Part 2: Issues and Prospects toward the Promotion of the Use of Goho-wood in the Japanese Market

Outline

The issue proposed by Part 1 is that procurement activity in the Japanese market has an important impact on other nations' efforts against illegal logging. In the context of this proposal, parties from the demand and supply sides as well as administrators will discuss the issues and the “issues and prospects for the further development of goho wood/sustainable wood and wood products,” specifically the following points: 1) system development for expanding and stabilizing procurement, 2) supply-side efforts such as public relations, 3) supplier trustworthiness, and 4) collaboration between the demand side and supply side.

Brief Introduction of Panelists

Hiroaki Kakizawa
Professor, Graduate School of Agriculture at Hokkaido University

Hiroaki Kakizawa, after assuming the position of a research associate and then an associate professor of the Faculty of Agriculture, is currently Professor at the Graduate School of Agriculture, Hokkaido University. He received his master's degree in Agriculture in 1984, from Hokkaido University. He specializes in forest policy, and has studied the creation of mechanisms for sustainable forest management, and Russian forest management and policies. His major published works include "Ecosystem Management" and "Russia: Shinrin Taikoku no Naijitsu (The Reality of a Forest Giant)." His interest in the problem of illegal logging was sparked by his study of Russian forest policies.

Toshiyuki Akagi
Director of Wood Products Trade Office, Forestry Agency

Toshiyuki Akagi has been with the Forestry Agency since 1982. He served with the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, Hidaka District Forestry Office in Hokkaido and the Forest Bureau of Kochi Prefecture before being appointed the Director of the Wood Products Trade Office in April 2008. In his previous post, he was involved in drafting forest carbon sink strategy and other initiatives in his capacity as the Forestry Agency's contact person for anti-global warming measures. In his current position, he has total oversight of trade issues such as WTO negotiations and economic partnership agreements, as well as domestic and international efforts related to fighting illegal logging. On the latter front, he is currently working on the promotion of goho-wood certification system and on strengthening cooperation with timber-producing countries.
Yuji Abe  
General Manager, Environmental Policy Department, Okamura Corporation

Yuji Abe joined Okamura Corporation in 1978, and managed chair and table production, procurement, material and delivery in its manufacturing department for approximately two decades. He then took charge of the procurement of basic materials and purchase planning with the purchasing department for eight years. Since 2006, he has been the General Manager of the Environmental Solutions Department (currently the Environmental Policy Department), as well as a member of Japan Office Institutional Furniture Association’s (JOIFA) environmental working group and a board member of the Green Purchasing Network.

Satoshi Nakagawa  
Director of Distribution Department, Wooden Home Builders Association of Japan (Mokujukyo)

Toshi Nakagawa joined Matsushita Electric Works (currently Panasonic) in 1975, and worked on research and product development for housing and facility components and residential construction process with the Corporate R&D Center. In 1995, on the launch of Matsushita Electric Works Techno-Structure Co., Ltd., he was named a company director. Techno-structure construction is a wood-frame construction method that uses compound beams of lightweight steel and wood, and is applied to approximately 4000 homes annually; Nakagawa instituted mandatory precision structural calculation for each project. Since 2006, he has been Director of Materials and Distribution Department at Mokujukyo Association, and has been working to promote domestically-sourced timber and serving as a member of the Home History Committee.

Azumi Kawabe  
General Manager, Wood Materials Department, Strategic Resource Management Division, Oji Paper Co., Ltd.

Born in Shizuoka Prefecture, Azumi Kawabe has been with Oji Paper Co., Ltd. since 1982, after graduating from Forest Studies Department, Faculty of Agriculture, the University of Tokyo. He has worked at Oji’s domestic plants, and also at its overseas offices in Seattle, Atlanta and Vancouver, before being appointed to his current post in 2007.
Toshikazu Kutsuzawa  
Managing Director, Kutsuzawa Seizaisho

Born in Akita Prefecture in 1969, Toshikazu Kutsuzawa completed the first part of a doctoral course in engineering (architecture) at Graduate School of Tohoku Institute of Technology. He joined Nice Corporation in 1996, then Kutsuzawa Seizaisho in 2003, and became Managing Director in 2007. At Nice, he was with the Sagamihara Office’s Sales Section before working for five years at the Tokyo Metropolitan Area Precut Section (traditional, metalware, 2×4, panel). He also served as an in-house as well as visiting instructor on precuts, lumber and interior fittings. At Kutsuzawa Seizaisho, he incorporates the needs he learned of further down the supply chain while working with proposals from up the same chain. Kutsuzawa serves as a board member of the Akita Wood Technology Transfer Foundation, and is a member of the Akita Prefectural Government’s Prefectural Timber Trade Expansion Council.

Kazuo Suzuki  
President, Tokai Mokuzai Sogo Shijo Corporation

Kazuo Suzuki joined Zaiso Timber Co., Ltd. in 1966, and was appointed the representative director and chairman in 2009. He was named President of Zaiso House in 1998. Currently Suzuki also serves as Vice President of Japan Federation of Wood Industry Associations, President of Aichi Federation of Wood Industry Associations and the head of the Nagoya Lumber Union.