

Biodiversity, Science and Society – Priorities for the upcoming Japanese Presidency of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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Japan will take over the Presidency of the Convention on Biological Diversity from Germany during the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10). The meeting will take place on October 18-29, 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. Participants include the 193 parties to the convention, international organizations, and observers, including NGOs. 10,000 participants are expected to attend the conference. The slogan during the Japanese presidency is: “Life in harmony, into the future”.

The major agenda for COP10 includes a Strategic Plan that will evaluate progress toward the 2010 biodiversity target (“To achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss”) and will adopt the new target beyond 2010 (the post-2010 target). Also, there will be elaboration on the international regime for ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing). The international regime on ABS addresses sharing the benefits of users (developed countries) arising from the utilization of genetic resources with providers (developing countries). Other important topics of discussion will be protected areas, climate change and biodiversity, and public engagement (business and biodiversity).



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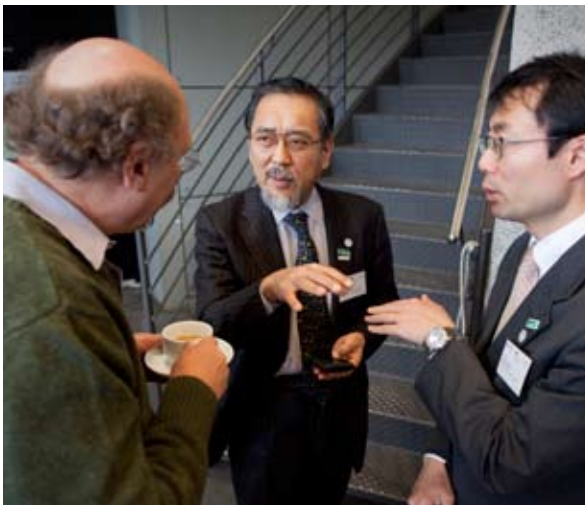
Germany’s contributions to biodiversity during its presidency in 2008-2010 include:

- **The LifeWeb Initiative**
Life Web is a means to support the implementation of the Convention and its Programme of Work on Protected Areas.
- **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study (TEEB)**
TEEB seeks to show that economics can be a powerful instrument in biodiversity policy, both by supporting decision processes and by forging discourses between science, economics and governing structures.
- **The Business & Biodiversity Initiative**
This initiative is aimed at intensifying the engagement of the private sector in achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- **The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**
In September 2009, as initially proposed by the German Government, the environment ministers in Germany and Japan issued a letter to the ministers of each country to ask for the support to establish the IPBES.

Japan has adopted a variety of measures to implement its domestic biodiversity policy, most importantly the Basic Act on Biodiversity and the National Biodiversity Strategy. The Basic Act on Biodiversity was passed in 2008 and marks an improvement of the basic legislation systems for a wider promotion of biodiversity measures.

Since the first National Biodiversity Strategy of 1995, Japan has adopted three consecutive strategies. The fourth strategy was endorsed by the Japanese Cabinet in March 2010. This new strategy will be formulated in the light of the results of COP10 and will set up mid- and long-term targets (until 2050) and short-term targets (until 2020). These targets will be set in consideration of the proposal by Japan on the post-2010 target in the CBD framework.

The post-2010 biodiversity target proposal by Japan was submitted to the Secretariat of the CBD on Jan 6th. It includes the vision of “Living in harmony with nature” where “biodiversity is conserved, restored and wisely used, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”. As the mission, Japan sees the need for “urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity”, and “by 2020, to: reduce the pressures on biodiversity; prevent extinctions; restore ecosystems; and enhance ecosystem services, while equitably sharing the benefits, thus contributing to human well-being and poverty eradication, and to have provided the means for all Parties to do so.”



The Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies jointly initiated the so-called “Satoyama Initiative”, which has the purpose to promote the sustainable use and management of natural resources through realizing societies in harmony with nature. The background of the initiative is the understanding that protecting biodiversity entails not only preserving pristine environments, such as wilderness, but also conserving human-influenced natural environments, such as “Satoyama” or socio-ecological production systems. These kinds of environments are increasingly threatened in many parts of the world.

At the CBD/COP10 in Nagoya in October 2010, the International Satoyama Partnership will be launched. In addition, Japan promotes biodiversity monitoring networking at the global level and the strengthening of the science-policy interface on biodiversity by establishing IPBES, the Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Also, Japan has developed Guidelines for Private Sector Engagement in Biodiversity, targeted at business entities which are beginning to contemplate initial biodiversity-related actions.