

World's largest logwood restaurant will be opened for the fascination of the tourists of Sodankylä “shying away from the forest.”

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In the logwood restaurant which belongs to the tourism entrepreneur Jussi Eiramo, customers will be greeted by a female figure carved in a sturdy column. "Asians like wooden buildings". Unfortunately, some of them are afraid to spend the night in the woods, as I have heard from the tour operators ", Eiramo says. Tourism entrepreneur Jussi Eiramo leans in the hall against the sturdy column, into which a sculptor from Pello Essi Korva has carved a female figure.



In Kakslauttanen of Sodankylä on the south side of Saariselkä is nearing completion the world's largest, 2, 000 square meter logwood restaurant. The structure will also have a large reception area to accommodate the business.

The estimated cost of the building is about six million euro. Last year that was almost the only large tourism related construction object in Lapland. The last equipment installations of the building are almost ready. The specialty of the building is a glass-roofed aurora bar. "During the recession, it pays off to build up, making one ready for the next boom," says Eiramo.

A snag is different from a log in that it is vertically dried old wood that has had its bark knocked off. In Lapland, the tree growth ends at about 400 years of age, after which the snagging takes several decades. "A snag that would be that robust is very difficult to get any more," Eiramo says.

Everywhere, wood can be seen and smelled.

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The logwood building is located two kilometers from the national road 4, where Eiramo has expanded its ever mushrooming corporate activities. Instead, at line of sight from the national road 4 is located the resort village founded by Eiramo in the 1970's. Some Asian tourists wish to be accommodated safely close to the road, in the so-called old side of the business because it is not in the frightening woods.

"The Finnish like to be in the woods, because it is safe there. "The length of the tourist trail made for Asians is only 300 meters, "says Eiramo.

Eiramo is known better elsewhere in the world than in Finland by his 65 glass-roof igloo where one can stay overnight admiring the starry sky or the Northern Lights. In Kakslauttanen there is also a snow church and 65 snag bunkhouses, but no apartment house hotel like in the center of Saariselkä.

Last year Eiramo accommodated some 30 000 visitors, of which foreigners made up 99.8 per cent from 50 different countries. Also, all of the company's 70 employees are foreigners.

"I pay to my employees no less than the wages according to the collective agreement of the hospitality industry. "It is very difficult to get skilled workforce for Lapland from Finland, "Eiramo ponders.