

## **Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Surugadai Building as one of the activities for biodiversity conservation**

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Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Surugadai Building was built in March, 1984 and designed “green building”, which was conscious of saving energy and water. About 5,200m<sup>2</sup> which is 43% of its site area (ca. 12,000m<sup>2</sup>) is green open space and it has been playing an important role as an “urban oasis” for environment improvement and landscape development in local area for 26 years. The soil depth of rooftop green space (ca. 2,600 m<sup>2</sup>) is 1.5m in maximum and about 130 of trees are there. Most of open space including rooftop is green reflects the will of the company’s president at the time of construction: “We will prosper together with the surrounding community and promote activities that energize the area with the community.”

On this basic idea we developed “Kleingarten” in a corner of rooftop in 2003 and let it to 25 groups of local residents and our employees for free. This pioneered a boom of roof vegetable garden of commercial buildings in Tokyo.

The greening also contributes to Heat Island mitigation. It is revealed that the surface temperature of green space is more than 20°C lower than that of highways and rooftops of surrounding buildings at the noon in the mid summer.

Our employees’ volunteer group has monitored wild birds coming to the building since 2006. And it reveals that the green space contributes to the formation of ecological network in local area. Consequently we are planning an improvement of landscape in terms of birds and insects in the redevelopment plan of Surugadai Building including reconstruction of an annex building.

We have expanded urban greening activities for biodiversity conservation to other buildings and we also execute other biodiversity conservation projects as below.

- Indonesia Reforestation Project

We has carried out the “Tropical Rainforest Recovery Project” in Republic of Indonesia to rehabilitate wildlife sanctuary, where was no tree because of illegal logging, for 6 years: from April, 2005 to March, 2010. We have already completed planting about 300 thousand trees in 350 ha in March, 2009.

- Employees’ volunteer activities in wetlands

We have started biodiversity conservation activities in various wetlands in japan.

- Leadership in Japan Business Initiative for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (JBIB)

JBIB has launched in April, 2008 and as the chair company of 30 japanese firms we further joint studies concerning important issues on business and biodiversity.

- Business + Biodiversity "Leadership Declaration"

On the COP9 (9th UN Convention on Biological Diversity Conference) held in Germany May 2008, Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance signed Leadership Declaration and joined "Business+Biodiversity", a initiative of the German government and leading companies.

- A series of symposiums “Stories of Life told by corporations”

Since 2007 we hold annual symposiums concerning biodiversity for business people.