

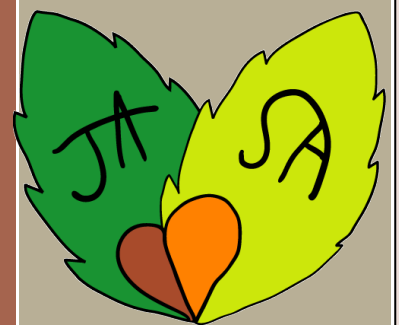
International  
FORESTRY  
STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION



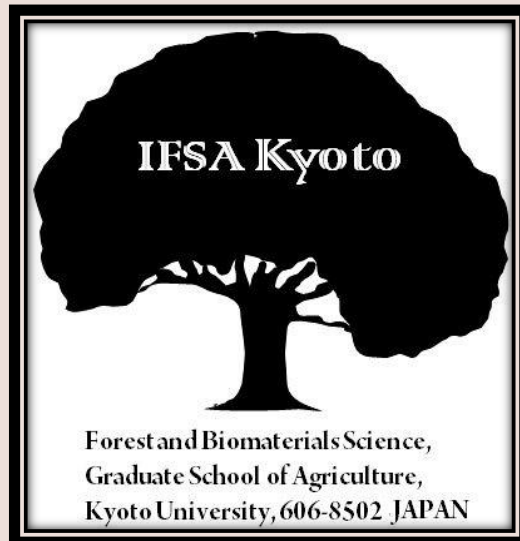
# JASA NEWS LETTER

Vol.1 Kitayama Forestry

2010~2011



IFSA KYOTO UNIVERSITY



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# PREFACE

**Dear JASA members**

Thanks for your first news letter. We IFSA Kyoto members could learn a lot about Saasveld Forestry Association and silviculture in South Africa. We grew in knowledge. We are looking forward to reading next new letter.

This is also the first news letter from IFSA Kyoto. First, we will tell you about our university briefly. Second, we will move to the main topic of this news letter “Kitayama Forestry” which is one of the unique forestry in Kyoto, Japan. Finally, we write about ARM (Asia Regional Meeting) 2011 which we are preparing for. We hope that you will enjoy reading these articles.

We IFSA Kyoto members hope that this JASA program will succeed and establish a good precedent for next partnership. For that reason, we would like to deepen the tie through this news letter and also other programs.

When you have any question about this news letter or want more information, please do not hesitate contact us. We are willing to share the information soon.

Then, let me move to the JASA news letter!

With kind regards,

Takayuki Yamashita  
President of IFSA-Kyoto 2010-2011

**International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)  
Forest and Biomaterials Science Faculty of Agriculture  
Kyoto University  
Japan**

# Kyoto University



Kyoto University is a national university located in Kyoto, where there are also many other universities and colleges. It was established in 1897 as the second university in Japan. There are about 18,000 students studying at undergraduate and graduate courses in variety of fields such as humanities or science. There are 3 campuses in Kyoto Prefecture, and there are many facilities across Japan which belongs to the university such as institutes and experimental fields.

One of the characteristics of our university is the atmosphere of freedom, and we can spend much time in extracurricular activities, not only in major subjects. Because this air and the environment of the well-known ancient city contribute to bringing originality, many alumni of ours are famous for recipients of the Nobel Prizes, writers, and so on. Kyoto University has about 2,000 students and researchers from over 100 countries over the world. In the emblem of Kyoto University a camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) is featured, and the model is the tree growing in front of the clock tower.



Clock tower and camphor tree

# Kitayama Forestry

Kitayama Forestry is one of the Japanese traditional forestry. This is located a little to the north of Kyoto city. And it has characteristic techniques to foster “sugi” (*Cryptomeria japonica*). We IFSA Kyoto members visited this forestry and studied. We will show you what we have learned through this News Letter.

## What is Kitayama Forestry?

Kitayama sugi (= *Cryptomeria japonica* in Kitayama Forestry) is the symbol tree of Kyoto prefecture, because this has been used since *Muromachi* period

is



off cortex.) *migaki* means polished, and *maruta* means a round wood. There are no gnarls. In Japan, people conceive the round wood without gnarls is more beautiful. And the annual rings are contiguous. This means that *migakimaruta* is so robust. Therefore it has great artistic merit. That is why this is used in a part of tea house, *tokobashira* (alcove post).

(1394~1428) for mainly the tea house. And this brought up by individual techniques. Also the landscape of Kitayama Forest is pulchritudinous as like pictures.

In Kitayama Forestry, foresters principally produce *migakimaruta* which is made of Kitayama sugi. (*migakimaruta* = a

polished log

which is taken



*tokobashira*

## History

Kitayama Forestry has a history of a matter of 600 years. Tree planting at Kitayama area began in 1394~1428. In this era, the tea ceremony went out of vogue. Consequently, more and more *migakimaruta* were used for tea houses and Kitayama Forestry was getting developed. However, in this age, there were no means to transport Kitayama sugi or *migakimaruta* to other area in Japan. So, they were used in only Kyoto.

In *Edo* period (1603~1867) people transported these timbers to all around Japan by ship. And the reputation of Kitayama sugi also spreaded. Since then Kitayama sugi or were used various area.

In the period of rapid economic growth in Japan (1980s), *migakimaruta* rode the crest of the building boom. They were sold in high price. Kitayama Forestry reached the height of prosperity in this era. But once this boom came to end, the price is rapidly getting lower.



The ship in Edo period

## The process of fostering the Kitayama sugi

First, foresters raise saplings (=a young plant grown from a cutting in this forestry) in the field for 2 years. From April to May, they plant a cutting and foster. And in the spring, they plant saplings closely to progress down the speed of growth. In consequence, the annual rings are contiguous.



Trimming the branches

Second, 7~8 years later after planting, foresters trim the branches of a tree. And since then, they lop every 3~4 years. This work needs expertise. What needs to be emphasized at this juncture is that this process makes timber without knots.

Third, 20~30 years after planting, foresters cut down trees. After that, foresters conduct natural seasoning in the mountain so that the color of timbers becomes brilliant. This is what we call Kitayama sugi.

Finally, foresters make *migakimaruta*. They strip a tree of its bark. After that, they polish these timbers by fine sand of the bottom of waterfall. This is what we call *migakimaruta*.



### The problem of Kitayama Forestry

These days, Kitayama Forestry encounters difficulties. The price of Kitayama sugi is getting low compared to ancient times. The liberalization of the countries' trade and the change of Japanese people's senses of values caused this situation. Import timbers are more economical than domestic ones. Accordingly, domestic timbers including Kitayama sugi are left unsold. For that reason, the people making a living in forestry cannot have enough income. Hence there are few people who want to work in forestry or forest industry now in Japan. And the foresters are getting older and older now.



This is not only Kitayama Forestry's problem but also Japanese Forestry's problem. More than 50% forest in Japan is man-made forest. If people do not care these forests, they will devastate. Actually, there are many forests which are abandoned. In the case of these forests, the forest floor is very dark even in daytime, because a lot of leaves block sun shine. In such cases, grasses cannot grow (just like the picture on the left side) and the biodiversity is low.

### Conclusion

There are several traditional forestry areas like Kitayama in Japan. Each forestry area has unique skills depending on the climate and their culture. We Japanese have to keep these forestry and convey these traditions to the next generation. We have a duty to discover the sustainable way of Japanese forestry.

# IFSA Kyoto Calender Update

- Our university closes for winter vacation from 23 December 2010 to 5 January.
- In the second week in May 2011, we will hold ARM (Asia Regional Meeting).

We IFSA Kyoto members are preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARM. We would like to make a big success of this meeting. If you have enough time, you can also participate in this event. Accordingly, we put down the detail about this meeting below.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Regional Meeting 2011 in Japan

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Regional Meeting (ARM) of IFSA (International Forestry Students' Association) will be held in Kyoto and Nara, Japan. We IFSA-Local Committee-Kyoto will welcome forestry students in Asia to the program for understanding Japanese forestry situation through exploring both natural and man-made forest in Japan. This event will also be the great chance to share the knowledge and culture exchange among the students all around Asia.

### IFSA ordinary members (Local Committee) in Asia :

IFSA LC UNLAM (Banjarbaru, Indonesia), IFSA LC IPB(Bogor, Indonesia), IFSA LC Gadjah Mada University(Yogyakarta, Indonesia), IFSA CNU(Daejeon, South Korea), IFSA- Seoul National University(Seoul, South Korea), IFSA- Kookmin University(Seoul, Republic of South Korea), NTUFSA(Taipei, Taiwan)

\* 3 students/LC for IFSA members, and the rest of the seat is open for non-IFSA students.

### Date :

From 16<sup>th</sup> (Mon) to 21<sup>st</sup> (Sat), May, 2011

### Participation Fee :

18000 Japanese yen / person (High income country)

### Registration :

Online-registration opened from **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010:**



## Schedule

<b>Day1</b> <b>16/5</b>	-Opening Ceremony -Lecture: “Vegetation and Forestry in Japan” ~Move to Ashiu -Practice Work: “Cedar tree& wood character” -Presentation and Discussion <1>	KYOTO UNIV.  ASHIU-EXPERIMENT FOREST
<b>Day2</b> <b>17/5</b>	-Field Work: “Observation of the natural forest in Asuiu and the Impact of Wildlife” -Presentation and Discussion <2>	ASHIU-EXPERIMENT FOREST
<b>Day3</b> <b>18/5</b>	~Move to Kitayama Area -Field Work: “Traditional Forestry & Man-made Forest in Kitayama” ~Move to Kyoto City -IFSA Asia Regional Meeting	KITAYAMA-AREA (KYOTO)
<b>Day4</b> <b>19/5</b>	-Field Work: Traditional Japanese Architecture and Tea culture ~Move to Nara City -Field Work: Sightseeing of Wooden Cultural Heritage -International Night	KYOTO CITY  NARA CITY
<b>Day5</b> <b>20/5</b>	~Move to Yoshino Field Work: The most ancient man-made forest in Japan & to Visit Forestry Museum	KAWAKAMI-VILLAGE, YOSHINO AREA(NARA)
<b>Day6</b> <b>21/5</b>	Closing	NARA CITY

### Sponsorship :

Kyoto Univ. Faculty of Agriculture, Dept. Forest and Biomaterial Science,  
Kyoto Univ. Field Science Education and Research Center  
Mitsubishi UFJ Foundation,  
National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization

Detail about 2<sup>nd</sup> ARM in Japan : <http://moss.wooden.jp/ifsa-kyoto/>  
Contact : [ifsa.arm2011@gmail.com](mailto:ifsa.arm2011@gmail.com) (President: Ayaka Kobayashi)



*We wish you a merry  
Christmas and happy  
New Year.*

