

## Mt. Fuji Reforestation Project Council

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- ・株式会社オギノ/ Ogino Corporation
- ・オルビス株式会社/ ORBIS Incorporated
- ・株式会社関電工/ Kandenko Company Limited
- ・KDDI株式会社/ KDDI Corporation
- ・信濃化学工業株式会社/ SHINANO CHEMICAL INDUSTRY Company Limited
- ・出光昭和シェル/ Idemitsu Kosan Co.,Ltd.
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National Transportation industry Workers' mutual aid life Union
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Narusawa and Lake Fuji Kawaguchi Prefectural Forest owend Protection Association
- ・日本再共済生活協同組合連合会/  
Japan Reinsurance Federation of Consumer's Cooperatives
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- ・富士急トラベル株式会社/ Fujikyuu Travel Company Limited
- ・特定非営利活動法人富士森林施業技術研究所/  
Fuji research Institute of forest management technology
- ・三菱UFJファクター株式会社/ The Mitsubishi UFJ Factors Limited
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Yamanashi Forestry Manegement Office of Forestry Agency
- ・山梨県森林環境部/ Yamanashi Forest & Enviroment Department
- ・山梨県富士・東部林務環境事務所/  
Yamanashi Fuji ・East regional Forestry & Envioment office
- ・山梨県森林整備生産事業協同組合/  
Yamanashi prefecture forest maintenance production cooperative
- ・山梨県森林総合研究所/ Yamanashi Forest Research Institute
- ・一般社団法人山梨県森林協会/ Yamanashi Prefecture Forest Association
- ・山梨県鳴沢村/Narusawa village, Yamanashi prefecture
- ・公益財団法人オイスカ/ OISCA Japan

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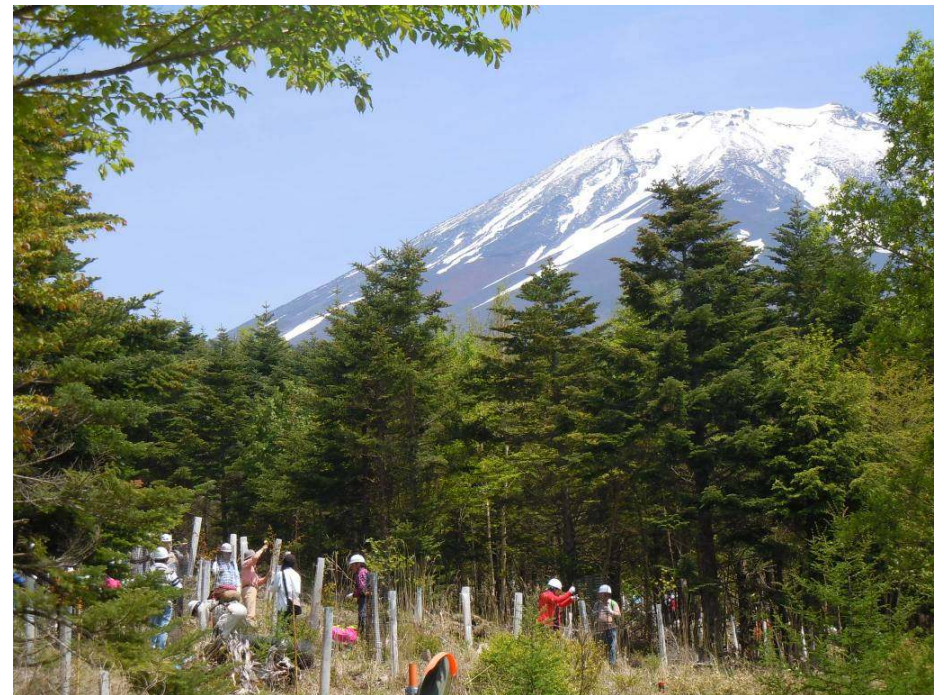
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## REFORESTATION OF THE MT. FUJI FOREST

～ Forest Development in 100 years by Collaboration ～



# OISCA

## Site of the Mt. Fuji Forest Development Project and Peripheral Map



Mt. Fuji is the symbol of Japan and has provided a spiritual basis for the Japanese since ancient times. The mountain including the forest spreading at the foot is registered as a site of the World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. At some areas of the Mt. Fuji forest, however, rich trees and ecosystem have been lost due to insect damage.

The Mt. Fuji Reforestation Project started in 2007 aiming for early restoration of the diversified forest by planting broad leaved trees at the Veitchii fir planted areas (about 1,600 meters above sea level) which suffered from insect damage.

## Why Forest Development is carried out on Mt. Fuji ?

### ◆ Save the damaged forest

The forest planted with Veitchii fir 50 years ago, sustained damage due to the outbreak of *Epinotia piceae*, a species of moth, in 2002. The damaged area of the forest reached over 100 hectares, thus demonstrating resistance weakness against environmental changes of the forest developed with only one tree species. If left as it was, it was feared that the damage might grow serious, and Yamanashi Prefecture tried to restore the forest with various tree species by line felling at the places where there was less damage and utilizing seeds falling naturally.



Sub-alpine tree species Abies veitchii



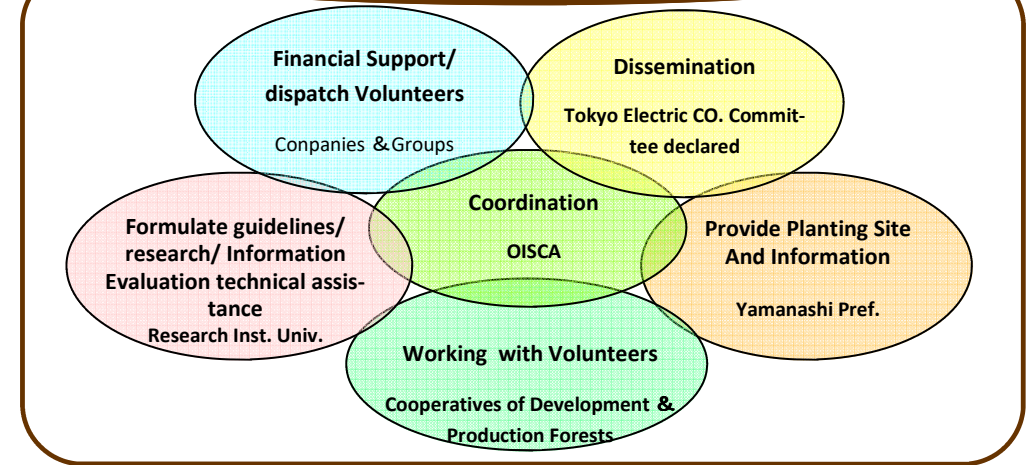
Epinotia piceae: a species of moth



Death of many Veitch fir trees

## Who's participating?

### The Collaboration form of Mt. Fuji Reforestation Project



### Mt. Fuji Reforestation Project

### 【Mt. Fuji Reforestation Project Council】

The Council was established for the purpose of gaining understanding by many people on the purpose and content of the project, to promote interest in the importance of forests and forestry, to share among the stakeholders techniques and knowhow fostered through forest development in collaboration and to widely disseminate information. The body is conducting consultations on the following matters:

- 1). Studies, coordination and strengthening of collaboration on Mt. Fuji Reforestation Project,
- 2). Dissemination of the outcomes of studies and research on the implementation of the project and techniques and knowhow of sustainable reforestation,
- 3). Establishment of the system of forest development brought about through the Mt. Fuji Reforestation Project in collaboration,
- 4). Revitalization of the local communities,
- 5). PR activities on forestry,
- 6). Utilization of the techniques and knowhow fostered in the improvement of privately-owned forests.

Through the consultations, we develop the project together with the participating private companies and organizations.



## ◆Monitoring surveys

Every year we conduct surveys on the conditions of the planted seedlings and the surrounding environment and publish the results. The surveys are aimed to grasp the growth situation of the planted trees and to check if the trees are steadily growing towards the targeted diversified forest. We analyze the results of the surveys and based on it, practice “adaptive management” for appropriate forestation.



Growth survey of planting

### 【Growth surveys on planted trees】

We measure survival and growth conditions of the planted trees and at the same time, grasp the conditions of the underlying plants. We also survey the conditions and effect of nets against deer damage.

### 【Surveys on regeneration of forest】

We conduct surveys to grasp the conditions of planted trees, Veitchii fir grown up so far and trees naturally grown. We also study how much deer influence the growth of trees.

### 【Surveys on growth of animals】

One of the biggest challenges to Mt. Fuji Forest Development is Japanese deer. We need to periodically check how many heads of deer live in the vicinity of the project site. We carry out, therefore, population surveys by light census method (to find out deer by casting powerful light at night). As a result, we have found that the deer population is large and still gives a large influence to the forest.



Night deer



Collected soil animals

## ◆Weeding, thinning, maintenance and supplementary planting work

We analyze the results of monitoring surveys and carry out maintenance work as necessary.

We carry out weeding in the area where the underlying plants are remarkably prosperous and also pruning and thinning around seedlings in the area where there are many trees naturally regenerated which are feared to hamper the growth of the trees planted. Moreover, in the area where nets against deer damage fell down, leaned, the guards disconnected or poles broken due to strong wind or heavy snowfalls, we carry out repairing of nets and maintenance work. Thank to the maintenance work, most of the seedlings are steadily growing, but in the areas where seedlings have withered because of wind or snow, we conduct supplementary planting of larger seedlings.



## What the Mt. Fuji Forest Development is aimed at

### ①Restoration of forest earlier than natural regeneration

At this project area with high altitude, severe natural conditions and few mother trees, the forest restoration through only natural regeneration takes time, and might cause soil erosion and sediment discharge. In order to achieve forest restoration as early as possible, therefore, we are raising seedlings from the seeds collected at the natural forest and planting them.



Nearby natural forest

### ②Unified forest development

If NGOs and private companies carry out tree planting activities each independently, the forms of the targeted forest will be different, and the public benefit functions of the forest will not be performed sufficiently well. It is necessary, therefore, to set up unified technical standards regarding the selection of tree species and planting method suitable for the area, and to work in close collaboration with specialists, forestry workers, private companies and organizations, administration and local residents.

### ③Protection and conservation of Mt. Fuji

On Mt. Fuji, we think it appropriate to develop a forest which sufficiently performs public benefit functions, provides beautiful landscape and rich biodiversity, and are aiming for a mixed forest of coniferous trees and broad leaved trees.

### ④Promotion of understanding on forests among many people

Mt. Fuji forest will be utilized as a field for CSR activities through the participation of many private companies and organizations, and there will be an increasing number of people who understand the forest development and the role of forests leading to the promotion of forest education, not limited to just Mt. Fuji.

### ⑤Encouragement of the people working in the forests and revitalizing local communities



It is not possible to carry out forest restoration with only volunteers. The power and skills of professional forestry workers in the local communities are required. For that purpose, it is important to revitalize the local communities by promoting employment with private financial cooperation and increasing people-to-people exchanges between mountain villages and volunteers.

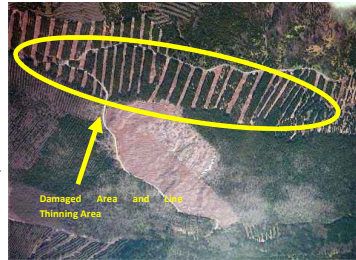
Voice of local forestry

It is our responsibility to raise the seedlings because you are cooperating in the forest of ours.

## What kind of activities are carried out ?

### ◆Tree planting

“Mt Fuji Forest Development Project” has been carried out since 2007 with OISCA as the coordinator and getting the participation of many private corporations and organizations. At planting time every year, tree planting activity is conducted by a great number of volunteers from each company and organization, local forestry workers and government officials in collaboration.



### <What kinds of seedlings ? >

By preliminary survey, 5 native species such as beech (*Fagus crenata*), Japanese oak (*Quercus Crispula Blume*), maple (*Acer micranthem*), Japanese Alder (*Alnus hirsuta*) and wild cherry (*Cerasus jamazakura*) were selected from the tree species found in the nearby hard wood forest, and seedlings are raised. In order that seedlings take root firmly and grow up well, and volunteers can easily plant, seedlings are planted by wrapping the roots with fertile soil.



### <What sort of planting method ? >

As there are about 1,200 to 1,500 trees growing over one hectare in the nearby natural forest, about 1,000 seedlings of broad leaved tree species have been planted at random imagining the position of natural trees.



### <Protection of seedlings from feeding damage by Japanese deer >

The damage by deer is a problem in the forests all over Japan and is also a big challenge at the site of the Mt. Fuji Forest Development Project. At the places where trees withered and dead or trees were cut down in a row, the sunlight hit the surface and plants such as grass and shrub easy to eat for deer have increased. In surveys on counting deer head conducted every year, it has been confirmed that there are ten times of deer heads over the number considered to be aptitude. If we don't protect seedlings from feeding damage by deer, the trees planted with great care will wither. We studied various ways and measures to protect seedlings, but first installed biodegradable “Wood Guard”. Thanks to this measure, feeding damage prevention effect and also growth acceleration effect by thermal insulation have been observed to some extent. In the number of deer heads, however, there has been no big change, and it has also become necessary to continually protect seedlings even after Wood Guards decomposed. Accordingly, we are now setting up custom order nets against animal damage.



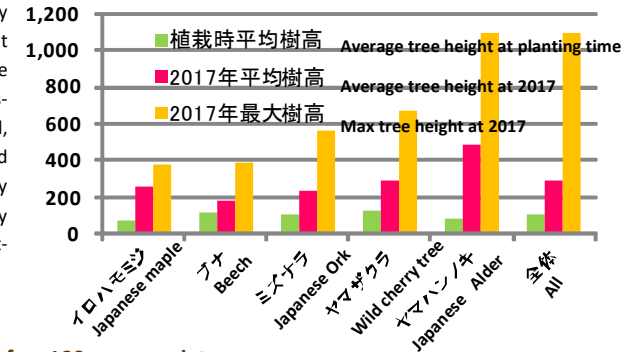
### <What happened to the trees planted ? >

As of January 2018

- Number of trees planted (including supplementary planting) about 42,500
- Average height of trees about 300cm
- Number of volunteers participated about 8,834 persons
- Number of local people employed about 3,300 persons
- Absorbed amount of CO2 20.567t-CO2/year



The planted seedlings are almost steadily growing. The average height of trees is about 300cm, and there are trees such as Japanese Alder (*Alnus hirsula Turcz*) whose height measures more than 10 meters. On the other hand, there are seedlings whose growth is hampered due to the influence of strong wind and heavy snowfall. We need, therefore, to continually watch and carry out maintenance work suitable to the situation.



### ◆Image of an ideal forest aiming for 100 years later

- An adolescent forest comprising planted broad leaved trees and species naturally regenerated along with originally growing coniferous trees is established
- Most of the trees planted can produce seeds and the forest is maintained autonomously
  - There is an increasing number of birds coming to eat fruits of wild cherry trees.
  - In bumper crop years of beech and Japanese oak, wild rats and Japanese bears come to eat acorns.
- The forest consists of large and small trees.
- The forest fosters the similar living things as the nearby natural forest.
- Deer are in suitable habitat number, and measures against deer are not necessary.

