



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Canada Wood Announces Inauguration and Groundbreaking of First Two Projects for CA\$4.5 Million Canada-Tohoku Reconstruction Project in Miyagi Prefecture**

*Announcing formal request for proposals for second phase of projects*

**Tokyo, January 18, 2013** – The Canada Wood Group, a non-profit organization representing the Canadian forest industry overseas, today held ceremonies commemorating the inauguration of the Donguri Anne Public Library in Natori City, and the groundbreaking of the Yuriage Public Market, in Miyagi Prefecture. The events commemorated the first and second projects executed under the Canada Tohoku Reconstruction Project. In addition, today's events announced the formal request for proposals for the second phase of projects to be completed in Tohoku, by the Canada Wood Group.

The Canada Tohoku Reconstruction Project is an initiative undertaken by the Canada Wood Group in cooperation with the Federal Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, Province of Alberta and Canada's forest products industry, as part of support efforts for the reconstruction of the Tohoku area following the Great East Japan Earthquake. A total of CA\$4.5 million has contributed for the construction of wooden public facilities in the disaster-struck areas. About half of the contributions were donated to the two projects, which represent the first of a series of Canada-Tohoku projects to be executed. The Donguri Anne Public Library began construction in October 2012, and was completed in December 2012. The construction of the Yuriage Public Market is scheduled for completion in spring of 2013.

The opening ceremony for the Donguri Anne Public Library took place today at 11:00 a.m., as was attended by officials from the Canada Tohoku Reconstruction Project both from Japan and Canada, including Ambassador of Canada to Japan Mackenzie Clugston, Barry Ford, General Manager, Canada Wood, and Shawn Lawlor Director of Japan Operations, Canada Wood and Council of Forest Industries Canada. Also in attendance was Mayor Isoo Sasaki of Natori City, the Prof. Hirofumi Sugimoto, from the Engineering Department at Tokai University, leading the design of the Donguri Anne Public Library, and Hiroshi Sawazaki, Representative Director, Keikaku Inc., and Kozaburo Shiga, Representative Director, Yamamoto Kogyo, who oversee construction. Immediately following, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Yuriage Public Market, Natori City Mayor Isoo Sasaki, in addition to Yasuo Aramoto, Representative Director, Selco Home Co., Ltd., in charge of design and construction of the project, and Hiroyuki Sakurai, Director, Co-op, Yuriage Public



Market, participated as officials for the Canada Tohoku Reconstruction Project. Both events attracted many local citizens, the media and others involved with the projects, who attended to celebrate and share the joyous occasion.

“Canada is pleased to continue to play an active role in contributing to the long-term reconstruction of communities such as Natori City that were so severely impacted by the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami,” said Mackenzie Clugston, Canada's Ambassador to Japan. “The completion of the Donguri Anne Public Library and the initiation of the Yuriage market building serve as enduring symbols of friendship between Canada and Japan and to our shared values of community and education.”

In addition Barry Ford, General Manager of Canada Wood Group, today officially announced the organization's request for proposals on the second phase of the Canada Tohoku Reconstruction Project. “I would encourage other affected communities in the Tohoku region to submit project proposals for public buildings that will support the sustainable redevelopment of the region.”  
said Ford.

In response, Hon. Isoo Sasaki, the Mayor of Natori City, expressed his gratitude. “I'm extremely pleased to see this wonderful library, with such a pleasant aroma of wood, open to the people of our city. We intend to make good use of it for long time to come as a symbol of the relationship between Canada and Natori City,” said the mayor. “From the bottom of our heart, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and respect to the governments of Canada, the Province of British Columbia and the Canada Wood Group.”

### **About Donguri Anne Public Library**

The Donguri Anne Public Library is built on the site of the original Natori City Library before it was destroyed by the earthquake. The new library has a total wooden floor area of 240 square meters, and the facility was built using conventional construction methods using sustainably harvested Canadian forest products, including Canada Tsuga, SPF (Spruce-Pine-Fir) lumber, OSB, and Western Red Cedar. The name of the library derives from the Japanese term for acorns (*donguri*), representing a seed with the strength to rise from the ashes, and from the beloved Canadian literary classic “Anne of Green Gables.”

### **About Yuriage Public Market**

The Yuriage Public Market was enjoyed as a popular tourist destination in Natori City for more than 30 years before being completely destroyed in the March 11 tsunami. The restored public market will consist of two structures housing 14 shops, with a total floor



area of 285 square meters, and be built using 2x4 construction methods with Canadian SPF lumber. In addition, adjacent to the market area, a Canadian Pavilion will be constructed using post-and-beam construction methods, and Canadian forest products such as glulam, OSB, DFP plywood, CLT (cross-laminated timber) and Western Red Cedar, with a total floor area of 496 square meters. The buildings will showcase 19 booths for local farmers, fishermen and merchants in aid of supporting the revitalization of the local economy and providing the community long-term sustainability.

### **About Canada Wood Group**

The Canada Wood Group (CWG) is a coalition of Canadian industry trade associations which represents Canada's forest sector market development, market access and technical interests in offshore markets including Japan, China, South Korea, India, the United Kingdom, continental Europe and other countries. Through co-funded Canada Wood Export Program (CWEP), Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. and industry funding, CWG provides infrastructure, market development and market access services on behalf of member Associations which include the Council of Forest Industries, SPF Group, BC Wood Specialties Group, Coast Forest Products Association, Quebec Wood Export Bureau, Ontario Wood, Forest Products Association of Canada, the Western Red Cedar Export Association, Certiwood and APA. URL: [www.canadawood.org](http://www.canadawood.org)



*Image: Inauguration ceremony for the Donguri Anne Public Library in Natori City, Miyagi, Jan. 18, 2013*

### **Note to Media:**

*For questions or for additional information about the event, including photos, please inquire by return call or email to the contact below.*

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