

# 1. Forest Policy in Japan

## (1) Domestic Forest Resources Increasing

- 69% of land area covered with forests. 40% of forests planted by human activities.
- Volume of forest stock rapidly increasing, reaching 4.9 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 2012. Annual increment is **100 million m<sup>3</sup>**. More than half of planted forest are old enough for use as wood products.

## (2) Annual Growth of Forest Enough for Domestic Wood Demand

- With the volume of wood demand in Japan at **78 million m<sup>3</sup>** in 2016, **annual increment is enough to satisfy total demand**. However, most of domestic demand satisfied with imports from other countries (Self-sufficiency ratio: 35%).
- The major challenge of Japan's forestry is "**underuse**" of forest resources.

## (3) Transforming Forestry into a "Leading Industry"

- Sustainable use of matured forest resources could revitalize local economy**, creating new income and job opportunities in rural areas.
- GOJ stipulates "**transforming forestry into a leading industry**" through **creation of wood demand** and stable supply of domestic wood in national economic policies.
- For the creation of wood demand, GOJ promoting the development of new market segments, through i) promotion of wooden **public buildings**, ii) energy use of woody **biomass**, and iii) **education** of consumers.

## 2. Wood Use Promotion in Japan

### (1) Promotion of Wooden Public Buildings

- In 2010, the Diet introduced the “**Act for the Promotion of Wood Use in Public Buildings**,” requiring the Government to take the lead in wood use in public buildings.
- Government is required to **construct all the public building of three stories or lower with wood structure**. Local governments are also required to take similar policies.
- The **ratio of wooden public building** of three stories or lower rose to **26.0%** in 2015.

### (2) Energy Use of Woody Biomass

- In 2012, the “**Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Scheme**” introduced, which **obliges electric power companies to procure electricity from renewable sources**, incl. woody biomass, at a fixed price. 61 woody biomass power plants are operating.
- Volume of woody biomass used for energy supply increased five times from 2012 to 2016.
- Policy focus will **shift from large-scale power generation to small-scale heat/CHP use**.

### (3) Education of Consumers

- Since 2005, the GOJ is promoting the “**Kizukai (due care for wood use)**” as a national campaign for the **enhancement of consumers’ awareness** on the importance of wood use, including **award for wood use** (“Wood Design Award”) and **education for children** (“Wooducation”).
- The movement emphasizes that **wood use is a part of the cycle of sustainable forest management** through harvesting, using, planting, and growing.

### 3. Cycle of “Kizukai” (due care for wood use)

