



## Toward Net zero and Circular economy with Sustainable Wood Use

Sustainably managed forests absorb carbon dioxide and store carbon during their growth, while use of wood legally harvested from such forests for buildings and other purposes enables to store carbon over a long term. In addition, wood consumes less energy during manufacturing and processing than other building materials, such as steel, iron and concrete, and thus contributes to reducing emissions as the most effective climate-friendly substitute materials. Expectations are particularly high for the potential reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from wooden buildings. We believe that the sustainable use of wood, as a renewable natural resource produced through sustainable forest management, will make a significant contribution to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and realization of circular economy.

Through this seminar, we intend to promote policy dialogue, research and innovation focused on the sustainable use of legally and sustainably harvested wood based on sustainable forest management globally within G7 member countries and with Non-G7 member countries in cooperation with international organizations, private sector and research institutes. We will assert the importance of sustainable forest management and the potential role of sustainable wood use to achieve net zero and circular economy.

1. Date: Friday 21 April 2023 (10:30-11:50, JST)

2. Program

(1) Opening Remark: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan

(2) Keynote speech (20 minutes)

Mr. Alan ORGANSCHI, Senior member of the faculty at the Yale School of Architecture, Principal and partner at Gray Organschi Architecture, and Director of the Innovation Lab at the Bauhaus Earth, "A Role for Forest Products in Climate Restoration"

Mr. Organschi serves as a senior member of the faculty at the Yale School of Architecture where he has taught architectural design and building technology for the past two decades. He was a co-author of the scientific paper "Buildings as a Global Carbon Sink" published in the journal "Nature Sustainability" in January 2020. The paper was honored with an Aquila Capital Transformation Award for scientific research that contributes to the decarbonization of Europe. As principal and partner at Gray Organschi Architecture, Mr. Organschi offers a model for future building in which mass timber structural systems and the sustainable forestry practices and material science that support them can create a new synergy between dense cities, healthy forests, and a thriving industrial economy based in wood. This approach

corresponds with the seminar's theme: "Toward a Net-Zero and Circular Economy through Sustainable Wood Use".

(3) Panel discussion (55 minutes)

Moderator: Ms. Sheam SATKURU, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization

- Honorable Jagrup Brar, Minister of State for Trade, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation for British Columbia, "Mass Timber one of our great natural advantages"
- Ms. Maria Helena SEMEDO, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "International Perspectives on Sustainable Wood"
- Dr. NAKASHIZUKA Tohru, Director General of the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, "Potentials and Innovations for sustainable utilization of forests and wood"
- Mr. TAN Ting Wai, Acting Chief Operations Officer cum Director of International Business Development Division, Malaysian Timber Council, "Private Sector's Perspective on Sustainable Wood in Producer Countries"