We are gathering opinions, messages and examples of initiatives that are run in other countries for the 66<sup>th</sup> National Arbor Day that will be held in Ishikawa in spring 2015.

Messages will be posted on the National Arbor Day website.

We look forward to receiving them from everyone.

Please send your message to the following email address and include your name (or pen name) and nationality. Please put the email subject as "Message of Support".

shokuju@pref.ishikawa.lg.jp

## The 66th Arbor Day Event Theme

## Hometown forests with thriving trees for the future.

The connection between the people of Japan and the forest.

The forest is an asset to the people that brings freshness and comfort to our lifestyles for not only lumber production, but also watershed cultivation, prevention of landslides, conservation of biodiversity and the creation of the beautiful mountain landscape.

Japanese people have been grateful for the various benefits of the forests since long ago and believed that the gods dwelled within the trees and nature making the forest a place of faith. As it was possible to live with the gods that dwelled in the forest, the people planted trees and cultivated the forests whilst making use of the forest resources for generations.

## National Arbor Day Outline

National Arbor Day shows our appreciation for the abundant forests and greenery that support our lifestyles. This is held every year in spring and it is a central event for the National Land Afforestation Movement in order to deepen our understanding.

We aimed to restore the forests that were destroyed after the war and this event has been running every year in a different prefecture since the first one held in 1950. People from all over the country are invited to participate in building the forests and the ceremony and tree planting activities are carried out with the grace of the Imperial Couple.

Whilst we are still alive, it is our duty to leave the forests that brought so much to us in a

healthy state for the next generation. Therefore, we believe it is important to make sure of the Green Cycle by planting trees, cultivating, having appropriate application and replanting.

With this, the 66<sup>th</sup> National Arbor Day held in Ishikawa in spring 2015 will be an event that reaches out to the whole nation and the world in order to leave thriving forests for future generations, and our theme of "Hometown forests with thriving trees for the future" will put a great importance on the Green Cycle and the appropriate use of forest resources.



Imperial planting.



Participants planting

