



News From MTI

Hello Mass Timber Colleagues!

Feature: Canada Wood and MTI host Toronto Mass Timber Forum - A wood dialogue between Canada and Japan

Lance Tao and MTI

On November 24th, MTI and Canada Wood Group hosted the Toronto Mass Timber Forum, an event where presenters gave insight on local mass timber case studies to a delegation of wood building and construction executives from Japan. Presentations were made by Carol Philips from Moriyama and Teshima Architects, Matthew van Riesen from Blackwell Structural Engineers, and Mark Gaglione from EllisDon Construction. This stop at the University of Toronto was one of many to provide the Japanese delegation with up-to-date knowledge and first-hand experience of Canadian nail-laminated timber, and the midrise wood frame construction solutions in the large residential and non-residential sector, key sectors which Canada Wood prioritizes to promote the use of Canadian wood products.



The Toronto Mass Timber Forum, November 24th 2022. Image Credit: Canada Wood Group

MTI Editor Sanjana Patel spoke with Lance Tao of Canada Wood Group about his time with the participants and experiences organizing the tour.

Sanjana Patel (SP): To start, can you provide some context for our readers about the visit from the Japanese delegation? What is the story behind this annual tour?

Lance Tao (LT): To answer that, I'll provide some background on the Canada Wood Group, which has a focus on promoting Canadian wood in Asian markets in China, Japan, and South Korea. Our programs are designed to remove code and technical barriers through our market access efforts and promote and convert wood construction projects via market development programs. As part of our market development program, this tour mission was about training in the non-residential sector because of Japan's development context. Japan is a high-value buyer which purchases premium 2x4 lumber for single family home construction. However, as the population ages, there is an opportunity to serve the community with larger scale, non-residential mass timber buildings. This tour consisted of jobsite visits and hosted lectures – such as the Toronto Mass Timber Forum - to demonstrate how Canadian wood can benefit the Japan market at the non-residential large scale.

SP: What are the other stops on the non-residential tour this year?

LT: We had a few stops in Vancouver. There was a lecture at the Canada Wood office, similar to the one in

Toronto, where dynamics of the local industry were described by a forester, a structural engineer, and an architect. Delegates found it valuable to see how seismic considerations were made in Vancouver as buildings in Japan also have to withstand seismic events. We also spent an afternoon in UBC looking at buildings adopting NLT and CLT including the iconic Brock Commons, and visiting two jobsites of 6-story wood frame apartment developments where framing was recently completed.

In Toronto, we visited the College of Carpenters and Allied Trades (CCA) with a tour from Mike Yorke, where it was interesting to see that the labour shortage for wood construction is a common challenge across Canada and Japan. Another stop was the Timmerman Timberworks manufacturing facility, as they are the only factory manufacturer of NLT in Canada. Finally, there was a visit to 80 Atlantic, which used NLT provided by Timmerman Timberworks. This was a good opportunity for delegates to touch and feel the product.



The Japanese delegation visits the CCA in Toronto (left) and the Timmerman Timberworks facility (right). Image Credit: Canada Wood Group

This was the first time the tour visited Toronto, as the trip only lasts 5-6 days and Toronto is logistically far from Vancouver. However, the visit to Timmerman Timberworks was highly anticipated, and many delegates also commented that their visit to Toronto was their favourite part of the trip in a survey taken at the end of the journey.

SP: That's nice to hear! Who was a part of the visiting group – was it a mix of industry professionals?

LT: There was a good audience mix – two general contractors, architects, structural engineers, and material suppliers.

SP: Was this intentional?

LT: This is our intention when recruiting delegates because each person offers different insights on their shared experiences during the tour. It also promotes networking and knowledge sharing. We find mission programs are the most effective way to convert groups. For example, the Maeda group – one of Japan's largest contractors – was not working in wood until Canada Wood Group helped build a network for NLT for their project with the Tokyo University of Arts.

SP: We certainly hope that knowledge shared at the forum finds a place in future building projects in

Japan through mass timber. My last question is for you since you wear many hats. What was your experience like as the liaison/organizer/tour guide?

LT: I really enjoy doing this! I get to meet with clients and stakeholders from Asian markets and understand the markets better. Building up this relationship is important, and it can help frame Canada as a leader in green construction. Hopefully, when they go back, they will say good things about Canadian wood and Canadian building techniques.

Find additional photos from the event under [Newsletter Bonus Content](#) on our website.

Feature: MTI Intern Eduardo Wilson writes about Red Pine and CLT in *The Woodlander*

During his internship with MTI, Eduardo Wilson worked with the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) to understand the suitability of first thinning wood fiber from Ontario Red Pine for CLT manufacturing. Red Pine plantations, planted as part of an erosion prevention strategy in Ontario, have matured and require thinning for the health of the forest. Using the thinnings for CLT manufacturing would provide a value added use for this resource, which currently does not have one. This project is being supported by lumber supplies from Lavern Heideman and Sons in Eganville, as well as manufacturing assistance from Element5. [Find an overview of the research progress in *The Woodlander*](#), the Ontario Woodlot Association's newsletter.

News from the Institute

1. Welcome Farheen!



MTI is pleased to welcome Farheen, who will be joining our team as a volunteer! Farheen is a recent M. Arch. graduate from the University of Nebraska with an interest in mass timber. Her background includes participating in the design-build of a mass timber building, with a focus on understanding the material properties of wood for steam-bending. Now in Toronto, Farheen aims to learn more about the local mass timber industry through her position with MTI.

Other Updates

- Element5 Affordable Housing Solution finds a place in the new YWCA construction. Find a [timelapse of the build on the MTI website](#).
- A mass timber apartment building coming to Toronto will have a prefabricated assembly and introduce new values to local apartment design. [See the article in The Globe and Mail](#).



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