

SAVE THE DATE

Yoshino Wood - The 500 years tradition and its future



YOSHINO WOOD
吉野材

22 February 2024

Free Admission

The secrets of the Yoshino forestry industry in Japan, the birthplace of the world's oldest sustainable forestry industry, will be unveiled. How did they cultivate the high quality timber used for the finest Japanese architecture, such as tea ceremony houses and shrines? In today's world of sustainability, why does it make sense to import timber from faraway Japan to Europe? Discover the tradition, beauty, and future of Japan's famed forestry industry through presentations by the Yoshino Wood team, Bollinger Furniere, and Kodai Associates.

- Place:** University of Zurich
Asia-Orient Institute, Kleine Aula, RAA-G-01
Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zurich
- Date:** 22 February 2024
18:00 Apéro with Japanese specialties and sake
18:30 - 19:15 Lecture
19:15 - 19:30 Q&A Session and then mingling
- Speakers:** Yoshino Wood, Bollinger Furniere, Kodai and Associates

Organized by the Embassy of Japan in Switzerland and the Swiss-Japanese Society



160th

日本・スイス国交樹立記念
Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations
between Japan and Switzerland



Schweizerisch-Japanische Gesellschaft
Swiss-Japanese Society スイス・日本協会

BOLLINGER 
FURNIERE AG



**Universität
Zürich** ^{UZH}



KOJIRO YAMANAKA

ICHI Inc., CEO

Kojiro Yamanaka (born in Nara Prefecture) founded ICHI Inc. (Osaka) in 2013. Since 2018, they operate the Yoshino Wood trade business, focusing primarily on the European market. As of 2024, they are active in the Swiss, French, and Austrian market for the export of round logs, sawn timbers and veneers, and end products with Yoshino Wood. In the Yoshino Wood initiative, he acts as the trading director.



YUTAKA GOTO

Chalmers University of Technology, Tohoku University, Timber Hub AB

Dr. Yutaka Goto is a researcher in wood engineering at Chalmers University of Technology (Göteborg) and Tohoku University (Sendai).

His transdisciplinary research and educations focuses on sustainable use of wood in constructions with regard to structural safety, durability, comfort, adaptability, circularity, and sustainability. In his doctoral study at ETH Zurich (at D-BAUG, 2009-2012), he worked on the development of sustainable wooden building envelope system for the subtropical climate in collaboration with local companies around Zurich, which resulted in the transfer of the Swiss technology to the Japanese construction market. Since 2021 he has been appointed by Nara Prefectural Office as the advisor for the promotion of local (Yoshino) wood in the market abroad. In the Yoshino Wood initiative, he acts as the technical director and the dissemination agent for the Scandinavian market.



MARKUS BARMETTLER

Bollinger Furniere AG, Managing director

Bollinger Furniere AG (Nürensdorf) was founded in 1959 by Mr. Eugen Bollinger, who was a renowned veneer producer. Since 1987, Bollinger Furniere AG has been owned by the Herzog-Elmiger family from Lucerne. Under the leadership of Markus Barmettler, the selection of wood types was expanded to 140 woods. Bollinger Furniere AG is a veritable treasure trove of exquisite woods from all over the world. It is committed to trading legally harvested wood with FSC/PEFC certification and equivalent. Other products on offer include; sawn timber, fleece-laminated veneer decks, and edge banding. Bollinger Furniere AG is the trade partner of Yoshino Wood for the Swiss market.



YUICHI KODAI

Co-founder of Kodai and Associates Architects, Architect RIBA, ARB, AA Diploma

Yuichi Kodai co-founded Kodai and Associates, an architecture studio that was founded in Kyoto, Japan, before relocating to Zurich in 2018. After graduating from the AA School in London, he worked with Herzog & de Meuron in Basel and London, playing a pivotal role in renowned projects like the Perez Art Museum Miami and TATE Modern. Prior to launching his studio, he served as the director of architecture at SANDWICH Inc. in Kyoto, collaborating closely with contemporary artist Kohei Nawa. Their collaboration resulted in the award-winning KOHTEI in Fukuyama City in 2017. In the Yoshino Wood initiative, he works as the dissemination agent in the Swiss and Italian market together with local partners.

Organized by the Embassy of Japan in Switzerland and the Swiss-Japanese Society
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