

“SATOYAMA from Asia”

-Toward the Harmonious Coexistence of Human and Nature-

Sanda city, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan
26-27 April 2008

The Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan and the Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo prefecture co-hosted “ the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting Commemorative Symposium “SATOYAMA from Asia ~Toward the Harmonious Coexistence of Human and Nature ~” from 26 to 27 April, 2008. This symposium was held at the museum, and approximately 400 people participated, including Mr. Ikuzo Sakurai, Senior Vice Minister of the Environment and Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture.



1. Objectives

This symposium was aimed to discuss the issues related to “Biodiversity” which is one of the agendas of the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in this coming May. These issues include harmonious coexistence of nature and human, and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These were discussed with the case studies of SATOYAMA from Japan and other Asian countries where we have long history of interactions between nature and people.



of Shiga Prefecture and Ehime University, Mr.

2. Outlines

(1) Public Symposium on 26 April, 2008

The symposium was led by two keynote speeches. The first speech was titled “The Urgent Need to Address Satoyama Crisis” and delivered by Dr. Alphonse Kambu, former Director of the Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre (IICRC), Special Programme, United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS). The next one was titled “Japanese SATOYAMA -Just What is SATOYAMA?” and given by Prof. Tamotsu Hattori, Professor of Institute of Natural and Environmental Sciences at University of Hyogo.

The case studies of SATOYAMA in Japan and overseas followed these speeches and were introduced by Dr. Toshihiko Nakamura, Vice Director General of the Natural History Museum and Institute in Chiba, Dr. Kazuhiko Ogino, Emeritus Professor of the University

of Shiga Prefecture and Ehime University, Mr. Keisaku Urasugi, Director of Forest Enhancement

G8 Environment Ministers Meeting Commemorative Symposium

Division of Environmental Development Bureau of Agricultural & Environmental Affairs Department at Hyogo Prefectural Government, Prof. Sun-Kee Hong, Professor of Institute of Island Culture at Mokpo National University in Korea, Dr. Dedy Darnaedi, Director of Research Center for Biology at Indonesian Institute of Sciences and Dr. Rai S. Rana, former Director of National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources in India.

The panel discussion was then conducted under the coordination of Dr. Kunio Iwatsuki, Director of Museum of Nature and Human Activities in Hyogo. The panelists consisted of Dr. Nakamura, Prof. Hong, and Dr. Darnaedi and the following additional members joined to discuss on definition and concept of SATOYAMA and the way of coexistence between nature and human in Asia in particular. Those additional panelists were Dr. Sirikul Bunpapong, Director of Biological Diversity Division of Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) at Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRE) in Thailand, Mr. Keitaro Yamase, Senior Researcher of Forestry Technology Center at Hyogo Prefectural Technology Center for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Mr. Tsunao Watanabe, Director of Biodiversity Policy Division of Nature Conservation Bureau from our Ministry.

It was recognized that the view of nature by Asian people which considers human beings as part of nature, and the concept of SATOYAMA, the way of the sustainable use of natural resources we can see in Satoyama landscape in Japan, are very important from the viewpoint of sustainability of the earth. On the other hand, it was also pointed out that we need to brush up the definition and concept of SATOYAMA in order to disseminate SATOYAMA widely to the world.

(2) Workshop and Excursion on 27 April, 2008

In the morning of the 27th, a workshop was held to discuss further on the definition, value, crisis, management and the way of collection/dissemination of the information of

SATOYAMA. Researchers and government officials from participating countries discussed intensively and actively on these items.

The participants affirmed the common recognitions that SATOYAMA or similar ecosystems exist throughout Asian countries in various way reflecting the different natural and social situations of each region and that the value of SATOYAMA is not confined to the conservation of biodiversity. SATOYAMA is also valuable from its cultural, spiritual, social and economic aspects. They also recognized that the key to the appropriate management of SATOYAMA is the Asian view of nature which considers human beings as a component of the ecosystem and that it is important to promote the conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources such as seen in Satoyama which has been developed and managed by interaction between nature and human in addition to the preservation of pristine natural environment. They agreed that it is necessary to promote the study further on the definition and function of SATOYAMA in order to achieve the above aim and to disseminate SATOYAMA to the world as well as Asian countries in a simple and clear language based on good practices collected.

In the afternoon, the participants visited a nearby Satoyama landscape area where people still produce charcoals from surrounding secondary forests. They observed one actual example of the sustainable use of natural resources in Japan.

