

Chronological Record of Desertification/Drought

1968 ~ 1973	Sahel drought ※ ¹
1977	United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD) in Nairobi - The first UN conference to discuss desertification issues
June 1992	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro - General agreement on formulation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification
December 1992	47th UN General Assembly in New York - Agreement on establishment of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INCD)
May 1993	The first substantive session of INCD in Nairobi - Intergovernmental negotiations for formulating the Convention began
June 1994	5th substantive session of INCD in Paris - UN Convention to Combat Desertification ※ ² adopted
October 1994	Signing ceremony of UNCCD with 86 countries including Japan and EC in Paris
December 1996	The UNCCD enters into force
October 1997	First Conference of the Parties (COP) in Rome - COP then held annually until COP 5 (Geneva, 2001), and then biennially
September 1998	Japan notified UN Secretary-General of acceptance of UNCCD (with entry into force in December 1998)
October 2005	COP 7 (Nairobi) accepts memorandum between UNCCD Secretariat and Global Environment Facility (GEF)
2006	As the 10th anniversary of UNCCD taking effect, 2006 was declared the International Year of Desert and Desertification by the UN General Assembly
September 2007	10 year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD adopted as UN decision at COP8 in Madrid
March 2008	The UNCCD has reached 193 parties

※¹ The Sahel region is on the southern border of the Sahara desert, which includes Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.

※² UN Convention to Combat Desertification, officially, 'United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa'

Links for More Information about Desertification

- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat
<http://www.unccd.int/>
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
<http://www.unep.org/>
- United Nations (UN)
<http://www.un.org/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/>
- National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan
<http://www.nies.go.jp/index.html>
- National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences, Japan
http://www.niaes.affrc.go.jp/index_e.html
- Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences
<http://www.jircas.affrc.go.jp/index.html>
- Arid Land Research Center, Tottori University, Japan
http://www.alrc.tottori-u.ac.jp/english/e_index.html
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
<http://www.iges.or.jp/>
- Global Environmental Forum, Japan
<http://www.gef.or.jp/en/index>
- Action for Greening Sahel
<http://www.gef.or.jp/en/index>
- Green Earth Network
<http://homepage3.nifty.com/gentree/>
- Friends of the Earth Japan
<http://www.foejapan.org/en/>
- Japan Global Green Association
<http://www.globalgreen.or.jp/>
- Toyota Motor Corporation
<http://www.toyota.co.jp/en/index>

For further information, please contact:

Global Environmental Issues Division, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975 Japan Tel: +81-3-3581-3351 (ext. 6747) <http://www.env.go.jp/>