

(International symposium 2010 day 2 greetings from Chairman Okuma)

Efforts to Supply Legality Verified Wood and Significance of this International Symposium

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Thank you for the introduction.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for joining this second day of our international symposium program, from the early morning. Our second day program focuses on countermeasures to illegal logging, centered on Japan's efforts for certification of goho-wood, or legality verified wood. Five years have passed since the Japanese government decided to purchase legality verified wood products on a preferential basis and the wood industry began working to supply them. This is also our fifth international symposium.

For a brief history of the symposium, please refer to the distributed material. The first international seminar took place in February 2007. In 2008, we held the Roundtable Meeting on Goho-wood toward the G8 Summit, "Discussions with Members of GLOBE International on Future Measures for a Legal Wood Supply System."

<p>Feb. 2007 International Seminar in Tokyo for Tackling Illegal Logging, 2007: Response of the World to the Procurement Policies of Japan</p> <p>Dec. 2007 International Seminar for Tackling Illegal Logging, 2007 II in Yokohama: A Credible and Distributable System for Verifying Goho (=legal) wood and Wood Products</p> <p>June 2008 Roundtable Meeting on Goho-wood for the G8 Summit: Discussions with Members of GLOBE International on Future Measures for a Legal Wood Supply System</p> <p>Dec. 2009 The 2009 Symposium on the Promotion of Wood and Wood Products with Verified Legality: Goho-wood Efforts to Address the Illegal Logging Problem</p>

We have held these international symposiums consistently maintaining a stance toward expanding imports of legality-verified wood based on the Forestry Agency guidelines, and thus contributing to the illegal logging countermeasures of each country.

Through these efforts, I think that the Japanese approach has gained some position within the international activities. This is shown by the acceptance of the term “goho-wood” with the key concept of being widely applicable.

Wood and wood products pass through complex processing and distribution routes, and it is not possible to efficiently check all products at several processing locations. Thus Chain of Custody (CoC) systems become necessary. These certify businesses engaged in processing and distribution, and entrust them with providing information on legality and sustainability.

The FSC, PEFC, SGEC, and other forest certification bodies have designed frameworks to guarantee the credibility of certified businesses using third-party inspections. However, having an industry body provide CoC certification is original to the Forestry Agency guidelines. We think this is very important from the standpoint of being widely applicable and efficient.

Our intention is to express the universality and importance of this approach by using the term “goho-wood.” The participants at the Roundtable Meeting with members of GLOBE International kindly understood this term. We hope you will give further consideration to Japan’s legality verified wood supply system.

This year’s symposium is also significant in that it is being held at a critical time when the demand for goho-wood is expanding in the Japanese market. Moreover, the act to promote the use of wood in public buildings came into effect from this autumn, and I think that is also an important factor. I would like you to note how goho-wood procurement has gone beyond the government, and is now also expanding in the private sector.

Another characteristic is the establishment of countermeasures to illegal

logging as policies in the United States and Europe as consumption countries. Those will also be introduced here today.

I hope we can examine the illegal logging problem and our future approaches at this symposium, amid the international developments. I look forward to your enthusiastic participation throughout today's program, to make this a successful symposium.

Thank you very much for your attention.