

June 5, 2020

To the press and whom it may concern

AEON MALL Co., Ltd.

**World Environment Day on June 5th**  
**“AEON Hometown Forests”**  
**Ecosystem survey confirmed the growth of our forests**  
**as a network linked to local nature**

Chiba Pref.(June 5, 2020)- AEON MALL Co., Ltd. is pleased to announce the results of the first ecosystem survey conducted on “AEON Hometown Forests” commemorating the World Environment Day (June 5) established by the United Nations and the Environment Month advocated by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

“World Environment Day” is celebrated around the world to encourage environmental awareness. Each year a theme is selected, and countries and citizens focus on efforts to change people’s behavior for the protection of the environment. The theme for 2020 is “Biodiversity”.

Prior to the opening of a new mall, AEON MALL holds a tree-planting ceremony to plant native trees that are most suitable for the natural environment in the region with customers. This survey has proven that diverse animals and plants began to inhabit the Hometown Forests as the planted trees grew and matured, and that the forests are growing as a green network linked to local nature.

AEON MALL will continue to promote town development in harmony with nature, where people and nature coexist through the proper management of our forests, and work together with local residents to nurture and protect the local ecosystem.

■ **Summary of “AEON Hometown Forests” ecosystem survey results**

(1) Plants:

The invasion and increase of alien plants have been controlled by densely planting evergreen saplings based on the model of natural forests in the region. In the green space where about 20 years have passed since the first planting, about 40% of the green space has plant species in common with natural forests, which is a very high percentage compared to general green spaces in urban areas, and a total of 213 diverse plant species has been identified.



Bird habitats

(2) Birds & Butterflies

As the forest grows, we found that each forest is part of the green network linked to local nature, where grassland birds and woodland birds inhabit, and it plays various roles such as in providing migration routes, feeding grounds, and breeding grounds for the butterflies living in the area.

- Survey period: July and November 2019
- Target mall: AEON MALL Kurashiki (Okayama Prefecture) / Opened in 1999  
THE OUTLETS HIROSHIMA (Hiroshima Prefecture) / Opened in 2018
- Survey collaborator: IGES - Japanese Center for International Studies in Ecology, Lago Corporation

Note: For more details on the survey results, refer to AEON MALL website, CSR Activity.  
(<https://www.aeonmall.com/csr/news/20200605.pdf>)

AEON MALL is working toward the achievement of 17 global goals “SDGs” which should be addressed by 2030. The development goals to which our current initiative contributes are as follows.

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