

Environmental Conservation and Harmonious Coexistence with Communities Voluntary Forest Conservation Activities by the OKI Volunteer Circle for Forest Conservation

Since its formation in November 2001, the OKI Volunteer Circle for Forest Conservation has steadily built a proud record of voluntary forest conservation efforts in areas with links to the OKI Group. The Circle consists of OKI Group employees and their families. The scope of its activities continues to expand, and in the year ended March 2006 OKI signed an agreement with the Gunma District Forest Office concerning forest management improvement and other activities. An additional benefit from these conservation activities is the opportunity to interact more with local people.



The OKI Volunteer Circle for Forest Conservation commences voluntary work in the OKI Friendship Forest.

[Upper right] Breaks in the forest conservation work provide opportunities for friendly interaction with local people. Here volunteers help to prepare noodles. (Komoro City)
[Middle right] The entire team helps to fell stubborn trees during a thinning operation. (Naka-Izu)
[Lower right] Forestry work in a forest "fostered" by the OKI Group.



Conserving the OKI Friendship Forest

The OKI Volunteer Circle for Forest Conservation commenced its first project in November 2001. With the assistance of the Green Earth Center a Japanese non-profit organization, 25 OKI Group employees and family members spent a fatiguing but rewarding time struggling with the unfamiliar task of thinning trees at Naka-Izu in Shizuoka Prefecture. Since then, the group has recruited participants several times a year for voluntary projects, including clearing and thinning work, in areas with which the OKI Group has associations, such as Ueno-mura and Matsuida in Gunma Prefecture, and Hachioji in Tokyo.

On June 28, 2005, OKI signed an agreement on forest improvement and other activities in the Friendship Forest* with the Gunma District Forest Office. OKI was the first company to volunteer in this field. Under the agreement, in the 5 years to 2010, the OKI Volunteer Circle for Forest Conservation will carefully develop a 5.4ha area in the Kannonyama district of Takasaki City as the "OKI Group Friendship Forest."

*** "Friendship Forest":**

The "Friendship Forest" scheme was launched nationwide by the Japanese Forestry Agency in the year ended March 2000. Under this scheme, areas are provided in Government-owned forests for forest development by voluntary groups. The participating groups are able to develop forest environments based on their own ideas.

Building Links with Local Communities through Expanding Environmental Protection Activities

In the year ended March 2006, a new voluntary forestry program was launched in Komoro City, Nagano Prefecture. The project is based on a "forest fostering" agreement signed in January 2005 by Komoro City, OKI and the OKI 100 Yen Fund of Love (See Page 30). The OKI Group will donate ¥500,000 annually over a five-year period to support voluntary activities in various forests throughout the Komoro City area. Projects will be carried out each spring and fall.

These voluntary activities not only contribute to forest conservation, but also provide valuable opportunities for employees and their families to develop new insights into the ways in which they interact with the global environment and local communities. The OKI Group will continue to implement environmental conservation and community interaction programs based on participation by individual employees.



OKI employees participate as panelists in a symposium on Satoyama, which are natural woodlands close to traditional Japanese rural communities. Hosted by Komoro City and sponsored by OKI, the seminar focused on the revitalization of Satoyama, starting in the foothills of Mount Asama.