

Overview of the Screening

Comment by Dr. Shin Nagata

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These certificates of merit were started last year in order to further energize the supply network of nearly 7,500 certified domestic organizations for the legality of their wood and wood products, and develop the certification system. The certificates honor business operators and organizations that either have significant achievements in the supply of goho-wood or the development of the certification system, or aggressively promoted the use of goho-wood as well as the significance of using them.

The selection of honorees was made by the Selection Committee on November 16, following the establishment of the same committee within the Council for Tackling Illegal Logging and Promotion of Goho-wood.

The certificates of merit are given in three different categories, but we made our selections in two based on the nominations received. As a result, in terms of goho-wood suppliers, 11 business operators were selected in the Goho-Wood Supplier category, and one organization in the Goho-Wood Certification Organization category.

We looked at the following in making our selection:

In the Supplier category, the nominees were examined for first, the actual record of supplying goho-wood; second, activities that motivate their suppliers to go *goho*, such as a policy of requesting *goho* certification to the raw material suppliers; and third, a record of educating the consumers through events, official Web site use and other channels.

In the Certification Organization category, the nominees were examined for first, whether they educated its members through training sessions and one-on-one instruction, as well as for information disclosure; second, for the certification status of its members; and third, for active cooperation with events, and a record of educating the consumers.

The committee scored each nominee on these points, and selected the recipients of the Certificate of Appreciation by the Director General of the Forestry Agency, Certificate of Merit by the Chairman of Japan Federation of Wood Industry Associations and Certificate of Merit by the President of the Council for Tackling Illegal Logging and Promotion of Goho-wood.

From the fact that there were fewer nominations than last year, we can see that even with nearly 7,500 operators to choose from, the criteria for nomination are quite high. This means that every nominee this year is operating at a standard that has been recognized by its peers as outstanding. It is also proof that this activity has an excellent level of transparency. From a selection standpoint, however, we can honestly say that it would have been exciting to receive more nominations. But, that is something to look forward to next year.

Today's honorees have been nominated from a large pool, then met the above selection criteria with flying colors.