

JEO

JAPAN
Environment
Quarterly

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Japanese Pattern
Shippou

冬
Winter



Report on the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the "Minamata Convention"

The Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held from mata, Japan. More than 1,000 participants, including more than 60 Heads of State and Ministers, conference, which was chaired by Mr. Ishihara, Minister of the Environment of Japan, the Mina- mously adopted and signed by as many as 92 representatives including Japan.

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the "Minamata Convention on Mercury"

The "Minamata Convention on Mercury" stipulates comprehensive regulations through the whole life cycle of mercury, including production, use, emis- sions, and disposal, aiming at reducing the risk of mercury on human health and the environment.

In January 2013, the draft text of the convention was agreed after five times of inter-governmental ne- gotiations since 2010. From October 9th to 11th, the Diplomatic Conference was held for adopting and signing the Convention in Kumamoto and Minamata (Preparatory Meeting was also held on October 7th and 8th).

More than 1,000 delegations from 139 countries,

MOYAI Initiative (tentative translation) ~ MOYAI from Japan to the World ~

Supporting developing countries' efforts

Financial support

- comprehending use and emission of mercury e.g. emission inventory, material flow analysis
- setting up national legislation for sound mercury management
- capacity building for monitoring and control of mercury

Technological support

- feasibility studies of technology measures against mercury in developing countries
- global diffusion of Japanese technologies e.g. technologies to reduce mercury in products, and mercury recovery and recycling

Corporation for a early entry into force of the convention

Transmission and communication from Minamata

Technology development and transfer

- developing and transferring a easy-to use method for measuring mercury by NIMD¹
- holding symposia to share the latest knowledge and technology on mercury

Global model for environmental revitalization

- community support to those affected by Minamata Disease
- local bonds' regeneration by "Moyai-naoshi"²
- a spiritually rich community and robust economy leveraging on the environment

Delivery information on preventing pollution and environmental revitalization of Minamata to the world

Realization of a global "Moyai-naoshi" (integration of the environment and economy)

¹ the National Institute for Minamata Disease

² "Moyai" refers to the "Moyai-Net", which is used to tie ships together, and also the "Moyai" collaboration practice at farming communities.

"Moyai-naoshi" represents the initiative to face the issue of Minamata Disease and collaborate through dialogs to regenerate the community.

水銀に関する水俣条約 *on Mercury*



October 9th to 11th in Kumamoto and Minamata participated in the Conference. During the Conference, the Convention on Mercury was unani-



Motoo KANEKO

Section Chief,
Environmental Health and Safety Division,
Environmental Health Department



international organizations, and NGOs participated in the Conference.

2. Adoption and signing of the Convention

The Ceremonial Opening was held in Minamata on October 9th. Prime Minister Abe delivered his message, in which he called for the eradication of mercury damage and announced the support of \$2 billion in total over the next three years for environmental pollution control measures in developing countries. Mr. Ishihara, Minister of the Environment of Japan, also expressed his initiative, which includes the support of developing countries for the early entry into force of the Convention, as well as delivery of information on the environmental restoration and mercury technique in Minamata to the world. Prior to the Ceremonial Opening, participants from the world joined a floral tribute at the Cenotaph for Minamata Disease Victims, and tree-planting ceremony. They also visited Minamata Disease related museums to learn the history of Minamata.

On October 10th and 11th, the Diplomatic Conference was held in Kumamoto. First, the final protocol of the Diplomatic Conference and the Minamata Convention on Mercury were adopted by consensus, followed by a signing ceremony. 92 countries in total, including Japan, signed the Convention until October 11th. Then, the statements by the representatives were delivered; the importance of the Convention and congratulations on the adoption of the Convention; the need for early entry into force; and appreciation for the unforgettable warm hospitality ("Omotenashi") of the local community were referred to.



3. Evaluation and future response to the Convention

The fact that ministers of more than 60 countries attended the conference and 92 countries signed the Convention shows the strong will of the international community for mercury regulation. Japan has been negotiating with a strong determination based on the lessons learned from Minamata Disease. Similar environmental pollution and health damage should not be repeated again. Hosting the Conference and signing the Convention showed our strong commitment towards strengthening measures against mercury to the international community.

Japan will proceed to set up national legislation required for the ratification of the Convention and to extend assistance to developing countries.

MORE Information

UNEP website on Harmful Substances

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/tabid/434/Default.aspx>

Outcomes from the Fourth Global Conference of the International Partnership for the SATOYAMA Initiative (IPSI)



Rikiya KONISHI

Deputy Director,
Global Biodiversity Strategy Office,
Nature Conservation Bureau

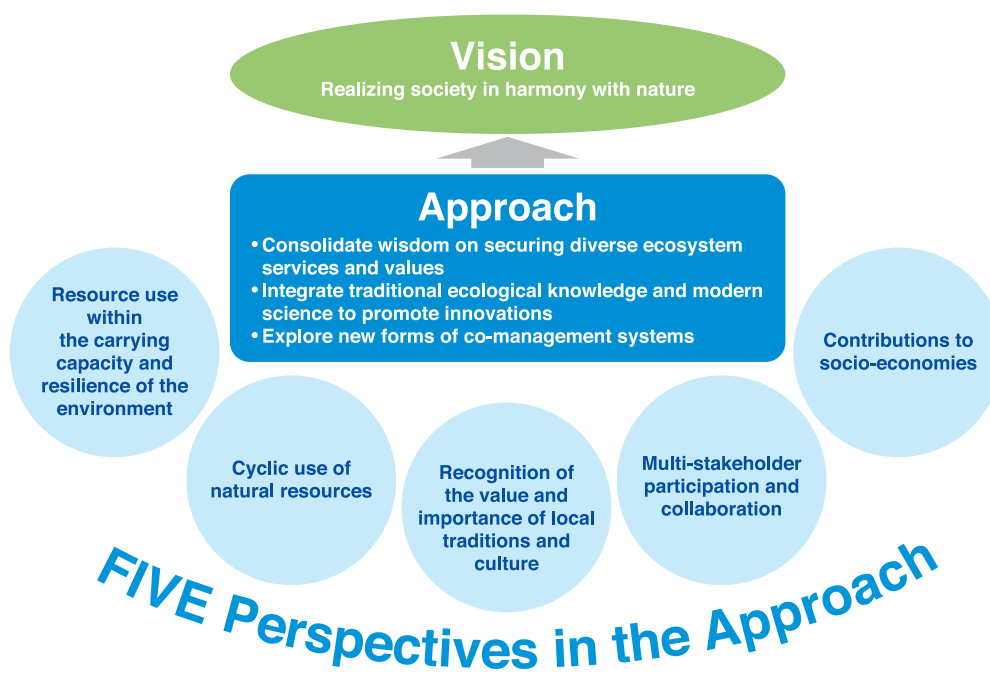


The Fourth Global Conference of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI-4) took place in Fukui City, Fukui Prefecture from September 12th to 14th. Satoyama is a Japanese term for a mosaic of different ecosystem types such as secondary forest and agricultural land. Satoyama-like ecosystem exists around the world. A general IPSI assembly and a public forum were held under the theme "Implementing ISPI strategies towards realizing biodiversity conservation and a human lifestyle of prosperity".

The general assembly was attended by approximately 120 members, and Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment Tanaka and Fukui Governor Nishikawa headed the opening speeches. A 5-year "IPSI Action Plan" to was agreed upon.



The Venue



Approximately 140 members attended the public forum, where Director-General Hoshino of the Nature Conservation Bureau welcomed the attendees.

Also, Fukui Prefecture officially appointed the week from September 8th to 14th as "SATOYAMA International Conference 2013 in Fukui", and organized various events associated with Satoyama. At the general IPSI meeting, participants enjoyed a visit to the Satoyama of Fukui Prefecture for the first time, and a vibrant discussion discussing topics such as Fukui Prefecture's efforts was carried out. All in all, the week proved to be a success with positive reviews from both Japanese and visiting participants.

The First Japan-UNEP Policy Dialogue



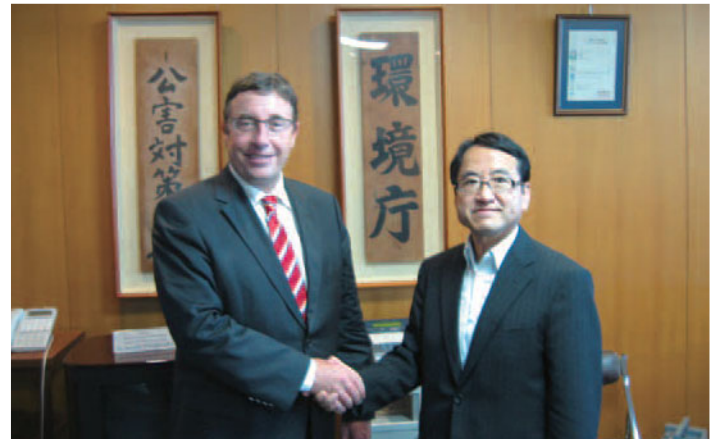
International Strategy Division,
Global Environment Bureau

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established in 1972 as an organization to put into effect the Declaration on the Human Environment and the Action Plan for Human Environment which were adopted in the same year's Stockholm Conference on Human Environment, and carries out general coordination regarding environmental conservation within the UN system.

Japan has actively supported the UNEP's activities. For example, UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) which operates in Osaka is mainly supported by the government of Japan. Japan also became a member of the bureau of the UNEP Governing Council in February 2013.

On October 8th, the first UNEP policy dialogue was held in Tokyo to discuss further strengthening of collaboration between Japan and the UNEP. Mr. Steiner, Executive Director, and other delegates attended from UNEP, and Mr. Ryutaro Yatsu, Vice-Minister of the Environment, and other officials attended from Japan.

During the policy dialogue, discussions were held over collaboration and cooperation in new action fields such as improving and strengthening IETC activities, along with its



Mr. Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Dr. Yatsu, Vice-Minister of the Environment

relationship with "Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)". They also discussed strengthening "Global Adaptation Network (GAN)" which promotes adaptation to climate change, based on the successful activities of "Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)". It was also agreed that the actions of UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific would also be strengthened to tackle air pollution issues in Asia.

United Nations Environment Assembly of the UNEP (UNEA)

President :

Mr. Hassan Hilal (Sudan)

Vice Presidents :

Mr. Ryutaro Yatsu (Japan)

Ms. Idunn Eidheim (Norway)

Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal Otárola (Peru)

Rapporteur:

Ms. Beata Jaczewska (Poland)

Members:

In 2013, the UNEP Governing Council consisting of 58 members was renamed as UNEA, consisting of all countries.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Headquarter (Nairobi)

Executive Director

Mr. Achim Scheiner

Regional Offices

Europe

(Geneva)

Asia and Pacific

(Bangkok)

North America

(Washington DC)

Africa

(Nairobi)

West Asia

(Manama)

Latin America

& Caribbean

(Panama City)

Seminar Held on Introducing Low Carbon Cities in Asia-Pacific

Japan's Support to Realize "Leapfrog" Low Carbon Development in Asia-Pacific



Tomoki UEMATSU

Researcher,
International Cooperation Office,
Global Environment Bureau



Member's photo to let Cities in Asia-Pacific "Leapfrog" Low Carbon Development

Seventeen Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) feasibility studies using Japan's Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) have been conducted. Kick off meetings were held in noted project sites, Surabaya, Indonesia, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Iskandar, Malaysia in July. Similar meetings were also held for other projects. ESC feasibility studies using JCM aimed at developing a low carbon society as "Whole City" or "Whole Region" base and combined feasibility studies where fields studied were in water purification, sanitation, waste management and transportation systems. The studies were supported by the Japanese central government and the Intercity

Relationship/Cooperation between local municipalities in Japan and participating countries.

A seminar introducing "Low Carbon Cities in Asia-Pacific" was held at Pacifico Yokohama on 22 October 2013, was attended by officials from participating municipalities and regions where we are conducting ESC feasibility studies using JCM.

Studies of Intercity Relationship/Cooperation in Kitakyushu and Surabaya, Osaka and Ho Chi Minh cities were introduced as the successful cases.

An active and insightful debate was held in the latter half of the seminar, where attendees shared the idea that cities in Asia-Pacific region must address issues of global climate change in addition to local environmental issues. They highlighted that it is important to approach the development of low carbon societies by receiving financial support from the Japanese government, with Intercity Relationship/Cooperation and community capacity building using JCM as the comprehensive manner.

The launch of the website shown below was announced in the seminar for further assistance to develop the Low Carbon Societies in Asia-Pacific.

<http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/lowcarbon-asia/>

The above web-site is currently only in Japanese. An English language site will be available soon.

17 ESC Feasibility Studies using JCM



	Country	Area	Projects
①	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Low carbon & safe water supplies in rural areas: CO2 free & green water supply project
②	Cambodia	Phnom Penh City	Quantification of GHG reduction effect of countermeasures in water supply sector and study of MRV methodology
③	Indonesia	Jakarta	Feasibility study of dissemination of Japanese standard digital tachometer and unification of regional standard for the traffic pollution countermeasures in ASEAN metropolis
④	Indonesia Malaysia Thailand	Jakarta Bangkok Bangkok	Strategic promotion of recovery and destruction of fluorocarbons
⑤	Indonesia	Jakarta	Feasibility study on financing scheme development project for promoting energy efficiency equipment installation
⑥	Indonesia Malaysia Vietnam	Medan Iskandar Ho Chi Minh	Eco-friendly water supply system in ASEAN countries: CO2 half water supply project
⑦	Indonesia	North Sumatra province	Project for leapfrog development in waste and wastewater management sector
⑧	Indonesia	Å Surabaya	Technical assistance for designing a low-carbon city plan
⑨	Malaysia	Iskandar	The feasibility study for large-scale formation of greenhouse gas emission reduction projects
⑩	Malaysia	Penang and Seberang Perai	Project for developing a low carbon society through "Waste to Energy technology"
⑪	Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar City	Efficiency improvement of energy supply side and demand side
⑫	Myanmar	Yangon	Supporting low-carbon city through Joint Crediting Mechanism(JCM) project formulation
⑬	South-Pacific Island Countries		Integration of GHG mitigation and adaptation measures
⑭	Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh	HCMC-Osaka city cooperation project towards development of a low carbon city
⑮	Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh	Wide scale project formulation feasibility study under JCM through diffusion of water saving equipment and energy saving equipment
⑯	Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang City	Feasibility study on low carbon community development project by promoting and motor bikes
⑰	Vietnam	Da Nang City	Introduction, issue identification and evaluation of Japanese technologies of waste management and processing

OECC dispatched an Environmental Mission to Myanmar



Masatsugu KOMIYA

Executive Director,
YACHIYO ENGINEERING CO., LTD
(Chair of OECC Technical Committee)



Myanmar is a developing country and expected to expand in the field of environmental cooperation.

To respond to the high interests of OECC members towards this country, Technical Committee of OECC formed a research group to collect Myanmar's basic information on environment and dispatched a one-week Mission to Myanmar from 29 September, 2013.

The Mission visited ministries related to environmental management including Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MoECAF) and donor organizations such as ADB, WB and UNDP to exchange opinions, and inspected waste disposal sites as well as sewage treatment facilities.

In cooperation with MoECAF, OECC held a one-day seminar in Nay Pyi Taw on the theme of environmental policies and measures of Japan and Myanmar. In the seminar, Ministry of the Environment, Japan made a presentation on "Japan's Experience in overcoming environmental pollution," along with other presentations on the role of regional government bodies (City of Kitakyushu), countermeasures against water pollution (Techno Chubu Co., Ltd.), air pollution and climate change countermeasures (Suuri-Keikaku Co., Ltd.), waste disposal management (Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.), environmental monitoring system (Horiba Ltd.), nature conservation (IDEA Consultants Inc.) among others. The city development committees of Yangon and Mandalay presented their environmental problems, situation and policies. The seminar was attended by 50 participants, including delegates from related ministries.



Htein Bin Waste Disposal Site in Yangon City

Working as a Network to Solve Environmental Issues



Yuki SAKAMOTO

Director, Planning and Research Division,
Planning and Research Division,
Global Environmental Forum



The Global Environmental Forum (GEF) is a nonprofit environmental organization dealing with scientific research and studies on global environmental issues, the publication and advocacy of these works, as well as policy advice. They collaborate and cooperate with governments, corporations, NPO/NGOs as well as the media, form networks and work across various fields in an effort to solve a broad range of global environmental issues such as climate change, deforestation and desertification and to build a sustainable society.

For example, in a Taiga Forum campaign, together with organizations and companies such as FoE Japan, Ricoh and Patagonia Japan, they produced a film "Message from Taiga" with the aim to preserve the wild forests of Russian Far East. The film was created with help from the region's native people, and the film is currently being shown in Japan to raise awareness about the issue. The organization is also supporting economic independence of those people by buying and selling their honey through fair trade. This example shows how GEF works to solve global environmental issues through working together with other environmental groups and corporations.



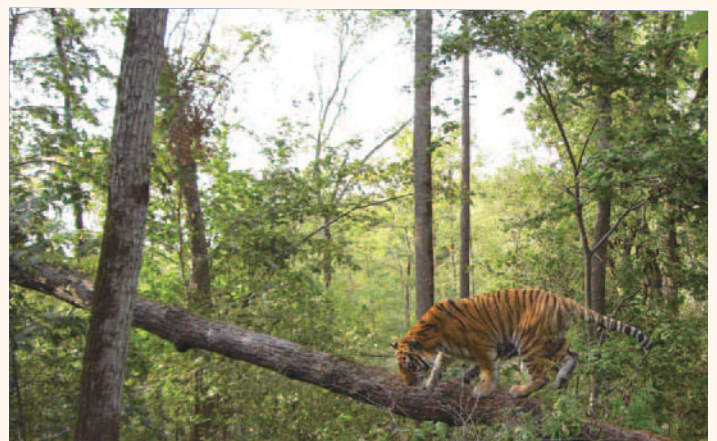
MORE Information

GEF's WEB in English

<http://www.gef.or.jp/en/index.html>

Taiga Forum WEB

<http://taigaforum.jp/?lang=en>



The boreal forest, home of the Amur tigers

National Parks of Japan

Impact of and countermeasures against Japanese deer on alpine and subalpine areas

A case in the Minami Alps National Park of Japan

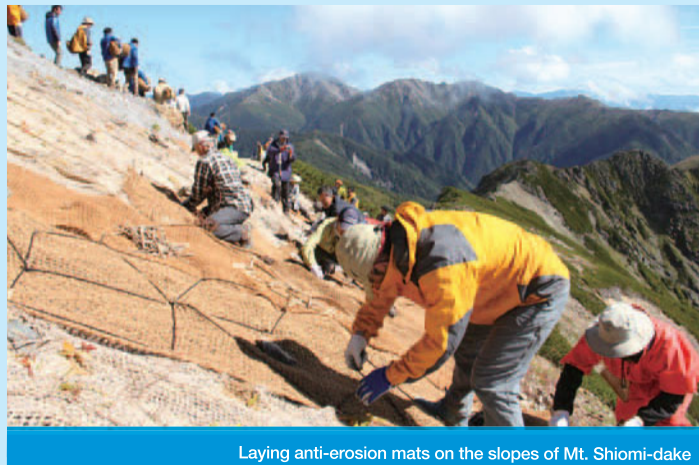
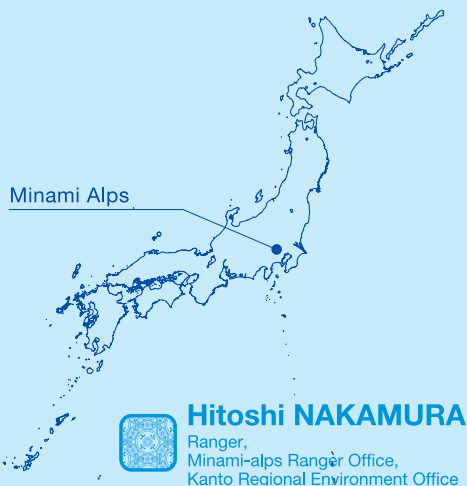
In the Minami Alps National Park, mountains are higher than 3000m and there is abundant nature and beautiful scenery. Its main alpine and subalpine areas have abundance of species including grouse and callianthemum hondoense which are relict, endemic and rare and of which southernmost habitat is the Minami Alps. The region, therefore, is deemed important from a biodiversity conservation viewpoint.

However, since the end of the 1990s, damages to the alpine and subalpine vegetation began to be reported, and in the next 10 years the effects rapidly spread, creating problems like simplification and

decline of vegetation as well as soil erosion.

The deer in the Minami Alps National Park migrate between the high mountains of summer and the snowy mountain bases at winter. To keep their numbers down, deer are culled in their wintering zones and migratory trails, as well as in the summer high mountains. At the same time, widespread measures, such as soil erosion prevention mats and vegetation protection measures such as deer proof fences are put into place.

These measures are carried forward in conjunction with the national and regional government bodies, nonprofits and volunteers.



Voice of MOE's Staff in foreign country

Under heavy guard in Brussels !?

In the early morning of one frosty Sunday in mid-September, a drove of police officers stormed into Brussels and blocked off all the main roads between the central areas of the city. Even the street in front of my local supermarket next to the motorway exit



was blocked off and guarded by two officers, prohibiting any vehicles from entry. For a VIP visit ? Non. But actually, Brussels, the capital of Belgium and so-called "capital of Europe" because of various EU institutions, was holding its annual "Car Free Day".

"Car Free Day" in Brussels is conducted very seriously. Even emergency vehicles must abide the limit of 30km/h and all ordinary vehicles are prohibited from driving. (2 years ago, I was strictly prohibited by an officer and I had to wait in the supermarket's car park until 7pm, the end of the "day".) Meanwhile, the roads are filled with countless bicycles ! Even the huge four lane roundabout in Montgomery which I usually try to avoid driving into could be ridden around with glee by my sons. My dear sons, do you understand precisely what "Car Free Day" means ?

MORE Information

Mobility Week (Brussels-Capital Region)

<http://www.semainedelamobilite.irisnet.be/en/home.html>



Kenichiro TOMIYASU

First Secretary,
Mission of Japan to the European Union



Next Feature

At COP19 in Warsaw in November 2013, Environment Minister Mr. Ishihara put forward Japan's new emission target and a diplomatic strategy "Actions for Cool Earth". Japan will take the lead in international discussion toward agreeing to a new international framework applicable to all countries in 2015.



Japan Environment Quarterly
volume 4 | **December 2013**

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<http://www.env.go.jp/en/>
E-mail chikyu-kyoryoku@env.go.jp