution center where loggers auction wood to sawmillers).

Regarding imported wood: establish a system to simply retrieve Goho-wood authorization information, such as SGEC, FSC, PEFC and CoC forest certification, at the time consumers and designers select the imported wood.

5. Challenges and problems to be solved

To improve the organization of this Housing Network so as to contribute to the regional housing industry by accumulating our experience and achievements in the future, because it has not been long since the association was established.

To become an "information center of residential construction" by positively informing the objective of our association to consumers (especially the citizens of Ibaraki Prefecture).

To improve our knowledge, technical ability, and ability to cope with various conditions and future national measures (Energy Saving Act, low carbon houses, etc.) by making efforts to become a trustworthy organization chosen by the owners (consumers).

