

# Social Contribution Activities



## Social Contribution Concepts

Policy

Today's increasing trend towards globalization, advances in IT, and other developments in society have brought considerable diversity and change to the world we live in. As we pursue greater convenience and enrichment in our lives, we also face a broad range of issues including environmental problems such as climate change, as well as poverty and educational inequality.

Mitsui & Co. works to contribute to the development of local communities and the finding of solutions to issues faced by local communities and international society, from the perspectives of both relevance to our business strategies and social contribution. Mitsui's Social Contributions Policy specifies three areas of focus: international exchange; education; and environment. Specifically, (1) in the field of international exchange, we promote social contribution activities in many countries and regions; (2) in the area of education, we place emphasis on the fostering of human resources who have an international outlook and who can contribute to finding solutions to societal issues, while providing support for education as part of measures to eliminate poverty, and (3) in the field of environment, we tackle global issues, such as climate change and nature conservation.



Through these initiatives, we are promoting our social contribution activities, with a particular focus on the SDGs 4, 8, and 15.

Specifically, we are promoting community investments that will lead to the improvement of people's quality of life, regional development, and job creation, fostering human resources who have multi-cultural and global perspectives so as to effectively utilize Mitsui's strengths and expertise, and carrying out initiatives related to global environment preservation. Furthermore, we are engaging in dialogue with various stakeholders, including local communities and NPOs/NGOs, and collaborating with them toward finding solutions to societal issues, hoping that our continuous initiatives will be shared with society, create follow-on effects, and lead to solutions to larger-scale societal issues.

In addition, we are planning and promoting volunteer programs in order to build interest in and sensitivity towards societal issues among our officers and employees.

## Social Contributions Policy

### Guiding Principles

We will build a congenial relationship with our stakeholders by striving to create harmony with the global community and local communities in accordance with the Mitsui & Co. Management Philosophy (Mission, Vision and Values), and we will actively contribute to the creation of a future where the dreams of the inhabitants of our irreplaceable Earth can be fulfilled.

### Action Guidelines

1. In order to respond in an appropriate manner to the needs of the global environment, and of international and regional society, Mitsui actively promotes social contributions.
2. Mitsui will establish the three important areas of "International exchange," "Education" and "Environment" for its social contributions, and will implement social contribution activities befitting of Mitsui & Co.
3. In addition to the making of economic contributions, such as donations etc., Mitsui also aims to carry out proactive social contributions that involve the participation of its executives and employees.
4. Mitsui promotes social contributions with an emphasis on transparency and accountability in respect of its stakeholders. It also aims for the continued improvement of activities through communication and cooperation with its stakeholders.

**Employee Participation**

System    Activity

SDGs: 2.1, 3.d, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 8.6, 10.2, 11.4, 11.a

**Mitsui Global Volunteer Program (MGVP) and Volunteer Activity Leave**

We began implementing the Mitsui Global Volunteer Program (MGVP) in October 2009. The aim of the program is to encourage all employees to participate with a sense of unity in various social contribution activities that lead to the solution of societal issues. Under the MGVP, we provide matching donations every year, based on the number of participants in voluntary activities, to NPOs and NGOs dedicated to the solution of a societal issue. In the fiscal year ended March 2019, the total number of participants came to 4,218.

In the fiscal year ended 2018, using the funds donated to Plan International Japan by Mitsui in the fiscal year ended March 2016, a nurses' accommodation was opened in Ghana's Central Region. The support provided by us has helped to enhance public health and medical services in Ghana. Moreover, in the fiscal year ended March 2019, based on the donation Mitsui made in the fiscal year ended March 2017, support activities for providing equipment and teaching materials to a preschool educational institution in Huila Department, Colombia, have been implemented.

Since the establishment of the matching donation program, Mitsui has donated approximately ¥33 million to nine organizations. We have also established a volunteer activity leave system to encourage employee participation in social contribution activities.



The nurses' accommodation in Ghana



Support for providing equipment and teaching materials to preschool educational institutions in Colombia  
Photography by Plan International

**Other Activities**

Table For Two (TFT)/Creation of foreign-language picture books/Home stay program for Chinese students/Kanda Festival/Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund's *Yatsuda* Project



Creation of foreign-language picture books



Kanda Festival

**Social Contributions (Fiscal Year Ended March 2019)**

Activity

The total social contribution expenses for the fiscal year ended March 2019 were ¥1.55 billion. (Charitable Donations 4%, Community Investment 35%, Commercial Initiatives 61%)

\* Figures include cash donations and monetary conversion equivalent to in-kind payments. However, activities such as personal donations by employees and volunteer activities have not been included.

**Political Contributions (Fiscal Year Ended March 2018)**

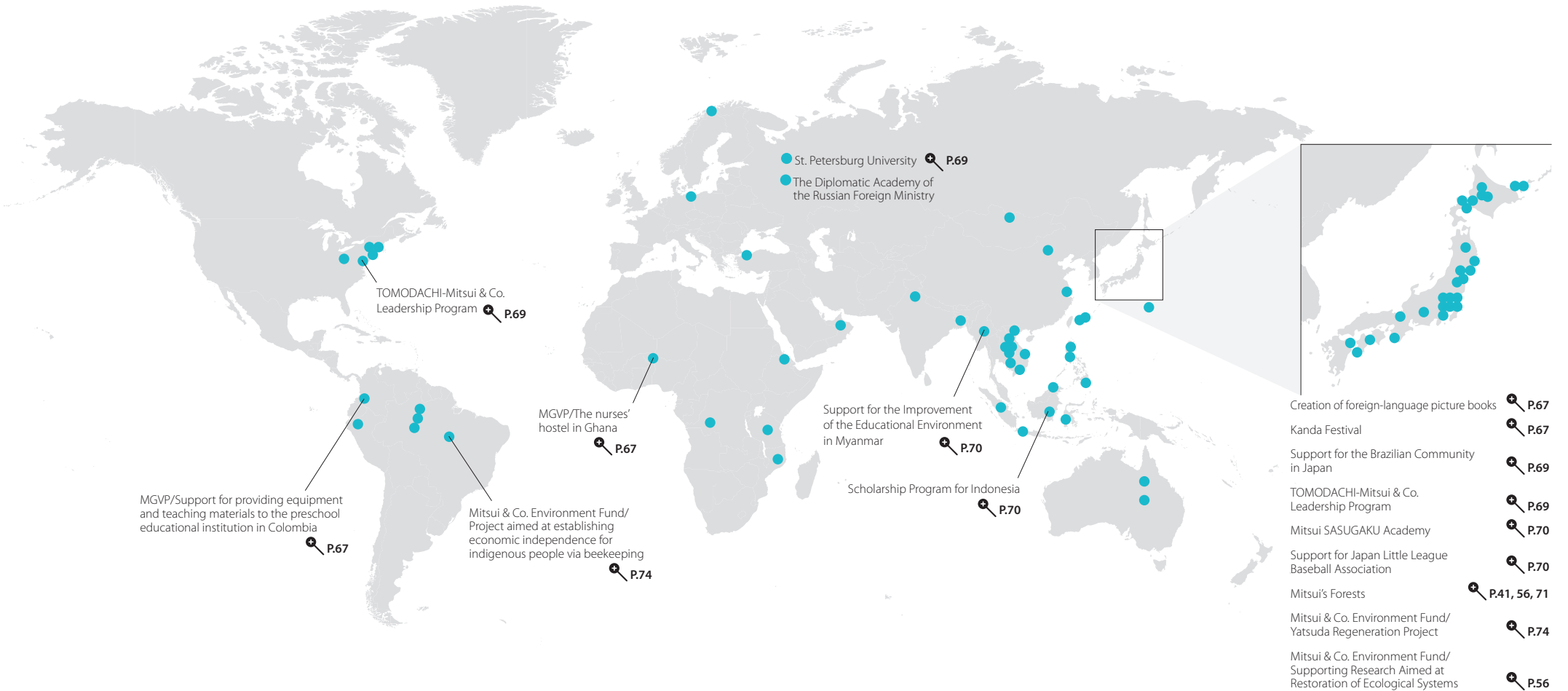
Activity

The total political contribution for the fiscal year ended March 2018 was ¥28 million.

\* This figure was reported in the Japanese government gazette issued on November 30, 2018.

Global Social Contribution Activities (International Exchange, Education and Environment)

Activity



48 organizations

Partnership with NPOs and NGOs

4,218 persons

Employee Volunteers

6 countries/regions 48 universities

Mitsui-Endowed Lecture Programs and Support for the University

710 persons

Scholarship and Training in Japan

## International Exchange

System Activity

SDGs: 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8, 17.17

### Support for the Brazilian Community in Japan

As a company with extensive business operations in Brazil, Mitsui provides various types of support to foster reciprocal understanding between Japan and Brazil and find solutions to issues affecting the Brazilian community in Japan.

### Scholarship Program for Brazilian Schoolchildren in Japan

Since 2009, we have provided scholarships in order to (1) provide educational opportunities to children who have been facing difficulty in continuing their studies for economic reasons, and (2) support adaptation to Japanese society through enhancement of Japanese language education. In the fiscal year ended March 2019, a total of 447 students received scholarships to attend 26 schools. The number of scholarship recipients since the establishment of the program totaled 3,470.

### Extracurricular Classes

Since 2014, we have supported extracurricular classes for children attending Brazilian schools in Japan, in cooperation with the Consulate-General of Brazil in Tokyo. The aim is to foster and support schoolchildren's understanding in terms of the significance of working in society. In the fiscal year ended March 2019, our employees gave six classes and welcomed approximately 180 children.

### Other Support Activities

- We held social gatherings to discuss how to ensure a better future for Brazilian children (Kaeru Project), and nine individual meetings and workshops in five cities with Dr. Kyoko Nakagawa, who was invited from Brazil.
- We provided support for NPOs and other organizations working toward the realization of a multi-cultural society for Brazilian people living in Japan (14 organizations in the fiscal year ended March 2019).



Kaeru Project Workshop (Toyohashi)

### Contributing to Global Human Resource Development through Mitsui-endowed Lecture Programs at Overseas Universities and Training in Japan

We are working to foster reciprocal understanding with young leaders of the future and to contribute to human resource development on a global scale in countries and regions where our company is engaged in business activities.

Mitsui has endowed lecture programs in the United States, China, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Poland. In Russia, since 2015, Mitsui has been conducting a Japan studies program for students of St. Petersburg University and the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the fiscal year ended March 2019, five students participated in the program, visiting Tohoku, Hiroshima and other locations, and attended a training course about

Japanese society, history, culture, industry, and technology, as well as recovery activities after the 2011 earthquake. Moreover, every year eight university students selected from Australia participate in a three-week study tour of Japan through the Mitsui Educational Foundation, which was established in Australia in 1971. We also provided study tours in Japan for 18 students from Yangon University of Foreign Language, Mandalay University of Foreign Language, and high schools in Myanmar.



Russian students experience a budo (martial arts) class at Tokai University

### TOMODACHI-Mitsui & Co. Leadership Program

Mitsui has been participating in the TOMODACHI Initiative, a public-private partnership program led by the U.S. government and U.S.-Japan Council to foster the development of young people who will contribute to the strengthening of Japan-U.S. relations in the future, since the foundation of the initiative.

In 2013, we launched the TOMODACHI - Mitsui & Co. Leadership Program. In the fiscal year ended March 2019, 20 selected young leaders working in the industrial, financial, and government sectors in Japan and the United States were given the opportunity to visit each other's countries. With the program themes of leadership, innovation, and the entrepreneurial spirit, participants broadened their perspectives as next-generation global leaders through dialogue with top executives from the government sector and industry, and with young leaders, as well as site visits. The program also helps them to strengthen their activities and initiatives in the development field for supporting production activities, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovations, and to build diverse human networks. Furthermore, with the aim of developing leaders who can drive the reconstruction process, we encouraged potential leaders in the three prefectures affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 to participate in Japanese delegations, and also created opportunities for networking with American delegations visiting the earthquake-affected areas. Through these activities, we aim to foster exchange in relation to disaster reconstruction activities, promote local cultures, and tackle various issues, such as the promotion of inbound tourism and revitalization of industry, and supporting the recovery of earthquake-affected communities. A cumulative total of 119 young leaders have participated in the Japanese and American delegations in the past six years.



Members of the Japanese and American delegations and other representatives for the fiscal year ended March 2019  
Photography by Kerry Rafitis—Keyshots.com K.K.

### Other Activities

Solidarity of International Judo Education/Japan SAMBO Federation



## Education

System Activity

SDGs: 4.3, 4.5, 4.7, 4.b, 11.c

### Supporting Overseas Students through the Mitsui Bussan Trade Promotion Foundation

In 1989, as an international exchange support program, the Mitsui Bussan Trade Promotion Foundation started providing scholarships for overseas students, and providing lodging facilities for them free of charge, mainly to support international students from Asia. The total number of overseas students that we have supported since then is 373.

### Mitsui Bussan Scholarship Program for Indonesia

Mitsui has built a close relationship with Indonesia through its business. In 1992, we established the Mitsui-Bussan Scholarship Program for Indonesia with the aim of providing talented Indonesian students with an opportunity to receive advanced education in Japan, so as to nurture human resources who can contribute to the development of Indonesia and to the further strengthening of relations between the two countries. In partnership with local organizations, we select two Indonesian high school students each year to receive scholarships for a period of six years until the completion of a four-year university program, which means that we support a total of 12 students continuously every year. A cumulative total of 44 students have been accepted under the program to date, and about half of them are working at Japanese companies, serving as an important bridge between Japan and Indonesia.



Graduation ceremony of the Mitsui Bussan Scholarship Program for Indonesia

### Support for the Improvement of the Educational Environment in Myanmar

We provide seamless support for the improvement of the educational environment in Myanmar at all levels from elementary to higher education, in partnership with various organizations.

- Support for elementary education through participation in elementary school construction by the Myanmar Terakoya Support Team
- Support for the Japan-Myanmar Association's short-term training for high school students in Myanmar
- Agriculture seminar at Yezin Agricultural University
- Scholarship support for Myanmar students at the Tokyo University of Agriculture

We also run scholarship programs to assist university students in Mozambique, as well as scholarship programs through the Mitsui U.S.A. Foundation.



Terakoya school (traditional private school) established by the Myanmar Terakoya Support Team

### Mitsui SASUGAKU Academy

Mitsui launched the "SASUGAKU" course (education for sustainable development), which helps children, who will play a very important role in creating a sustainable future, to develop their capabilities of learning, thinking, and communicating. We designed Mitsui SASUGAKU Academy in 2014, which is a 5-day capacity-building program for about 30 elementary school children in upper grades, and uses our global business activities as teaching materials.

The theme for 2018 was "What will a healthy life be in the future?" Participants thought about issues and solutions relating to health in imaginary future cities with various characteristics, such as a "desert city" and a "space city." During the learning time, experts from the Mitsui & Co. Global Strategic Studies Institute gave a lecture on future medical technologies and systems. In addition, Mitsui employees who are in charge of the respective projects gave presentations on the "NOBORI" medical data service project and the "Etak" antibacterial agent project. Through these activities, children learned the importance of meeting the challenge of addressing societal issues. We also conducted a fieldwork class for studying the relationship between forests and health in Mitsui's Forest in Chiba Prefecture. On the final day, each group presented the results of their activities during the five-day program.

As a result of presentations at academic conferences and other venues, these sustainability education initiatives by Mitsui have attracted considerable attention, and have been lauded as being progressive examples of education for sustainable development (ESD). In the fiscal year ended March 2019, a Mitsui program won the Judging Panel's Incentive Prize in the Corporate Youth Experience Promotion Awards of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the third consecutive year.



Children enhance their capacity to solve societal issues through group discussions

### Support for the Japan Little League Baseball Association

Since 1970, we have been supporting the Japan Little League Baseball Association, which aims to instill good citizenship in boys and girls, contributing to their healthy physical and mental development as world citizens through team play in baseball. In a total of 862 teams in 231 under-12 regional leagues throughout Japan, boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 12 practice on weekdays and weekends. Every year, the National Little League Baseball Championship is held, and the winning team competes in the Little League World Series championship.



The All Japan Little League Baseball Championship Tournament (Hokkaido)

Environment

Mitsui's Forests' Manifold Initiatives

Policy	System	Activity
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SDGs: 7.2, 15.1, 15.2, 15.4

Mitsui & Co. owns forests in 74 locations in Japan, from Hokkaido in the north to Kyushu in the south. Mitsui's Forests cover a total area of approximately 44,000 hectares, which is equivalent to about 70% of the area of Tokyo's 23 wards, or 0.1% of land of Japan. We have worked under our Forest Management Policy to protect and nurture these forests and make productive use of the benefits that they provide.

Forest Management Policy

- Guiding Principle** In line with its Management Philosophy, Mitsui will actively contribute to protecting our irreplaceable Earth and fulfilling the dreams of its inhabitants, and we are committed to carefully nurturing our forests to pass them on to the next generation.
- Management Policy** Mitsui gives its forests the status of "assets with a high degree of public use that benefits the whole of society." As well as providing the reusable natural resource of lumber, forests can fulfill a range of socially beneficial functions if properly managed and enhanced on a consistent basis; for instance, they can purify the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide to produce oxygen, and they can act as a reservoir that stores and purifies rainwater. On the other hand, if forests are neglected and not adequately maintained, they may increase the likelihood of natural disasters and develop into a source of other social problems. Aware of the social value that its forests possess, Mitsui regards their long-term ownership and maintenance as an important social responsibility. So as to maximize the socially beneficial functions of our forests, we work to enhance these functions based on the FSC's Forest Management Principles and Criteria, and also SGEN's Forest Management Certification Principles and Indicators.
- Activity Policy** In its concrete activities in the context of its forest holdings, Mitsui will act conscientiously on the basis of the management policy outlined above, giving full consideration to their social significance and maintaining a strong awareness of their environmental impact. Accordingly, we will redouble our efforts in the following areas:
  - Offering Forest Environmental Programs to stakeholders
  - Research work and concrete action to preserve biodiversity
  - Achieving sustainability in the production of wood materials as a reusable natural resource and promoting their utilization as wood biomass

Cultivating Different Types of Forests: Forest Management Zoning

Mitsui's Forests are divided into "Forests for Regeneration and Harvest" (approximately 40%) and "Natural Forests and Naturally Regenerated Forests" (approximately 60%). Forests for Regeneration and Harvest are forests that have been planted and cultivated by human hands, and follow a repeated cycle of planting, cultivating, harvesting, and utilization for the production and supply of lumber resources. Natural Forests are forests that have been cultivated through natural action, while Naturally Regenerated Forests are forests that have grown back mainly through natural action following deforestation due to a natural disaster or tree-harvesting for instance. Areas within these forests that are particularly important from the viewpoint of biodiversity are designated as "Biodiversity Conservation Forests" (approximately 10% of all Mitsui's Forests), in which more rigid management is conducted in order to conserve biodiversity.

Mitsui manages Mitsui's Forests in accordance with the forest management zoning categories as shown below. Appropriate management is applied to each forest category.



Tashiro forest whose value in biodiversity has been highly evaluated

Management Zoning Categories of Mitsui's Forests (As of December 31, 2018)

Category		Definition	Area (ha)	
Forests for Regeneration and Harvest	Harvest-oriented Sustainable Cycle Forests	Forests for the production and supply of lumber resources through the repeated cycle of harvesting, planting, and cultivating.	6,876	
	Natural Restoration Forests	Forests to be restored as Naturally Regenerated Forests consisting of coniferous and broad-leaved trees.	10,587	
Forests for Regeneration and Harvest, Natural Forests and Naturally Regenerated Forests	Biodiversity Conservation Forests	Special Conservation Forests	Forests judged to have irreplaceable biodiversity value at the regional and national level and requiring stringent protection.	324
		Environmental Conservation Forests	Forests confirmed to support a large number of rare creatures whose habitat requires protection.	875
		Water and Soil Conservation Forests	Forests with plentiful water stocks that form a water resource, reduce the risk of natural disasters, or have other major socially beneficial functions that contribute to the safeguarding of the water supply and the preservation of ecosystems.	3,147
		Cultural Conservation Forests	Forests requiring protection due to the particularly high value of their "cultural services"—functions that nurture traditions and culture and form part of the "ecosystem services" that are dependent on biodiversity.	117
Naturally Regenerated Forests	Productive Naturally Regenerated Forests	Forests to be cultivated for tree species useful as a source of lumber.	1,822	
	General Naturally Regenerated Forests	Forests not composed of productive species but to be cultivated for increased social value.	19,386	
	Other Naturally Regenerated Forests	Naturally Regenerated Forests other than in the above categories.	1,271	
Total			44,405	

### Forest Certification (FSC® and SGEC)

Mitsui has acquired forest certification for all of Mitsui's Forests throughout Japan under two international standards: the FSC® (FSC®-C057355), and the SGEC (Certification No. SGEC/31-21-1101).

Forest certification is given based on assessments by an independent institution regarding whether fixed criteria are met concerning forest management methods. The spread of such certification prevents unregulated deforestation, preserves healthy forests, and helps protect the global environment.

Mitsui is currently the only private sector company with large-scale forest holdings in excess of 10,000 hectares in Japan that has obtained both of these certifications. This status allows us to respond to demand for a various type of certified timber. While FSC® certification is a type of certification established by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®), an international NGO with a membership system, the SGEC certification system is unique to Japan and was established by the general incorporated association Sustainable Green Ecosystem Council. However, in 2016 following approval of reciprocal certification with PEFC, which is another international certification system, SGEC became an international forest certification system. Both FSC® and SGEC certification provide basic principles, standards, and indicators for conducting appropriate forest management from environmental, social, and economic perspectives. The certifications require forest managers to not only conduct forest management on an economically sustainable basis, but also to give proper consideration to the environment and to develop good relationships with local communities near forests.

### Social Value of Forests

Appropriate forest management is only a part of our commitment. We are also actively engaged in initiatives to utilize forest resources on various levels. As part of our contributions to society and to local communities, we use our forests for environmental education activities. Resources from our forests are also used to support cultural activities and traditional events in surrounding areas, as well as reconstruction in areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. Mitsui supports the campaign to promote the use of Japanese-grown timber as a way of revitalizing the Japanese forestry industry and providing additional impetus for regional development. For example, we make use of timber from our Mitsui's Forests in our office space, and as a stable supply source of wood biomass fuels for local biomass power generation business. Timber from Mitsui's Forests is supplied to and utilized in various landmark objects and venues, such as FSC®-certified cypress used for a part of the materials in the main table at the summit meetings of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016, and SGEC-certified cedar for use in some parts of the roof and eaves of the New National Stadium building to be completed in November 2019 (as of June 1, 2019). It is also planned for use in various parts of the Mitsui's new Head Office building to be completed in 2020.

In the area of environmental education, Mitsui's Forests are used for field studies that teach people about the role of forests, for forestry experience programs, and for various other activities within and beyond the Mitsui organization. In the area of helping to protect culture, we have entered into an agreement with the Biratori Ainu Association concerning the protection and fostering of Ainu culture. In

the fiscal year ended March 2019, we have conducted questionnaire surveys and interviews with six Ainu organizations in Hokkaido on the preservation of Ainu culture and other topics, and exchanged opinions and cooperated with an NPO that engaged in the investigation and preservation of the endangered freshwater fish, Japanese huchen, found in Hokkaido. Through such initiatives and activities, we continuously work toward building good communication with local communities.

In order to contribute to local communities, we have also started to promote the use of wood biomass as an alternative to fossil fuels. For example, we continue to steadily supply timber fuel to a biomass power generation plant in Tomakomai, Hokkaido, in which we have invested (commercial operations started in April 2017), and supply timber fuel reliably also to another biomass generation project, in which Mitsui made an equity participation, at Shimokawa-cho, Hokkaido (operation commenced in May 2019).



Forestry program (tree thinning experience) at company owned Kameyama forests



**Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund**

System    Activity

In July 2005, Mitsui & Co. launched the Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund as a grant program that aims to contribute to the sustainable development of society and address global environmental problems by supporting various activities and research projects pursued by NPOs, universities, and other entities. Since the fiscal year ended March 2012, when the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 occurred, Mitsui has also been engaged in recovery efforts aimed at achieving the sustainable development of society through initiatives to mitigate and resolve environmental problems caused by the earthquake and the ensuing tsunami. In addition to its financial support for the activities and research conducted by NPOs, universities, etc., the fund is also encouraging Mitsui's officers, employees, and their families to participate in the activities conducted by the groups or organizations that received our grants, as volunteers. As of the fiscal year ended March 2019, we had awarded grants totaling ¥5.84 billion to 571 projects.

The ongoing projects that have been selected as our grant recipients are contributing to the realization of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17.

Launched	July 1, 2005
Grant program	Activity Grants are designed for practical activities that contribute to the sustainable development of society and address global environmental problems, and Research Grants are designed for research providing concrete proposals for the aforementioned targets.
Focus fields	A. Global Environment: Activities or research that provide warnings, and necessary actions derived from monitoring changes in nature and the environment. B. Resource Circulation: Activities or research that lead to effective management and utilization of resources. C. Ecosystems and the Symbiotic Society: Activities or research related to the conservation and utilization of ecosystems services, and adjustment of co-existence between ecosystems and humans. D. Relationship between People and Society: Activities or research related to the restructuring of relationships between people and society, based on environmental issues.
Eligible groups or organizations	NPOs, NGOs, general incorporated associations and foundations, public interest incorporated associations and foundations, special civil foundations, universities, and national institutes of technology
Grants schedule	Once a year for both the Activity Grants and Research Grants (In the fiscal year ended March 2019, the application period was from August to October, the 1st-3rd presentation screenings took place from November to April, and final selection of grants projects was carried out between March and April.)



**Selection of Grant Recipients**

The social and economic situation relating to the global environment is changing significantly, including the signing of the Paris Agreement as a response to climate change, the adoption of the SDGs by the United Nations, and the growing interest in ESG investment. In response to these changes in society, the Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund has adopted a stricter screening process than before to select activities and research that will lead to realization of solutions to long-term issues and the creation of a sustainable society, and aims to "create a society for the future."

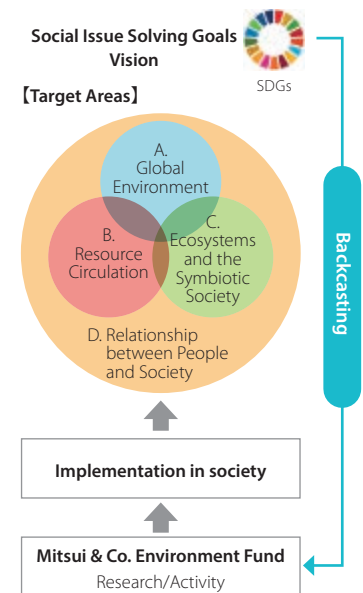
To achieve this goal, we revised the allocation process for the fiscal year ended March 2019, and published key points on which the Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund places particular focus such as relevance to SDGs and whether the project is formulated on a "backcasting" approach from the future vision. We held application briefings, individual consultation meetings and presentation screening sessions to deepen the understanding of the applicants regarding the revised allocation process.

As a result, in the grants selection for the fiscal year ended March 2019, we received a large number of applications from NPOs, universities, and other entities who agreed with our approach. Through our strict, multilevel screening process involving external experts, we selected 11 projects to receive activity grants and 6 projects to receive research grants.



**Key Points**

- The project should aim to find solutions to issues in the four target areas. The relevance to SDGs is particularly important.
- The project should be formulated on a "backcasting" approach, i.e., initiated by thinking about what needs to be done, based on the future vision.
- The project should have a clear roadmap toward implementation in society.
- The project should have a significant, positive impact, such as contribution to finding a solution to a societal issue or the realization of a sustainable society.





**Project Aimed at Establishing Economic Independence for Indigenous People via Beekeeping (Activity Grant)**

SDGs: 10.2, 12.a, 13.b, 15.2

Logging and other factors have caused serious depletion of the Amazon rainforest, in which there is a region where approximately 20,000 indigenous Xingu people live in a self-sufficient manner. Their first encounter with outsiders occurred only about 70 years ago; however, under the impact of development, a money-based system is expected to take root among them within a few years. There have been cases where other ethnic groups in the Amazon rainforest tolerated illegal logging in exchange for money, and an urgent need exists to find ways for people to be able to earn an income without indirectly damaging the forest. Rainforest Foundation Japan, a non-profit organization, recognized the potential of apiculture for this purpose and is working to improve the beekeeping skills of local people and establish a distribution system.

The Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund is supporting this initiative by providing grants to Rainforest Foundation Japan.



Harvesting honey under the guidance of apiculture expert Wemerson Ballester (Brazil)

**Yatsuda Regeneration Project (Employee Participation Program)**

SDGs: 11.a, 15.4

In Japan, *yatsuda* are rice paddies developed in valley wetlands surrounded by *satoyama*, which are natural woodlands tended by village communities. Together with neighboring forests, streams, and other features, these areas form rich ecosystems that provide ideal habitats for diverse flora and fauna. These global treasures need to be restored and conserved.

Mitsui, in cooperation with the Asaza Fund, a Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund grant recipient, has continually grown pesticide-free rice using only organic fertilizers on *yatsuda* paddies that had gradually become abandoned due to the increase in the average age of farmers, among other factors. Mitsui and the Asaza Fund have taken a hands-on approach to the restoration and management of the fields, including clearance, planting, weeding, and harvesting. Over 1,600 employees have been working as volunteers on the *yatsuda* regeneration project since its inception in 2007.

The project produces *Koshihikari* rice and *Gohyakumangoku* sake-brewing rice. After harvesting, the sake-brewing rice is used to produce sake in Ibaraki Prefecture. Mitsui distributes the sake to its customers under the *Yatsuda* label.

**Turning uncultivated wasteland into productive paddy fields**



Before (2007)



After (2018)

**Disaster Relief Assistance**

System Activity

SDGs: 1.5, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 8.9, 11.5, 11.a, 11.b, 13.1, 17.16, 17.17

**Disaster Relief Activities**

When disasters occur in Japan and overseas, Mitsui provides various forms of support to minimize the damage and contribute to the earliest possible recovery in the affected areas. Our support includes donations from Mitsui and voluntary donations from our employees, as well as volunteering activities by our employees.

**Mitsui's Disaster Recovery Support Activities in the Fiscal Year Ended March 2019**

Northern Osaka earthquake/2018 Western Japan heavy rain disaster/Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake/Sulawesi Indonesia earthquake/Cyclone Idai in Mozambique

**Fostering Future Leaders to Drive Reconstruction in the Tohoku Region**

In coordination with the Reconstruction and Revitalization Period designated by the government in its reconstruction plan for areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, Mitsui is promoting measures to foster the next generation of people who will drive the reconstruction process, in collaboration with government agencies and NPOs. In 2014, we launched the "Textbook for Our Future for Our Children" Visiting Lecture Project, which features a program about disaster reconstruction produced by Mitsui's World Hi-Vision Channel. Cast members visit schools in disaster areas as teachers for a day, and hold classes that encourage children to think about regional revitalization and community contribution through their choice of future careers and occupations. The classes have been held at a total of 28 schools, mostly in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures. Approximately 3,800 children have participated.

We have also been supporting a conversational English teaching project for junior and senior high school students at a "Collaborative School," an extracurricular school run by the certified non-profit organization Katariba since 2014 in the town of Onagawa, in Miyagi Prefecture. In order to expand students' interest in and knowledge of the world's different cultures and value systems through English, we support online video lessons in spoken English, short-term study travel within Japan, and the Career Study Program supported by our employees acting as voluntary instructors. To date, 104 junior and senior high school students have participated.



The "Textbook for Our Future for Our Children" Visiting Lecture Project