

(Wood supplier's side))

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## **1 Brief introduction of the organization**

(1) Overview of the International Development Association of the Furniture Industry of Japan, which we are joining

The International Development Association of the Furniture Industry of Japan was established in April 2010 by merging the former Japan Export Furniture Manufacturer's Association established in May 1957 with the Federation of Japan Furniture Manufacturer's Association established in February 1964.

Membership mainly consists of furniture manufacturers, distributors, designers, etc.

The main purpose is to contribute to the improvement of the cultural aspects of national life and to boost the trading sector by facilitating the globalization and development/promotion of the furniture industry.

Currently consists of 51 regular member companies/organizations and 15 supporting member companies, a total of 66 corporations/organizations.

(2) Introduction of Karimoku Furniture Inc.

In April 2010, Kariya Mokuzai Kogyo Co., Ltd (established in 1947) and Krimoku Furniture Inc. (established in 1968) were merged to become Karimoku Furniture Inc., which functions as the headquarters of the Karimoku Group.

Located in Aichi Prefecture, and engaged in the manufacturing and distribution of wooden furniture. Annual turnover: 21 billion yen (business results in FY2011) 890 employees (as of April 2012)

The whole group consists of 5 manufacturing companies and 4 materials factories for the supply of wood. The business department of the group operates a manufacturing and wholesale business with 27 sales offices and 19 showrooms.

## **2 Outline of measures to utilize Goho-wood**

(1) Utilization of "parawood"

As one of the measures for promoting Goho-wood and reducing environmental problems, we

established a materials factory in Malaysia in 1988 to produce furniture using “parawood” from rubber tree plantations on a short cycle.

Though "parawood" which already tapped natural rubber, used to be left unused and mainly disposed of by being burnt as waste, we were able to treat it with our technology, in order to utilize it as a material for furniture, and develop, manufacture, and distribute the resulting parawood furniture products.

(2) Activities as a Goho-wood supplier

In 2006, certificates for Goho-wood were made obligatory by revision of the Green Purchasing Law, and since then, our company has begun to prepare or issue Goho-wood certificates for our products, with authorization from the International Development Association of the Furniture Industry of Japan. We conduct separate management of the company, prepare the certificate from the previous process, and issue our certificate for Goho-wood as a chain of guarantee to customers. We treated a total of 4,697,607 m<sup>3</sup> of Goho-wood in FY2011.

(MTCC2: 592,485 m<sup>3</sup>, RPP1: 276,101 m<sup>3</sup>, PEFC: 654,948 m<sup>3</sup>, FSC: 126,498 m<sup>3</sup>, and company authorization: 47,575 m<sup>3</sup>)

(3) Measures for forest certified wood

Last year, we obtained COC certification as part of the FSC/PEFC forest certification process, and in this fiscal year, we are releasing and promoting PEFC certificated products to ordinary users and customers at exhibitions etc.

At the IFFT (International Furniture Fair Tokyo) held the other day, we exhibited FSC certificated products, though as part of a reference exhibition.

From now, we are intending to proceed with measures to promote Goho-wood to contribute to the demand for forest certificated products as a company.

### **3 Background of the measures for promoting Goho-wood**

Knowledge of Goho-wood has increased since 2006 when the measures for promoting anti- illegal logging began, based on the domestic Green Purchasing Law.

Though the Green Purchasing Law applies to only public works and facilities, the response rate to these measures seems to be increasing with high awareness among domestic materials manufacturers.

We consider that such national measures we are conducting for public works and facilities as an ordinary company on a regular basis will lead to a succession of measures in the future for ordinary consumers, and also lead to environmental conservation and observance of the law.

However, the degree of acceptance and recognition of Goho-wood in the Green Purchasing Law is, in fact, still low among ordinary consumers.

#### **4 Request to the supply side**

Some supply side companies still do not or cannot obtain authorization for Goho-wood suppliers, so that formal certification according to the domestic Green Purchasing Law cannot currently be provided in some cases.

Also, in regard to imported wood materials from overseas, the measures taken in each countries are different and sometimes complicated, Sometimes we cannot obtain certification for some wood materials we treat, especially from China, because the have a wider variety of tree types.

Unified measures, marks, and seals like that of the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) may be convenient.

Though we are promoting the domestic consumption of domestic wood such as Japanese cedar and cypress, we still greatly rely on imported wood from overseas, so it is expected that Goho-wood certification measures will be expanded within Japan and overseas by establishing the circumstances for facilitating the issuance of Goho-wood certification to imported wood.

Since we, on the demand side, producing the products, are also suppliers to ordinary consumers, we are expected to prepare measures to ultimately ensure that all materials we treat is Goho-wood.

In order to realize the situation above, it is required, in particular, to explore methods for authorizing the materials and suppliers that find it difficult to obtain certification by elaborating detailed confirmation steps and procedures.

Also for imported wood, since the measures are different from country to country, it is necessary to apply simpler nationwide measures such as unified standards, certification methods, standardized certificates, marks, and seals to the imported wood to cope with illegally logged wood.

It is important and necessary to provide details of measures in each importing/exporting country, since the knowledge of the measures being applied in the countries exporting wood to Japan are indispensable for us.

If possible, it is desirable to create a system to issue Goho-wood certification using a simpler way without requiring a special certificate.

#### **5 Challenges and problems to be solved**

As already mentioned above, it is necessary to work with the companies concerned to establish measures so that all materials are Goho-wood.

As for our own efforts, we will implement measures to respond to demand from the national government, customers, and ordinary consumers by carefully examining and checking the wood materials whether they are applicable to Goho-wood.

By establishing COC certificated products under the forest certification process, we will also make efforts to promote Goho-wood and its certification system while focusing on COC certificated products.