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Trends Leading up to the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15)

The 2050 Biodiversity Vision for "Living in Harmony with Nature"

Participants of the Regional Consultation Workshop on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Asia and the Pacific, January 28-31 2019, in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan

The next global targets for biodiversity are now under consideration. The current Aichi Targets were decided upon at CBD-COP10 held in Japan in 2010. Japan is contributing in various ways to the determination of the next targets, which will take place at COP15 to be held in China in 2021.

1 The Aichi Targets and Status of Achievement

At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP10) held in Japan in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, in October 2010, global biodiversity targets were agreed upon. These targets, which were intended as a global framework for all sections of society, are officially a part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This plan consists of the 2050 Biodiversity Vision, aimed at "Living in Harmony with Nature," the Mission to "take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity" by 2020, and the Aichi Targets, which indicate concrete actions for each of the 20 targets. The Aichi Targets include a variety of goals, including conservation goals to designate 17% of terrestrial areas and 10% of marine areas as protected areas, goals for the sustainable use of biodiversity, and goals for the scientific infrastructure and funding needed for biodiversity. The fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO5) released by the CBD Secretariat in September 2020, judged that while considerable progress has been made, none of the targets have been fully achieved. As to reasons for this failure to achieve the targets, the report points out that national targets set by each country were "generally poorly aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in terms of scope and the level of ambition."

2 Global Status of Biodiversity

The Global Assessment Report released in May 2019 by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) identified direct and indirect drivers of change in nature, shown in the box below. It then pointed out that while targets for nature conservation and sustainable use cannot be achieved at the current rate, these goals can be achieved through cross-cutting social change (transformative change) in our economies, societies, politics, science and technology.

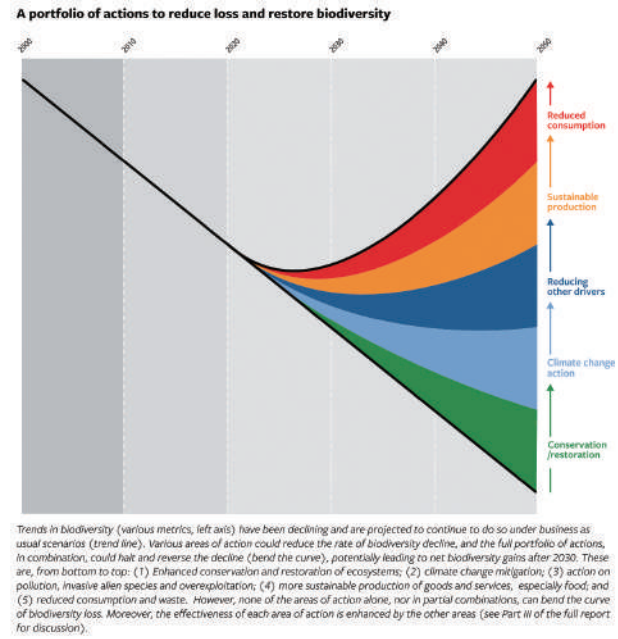
(Direct drivers)
1 Land/sea use change
2 Direct exploitation of organisms
3 Climate change
4 Pollution
5 Invasive alien species

(Examples of indirect drivers)
1 Production and consumption patterns
2 Human population dynamics and trends
3 Trade
4 Technological innovations
5 Local through global governance

Drivers of change in nature

In addition, the Global Risks Report 2020, released in January of 2020, ranks "biodiversity loss" as the fourth most likely risk and the third most impacting risk. Among ecosystem services, the report points out impacts on economic activities due to the decline in supply of services, the destabilization of society due to the decline in regulating and supporting services, and the loss of various future potential benefits that humans receive from biodiversity.

Further, the aforementioned GBO5 states that we need to break away from "business as usual" and enact transformative changes, and that we must respond in a coordinated manner rather than individually. It points out the possibility of realizing a net gain in biodiversity after 2030 by halting biodiversity decline and shifting to increasing it. It also indicates eight transition areas to achieve the 2050 Vision, focusing on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, including climate change response and the One Health approach.



Necessary Efforts to Restore Biodiversity

Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2020)

3 Status of Deliberations on a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

An Asia-Pacific regional workshop held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in January 2019 got the ball rolling on deliberations on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Subsequently, meetings in each region, meetings on specialized topics such as protected areas and ecosystem restoration, and meetings of subsidiary bodies to discuss the post-2020 framework progressed smoothly up to February 2020. However, the deliberation process has been significantly delayed due to the impact of COVID-19, and COP15, which was scheduled for October 2020 in Kunming, China, was postponed to 2021. Meetings of subsidiary bodies have also been postponed or held online. Within deliberations on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, discussions are underway on enhancing consideration of biodiversity in socioeconomic activities, based on the idea that actions taken in the field of nature conservation alone will not solve problems of biodiversity loss, as pointed out in the IPBES report and GBO5. For example, deliberations include perspectives on reducing burdens on biodiversity in supply chains and promoting sustainable consumption activities. Efforts are also underway to set quantitative targets and to advance discussions on more effective assessment and reporting of each signatory country's state of implementation towards achieving the post-2020 framework.

Global targets set for biodiversity have to date included the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the Aichi Targets, but in both cases we have failed to achieve our targets. In light of this situation, the setting of both ambitious, realistic and effective targets is required.

4 Japan's Contribution

As previously mentioned, the deliberation process on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework began with an Asia-Pacific regional meeting held in Nagoya in January 2019. In September of the same year, an expert workshop was held in Kumamoto, Kumamoto Prefecture, aimed at contributing to the post-2020 framework based on the experiences of the Satoyama Initiative. Likewise, Japan has actively contributed to the deliberation process by providing financial support for the preparation of GBO5.

Japan has also contributed to discussions by voicing constructive opinions to ensure that the ambition level of the new targets does not regress from the Aichi Targets, and that they are easy to understand so that a larger diversity of actors can participate in the implementation of the new framework, considering that it must include socioeconomic elements. In addition, discussions are being held with the Japan Business Federation on how Japanese companies can contribute to achieving the new framework through their technologies. Japan intends to continue to make contributions to ensure that the new framework can create a virtuous cycle between biodiversity and the economy.

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Japan Requests Listing on Appendix III of CITES

In November 2020, for the first time, Japan submitted the request to the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to list six gecko species of the genus *Goniurosaurus* and one newt species of the genus *Echinotriton*, which are endemic to the Amami and Okinawa Islands, on Appendix III of CITES. Inclusion on the Appendix regulates international trade by only allowing trade of listed species upon presentation of certificates of origin, critical in preventing inducement of illegal capture in Japan and smuggling out of Japan.

Goniurosaurus kuroiwae

Echinotriton andersoni

What is CITES?

CITES is an international agreement between governments to prevent species extinction due to excessive international trade through listing of endangered wild plant and animal species in need of protection on Appendices (I-III) according to the trade control measures to be taken, and implementation of regulations on international trade by importing and exporting countries. As of February 2021, 182 countries and the EU are parties to the convention. While proposals by member states on Appendices I and II should be adopted by the Conference of the Parties, which meets every few years, requests on Appendix III can be made at any time and by any Party unilaterally after satisfying conditions for the species' protection under its national legislation. This recent request for inclusion on Appendix III was made to call other parties for prompt cooperation in regulating the trade of national endangered species believed to be affected by trade.

Request for International Cooperation in the Conservation of National Endangered Species

The species requested for inclusion are endemic to Japan and are endangered species whose habitat is limited to the forests of the islands of Okinawa and Kagoshima prefectures. In addition to threats to the survival of these species posed by invasive alien species, these exotic and eye-catching species of geckos and newts are in high demand as pets, with confirmed cases of their sale in overseas markets pointing to the potential threat of capture for sale.

On the Amami and Okinawa Islands, rich in biodiversity and home to numerous endemic species, local stakeholders have been working together to implement measures to prevent poaching of rare species and domestic illegal trade. The capture, domestic trade, and export from Japan of these seven species have been regulated under the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, but to date there have been no regulations on international trade between third countries. Following inclusion on Appendix III, confirmation of country of origin will be required for international trade, making it difficult for specimens smuggled from Japan to flow into international markets, helping to prevent illegal capture in Japan and smuggling out of Japan.

Inclusion in the Appendix took effect on February 14, 2021.

Towards Effective Conservation of our National Endangered Species

Measures to protect endangered plant and animal species include habitat conservation and various other approaches depending on the situation of the species. With regards to species for which capture and collection due to demand for trade are the main reasons of reduction in population, the Government of Japan will continue to make appropriate implementation of CITES and other international frameworks to ensure biodiversity in Japan, and will actively contribute to discussions on the appropriate enforcement of CITES as a Party to the Convention.

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Measures to Prevent the Spread of Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)

Response to the unintentional import of invasive alien species

Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA or *Solenopsis invicta*) were first observed in Japan in 2017, and as of the end of December 2020, there have been 64 instances in 16 prefectures. The government, as a whole, considers this to be a priority issue and will continue its efforts to prevent RIFA from spreading in Japan.

The impacts of RIFA and response policy

The spread of RIFA, on the IUCN's (International Union for Conservation of Nature) "100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species" list, has been reported in nearby countries including Australia, Taiwan and China since 2000s. In 2005, Japan designated RIFA an invasive alien species based on the Invasive Alien Species Act and has since maintained guard against its import. In the United States, in addition to having caused many deaths in the past, RIFA is also known to cause a wide range of harmful impacts such as disruption to daily life when they colonize nearby habitats, damages to crops and livestock on farms, and damage to infrastructure, with annual damages reportedly ranging as high as five billion USD. Accordingly, since RIFA was first observed in Japan in 2017, it has been considered a priority issue for the government as a whole and has been the subject of ministerial meetings and expert councils, with protection measures put in place at ports and airports.

State of response to RIFA

Of the 64 incidences of RIFA in Japan to date, the majority were observed in marine containers or on the ground at ports where containers had been unloaded. It has been observed on multiple occasions at ports that handle large volumes of imported containers, such as the ports of Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya and Osaka, revealing a definite correlation between distribution volume and RIFA infiltration risk.

In places where RIFA is observed, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) works together with relevant local governments, port authorities and businesses to effectively exterminate and monitor the situation following extermination. Likewise, periodic precautionary surveys are carried out at 65 ports and 31 airports around the country in cooperation with facilities administrators of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Tourism. Moreover, MOE has provided guidelines on response methods to local governments, and holds training sessions every year. Additionally, MOE has created a pamphlet, a website and an automated answering service using a chatbot to promote understanding on the impacts of RIFA among the general public. English versions of these materials have been published.

These measures at ports and airports have been effective, and at present no cases of proliferation in residential areas away from port areas have been confirmed, indicating that the domestic spread of RIFA has been prevented.

Chatbot

Dealing with the unintentional infiltration of invasive alien species

From the perspective of stopping infiltration at the source, discussions with experts are taking place on simple methods of cleaning containers. A constituent of wasabi and some household disinfectants are known to have a certain degree of effectiveness. In this globalizing world, there is an increasing risk of unintentional imports of invasive alien species, and there are limits to responses by individual countries. Japan sees this issue as important in the Post-2020 Framework, and would like to seek increasing international cooperation.

Information on Red Imported Fire Ant
https://www.env.go.jp/nature/intro/2outline/attention/02_general/index_en.html

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Ten Years After the Great East Japan Earthquake

Environmental Remediation and Regeneration Initiatives in Affected Areas

March 11, 2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has been advancing environmental restoration efforts to quickly reduce the impacts of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station of Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO), including decontamination, interim storage and treatment of contaminated waste.

Minister KOIZUMI with members of "Okuma-Futaba Environmental Town Planning Meeting"

Environmental Regeneration Initiatives

Decontamination is the process of removing radioactive materials from residential areas in order to reduce radiation exposure. A decontamination process has been carried out following formulated plans in 100 cities, towns, and villages in eight prefectures, with all the decontamination completed by March 2018. As a result, the air dose rate has been significantly reduced compared to the early days of the decontamination efforts. Moreover, as decontamination progresses, most evacuation orders have been lifted. At present, decontamination and demolition of houses and other buildings are underway in areas designated as Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases (SRRB) within the Difficult-to-Return zone, aiming for evacuation orders to be lifted sometime between spring of 2022 and spring of 2023.

In Fukushima Prefecture, decontamination has generated a large amount of soil and waste contaminated by radioactive materials, bringing about the need for the facility to provide safe and intensive management and storage of these soils during the period before their final disposal. MOE has built an Interim Storage Facility surrounding the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (NPS) and has been transporting and storing soils there. In terms of land acquisition, contracts have been signed for more than 70% of the total 1,600 hectares. Also among the approximately 14 million cubic meters, roughly 10 million cubic meters have been transported (as of December 2020). The transportation process to this Interim Storage Facility is expected to be completed by March 2022 (except for the soils generated from Difficult-to-Return Zone).

Soils stored at the Interim Storage Facility must undergo final disposal outside of Fukushima Prefecture within 30 years of commencement of storage (by 2045). Reducing the volume of the massive amount of stored soils is key to its final disposal outside the prefecture. MOE is working on the development of technologies for volume reduction treatment and recycling of soil. In a demonstration project on recycling in the Nagadoro Borough of Iitate Village, farmland has been created and test cultivation of crops is ongoing. Measurements of radioactivity levels of crops grown on a trial basis this year ranged from 0.1 to 2.3 Bq/kg, a figure well below the standard for general foods (100 Bq/kg).

Volume Reduction and Recycle of Nagadoro Borough, Iitate Village

The accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS has also generated a large amount of waste

contaminated by radioactive materials. In the Countermeasure Area, which covers 11 cities, towns, and villages in Fukushima Prefecture, the government is moving forward on the disposal of disaster waste. The volume that has been transported in Temporary Storage Sites has reached approximately 2.93 million tons (as of the end of December 2020). Waste contaminated by radioactive materials exceeding a threshold of concentration (8,000 Bq/kg) has been designated by MOE, and efforts are being made to dispose of this waste both inside and outside of Fukushima Prefecture according to actual situations faced in each prefecture.

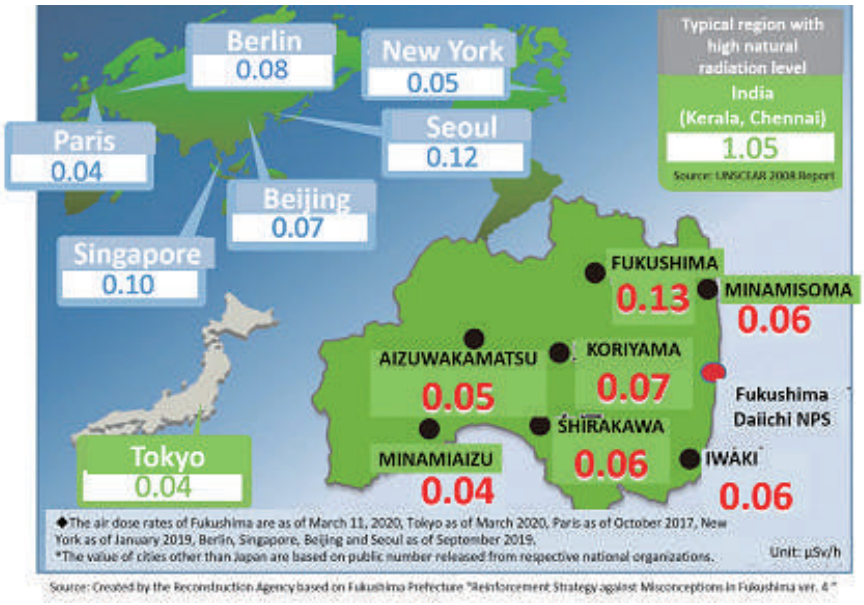
Fukushima Regeneration/ Future-Oriented Project

In addition to environmental restoration initiatives, a cooperation agreement with Fukushima Prefecture has been signed on the promotion of future-oriented environmental measures for the reconstruction of Fukushima, in preparation for the next stage of the reconstruction. Efforts are being continued in the reconstruction of disaster-affected areas from an environmental perspective. As part of this project, an "Environmental Town Planning Meeting" was held with Okuma and Futaba Towns. Discussions on community building were held with young people who have connections to both towns, with "environment" and "sustainability" as keywords.

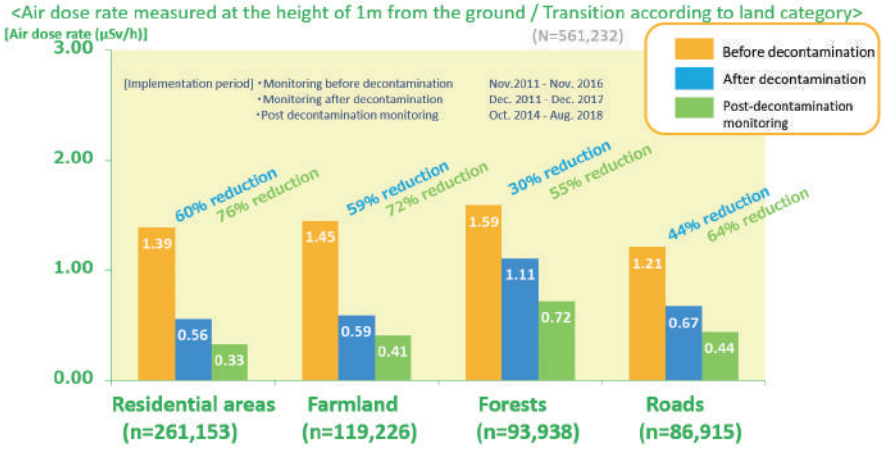
Currently, radiation levels in Fukushima Prefecture have dropped significantly over time since the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS, reaching levels that are no different from major cities in Japan and overseas. MOE will continue to work towards the recovery of areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Environmental Remediation
http://josen.env.go.jp/en/

Aerial view of the Interim Storage Facility



Air dose rates of Fukushima and major cities of the world



Air dose rates measured at the height of 1m above the ground / Transition according to land categories

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Initiatives to Promote ESG Finance

ESG (environmental, social, and governance) Finance, which is closely related to changes in social structures, continues to expand worldwide. In recent years in Japan, institutional investors, financial institutions, and private companies are advancing initiatives to spread decarbonization in corporate management and encourage information disclosure. This section introduces the promotion of ESG Finance with a particular focus on E (environment).

Promotion of dialogue on the commitment by the finance sector to ESG, and ESG information disclosure

While ESG investment has been expanding faster in Japan than in major European countries and the United States, signing the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), an international ESG investment initiative, and the Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) requires setting targets for investment and lending policies, and assessing the status of initiatives based on global standards. As the related workload and coordination costs have become bottlenecks, in FY2020, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has provided support to encourage the signing of these frameworks. With regard to the promotion of information disclosures, MOE continues to improve "the Practical guide for Scenario Analysis in line with TCFD recommendations," and has supported scenario analyses targeting financial institutions.

Implementing ESG Regional Finance to support solutions to regional issues

With Japan's wide range of industries, its financial structure is based mainly on indirect financing.

ESG Finance High-Level Panel

Regional financial institutions, such as regional banks and credit unions, supply funds to small and medium-sized enterprises. Thus, ESG initiatives taken by these institutions have become important. In FY2019, MOE conducted a project to establish a process to assess business feasibility and to take into account ESG factors by forming green projects geared to regional characteristics. As a summary of this project, MOE developed and updated the "ESG Regional Finance Practical Guide".

Expansion of investment and loans targeting positive impacts

To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, private funds must be shifted to decarbonization projects. Thus to expand the green bond market, MOE will continue to subsidize the costs of external reviews and support for framework development, which arise in addition to the standard price of bond issuance. The "Green Bond Guidelines "was revised at the end of FY2019, and the "Green Loan and Sustainability-Linked Loan Guidelines" were formulated to enhance the framework of the green finance market in light of global trends. In ESG Finance, it is essential that the environmental and social benefits of investments and loans are measured and maximized. It is necessary to develop concepts and evaluation methods to impact them positively. Deliberations on this issue are underway in the Positive Impact Finance Task Force mentioned below.

Toward the development of ESG Finance

To further develop ESG Finance, it is essential to share good examples of ESG Finance initiatives and maintain ongoing discussions among the various actors involved. MOE will continue the ESG Finance Awards Japan, the first ministerial award in this field, and will periodically convene the ESG Finance High-Level Panel, a gathering of top executives in the finance industry, as a forum for raising awareness and action on ESG Finance. We will share and follow up on the latest initiatives in ESG Finance and disseminate this information both domestically and internationally. At the third meeting of the ESG Finance High-Level Panel held in October 2020, the Positive Impact Finance Task Force and the ESG Regional Finance Task Force, established under the Panel, reported on the "Basic Concept of Impact Finance" and the compilation of a "Common Vision" outline for the expansion of ESG Regional Finance. Both task forces continue to work on the compilation of the "Green Impact Assessment Guide" (tentative title) and the text of the "Common Vision," with plans to present the final report to the Panel's next meeting.

MOE will continue to promote various initiatives to realize the goal of becoming a leading nation in ESG finance.

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Global Environmental Action (GEA) International Conference 2020

The Global Environmental Action (GEA) International Conference 2020 was held on December 14-15, 2020, where discussions took place with the title "Integration of the Environment and Economy: *Towards a Virtuous Cycle of Environment and Growth.*"

Global Environmental Action (GEA)

The GEA is an NGO founded by former Prime Minister TAKESHITA Noboru, with members including influential figures, non-partisan Diet members, the business community, and academic societies, who were instrumental in organizing the International Eminent Persons' Meeting on Financing Global Environment prior to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development.

The GEA holds international conferences inviting domestic and foreign companies, international organizations, researchers, governments, and leaders from various fields to participate. The 14th conference was held on December 14-15, 2020, rescheduled from the original dates in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of the Environment co-organized the conference with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

GEA International Conference 2020

At the opening ceremony, which was attended by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, GEA Chairman TAKESHITA Wataru delivered the opening speech, followed by an address by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, a guest speech by Prime Minister SUGA, a video message by UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen, and a commemorative speech by Asahi Kasei Honorary Fellow, YOSHINO Akira (2019 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry).

Over the two-day event, the following discussions took place.

Session 1: Implementing the SDGs and the Paris Agreement and Moving towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The need for redesigning socio-economic systems, including decarbonization, strong green stimulus, and the expansion of synergies among the SDGs, climate goals, and biodiversity targets, in the context of the recovery process from the global COVID-19 pandemic, was discussed.

Session 2: Innovations for Renewable Energy Diffusion

Discussions were held on the importance of systemic innovations to expand the utilization of renewable energy, as well as on other issues above and beyond the topic such as CO2 capture, utilization and storage (CCUS).

Session 3: Climate Change Adaptation and Water

The need for scientific knowledge and predictions on climate risks, promotion of effective and climate-conscious disaster management, and international cooperation were discussed.

Opening Speech by Mr. TAKESHITA, Chairman of GEA

Session 4: Promotion of Circular Economy and Countermeasures for Marine Plastic Litter

Policy development based on the circular economy concept in Japan and overseas, solutions for marine plastics, and the importance of international collaboration were discussed.

Session 5: Strategic Initiatives for Achieving SDGs

Methods of localizing the SDGs and the roles of stakeholders such as local governments, businesses and the financial sector were discussed.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, this conference was held under considerable constraints such as the limited number of participants and the first attempt of online participation from overseas. Nevertheless, intense discussions took place at the venue provided opportunities to deepen understanding on a virtuous cycle of environment and growth towards which to strive.

Global Environmental Action (GEA)
http://www.gea.or.jp/en/index.html

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VOICE OF MOE FAMILY IN THE WORLD

Battle for Blue Skies

Analysis by MALDI-TOFMS

In January 2013, severe air pollution affected an area of 1.4 million km^2 in the centre of Beijing, China. Since then, air pollution countermeasures have been implemented. As a result, the concentration of SO_2 in the air has significantly dropped in recent years, and although NOx and $PM_{2.5}$ levels were also reduced, O_3 levels have yet to be effectively controlled.

Project for Environment Friendly Society Building

Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection, an affiliated organization of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, established with grant assistance from Japan, has been implementing a Japan International Cooperation Agency

Pacific Climate Change Centre

The PCCC located next to SPREP. Solar panels on the PCCC provide 20% of its electrical needs.

Climate change is the *single greatest threat* facing the Pacific. Leaders have committed to promoting national and regional initiatives and have called for urgent and ambitious actions by the international community. To respond to these commitments, the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) started its operation in 2019. The Government of Japan supports its construction and capacity building program at the PCCC.

Projection of climate change in the South Pacific suggests continuing sea level rise and increasing intensity of tropical cyclones. Last year Category 5 tropical cyclone Harold passed through and made landfall in four Pacific counties amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and caused huge livelihood and economic losses.

From Japan to the World, From the World to Japan

Vienna International Centre, home to the IAEA

March 2021 marked ten years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Although many issues remain in work on off-site decontamination, significant achievements have been made, including the completion of full-scale decontamination other than the Difficult-to-Return Zones.

Sharing Japan's experience with the world

Japan's decontamination work is unlike anything the world has seen before, making it essential to share the experiences and lessons learned with other countries worldwide.

In July 2019, I became the first employee of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to be seconded to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and am currently in charge of reflecting practices gained from decontamination projects

(JICA) technical cooperation project since 1992, which entered its final phase (Phase 5) in April 2016. This final phase involves the "Project for Environment Friendly Society Building" (scheduled for completion at the end of 2021).

Currently, the "Battle for Blue Skies" is underway in China to prevent and control air pollution to regain blue skies. In one of the sub-projects on air pollution control, we have acquired methods for analysis of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and formulating VOCs emissions inventories, and published a textbook that introduces Japan's experience.

In addition, a joint research system was established between the National Research Center for Environmental Analysis and Measurement, Tsinghua University, and Japanese experts for elucidation of the components organic carbon (OC) in $PM_{2.5}$. We are analyzing samples of air pollutants collected by Tsinghua University using a mass spectrometer (MALDI-TOFMS) provided by JICA. Some of the research results have already been published as papers, and further research is expected to clarify sources and generation mechanisms of $PM_{2.5}$.

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The PCCC is expected to play an important role in enhancing resilience and low-carbon development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). Through its four functions, which are knowledge brokerage, applied research, training and learning, and innovation, the PCCC will support regional efforts to tackle climate change.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented partners and stakeholders from traveling and meeting in person, activities have continued by changing ways of executing initiatives and delivering services. The regional training programs to strengthen the resilience of the Pacific region, implemented with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from July 2019, have shifted to a virtual platform. An e-learning platform is under development and is expected to increase training opportunities for practitioners in the region.

Partnership is key to the successful implementation of activities of the PCCC. Collaboration among a broad range of partners, including countries and territories, as well as regional and international organizations, NGOs and the private sector, should bring about innovative and tangible activities and outcomes to address climate change and enhance resilience.

Reference URL
Pacific Climate Change Centre | Pacific Environment (sprep.org)
Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Action Now – Forum Sec

OGAWA Masako
JICA Expert (Chief Advisor),
The Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific

onto IAEA Safety Standards and compiling the results of discussions between MOE and IAEA.

Sharing the world's experiences with Japan

There are many cases worldwide of radioactive contamination other than nuclear power plant accidents, such as those caused by nuclear testing, as well as contamination caused by natural radioactive materials contained in the by-products of mining of mineral resources. One of my assignment's primary objectives is to share many of these experiences with Japan and use them to address the issues.

Sharing with future generations

As ten years have passed since the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, the current generation of Japanese primary school-aged children and younger have little or no personal experience with the disaster. Even as reconstruction in affected areas moves forward, the importance of passing on these experiences and lessons to future generations only increases with time. I believe that cooperation between IAEA and MOE will become more critical.

IAEA URL https://www.iaea.org

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Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park

A Formidable Volcanic Mountain Range Connecting the Islands of the Pacific to the Spectacular Mt. Fuji

The Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park offers volcanic natural landscapes and an array of diverse scenery forged by human culture. The park is composed of four distinctive areas: the Mt. Fuji Area, the Hakone Area, the Izu Peninsula Area, and the Izu Islands Area.

Overview of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park

The Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park stands as a symbol of the volcanic country that Japan is, featuring Mt. Fuji at its northern end, and a variety of volcanic landforms such as hot springs, ever-changing coastlines, and islands. The park is divided into four areas, including the Mt. Fuji Area, with lakes and plateaus surrounding the iconic peak, and the Hakone Area, once home to a post town on the Tokaido Road that has long prospered as a hot spring spa. Also, the Izu Peninsula Area offers the Amagi Mountain Range, a highly-varied coastline and hot springs, and the Izu Islands Area encompasses the park's many islands, including the volcanically active islands of Oshima and Miyakejima. Spectacular views of Mt. Fuji available throughout the park, as well as its proximity to the Tokyo metropolitan area, have made it the most visited national park in Japan.

The Four Areas of the Park

In the Mt. Fuji Area, visitors can see a typical vertical distribution of vegetation varying with the altitude and the effects of lava. Flows of lava from Mt. Fuji created a rich variety of natural formations at its skirts, including the Fuji Five Lakes, the vast Aokigahara Forest, wind and ice caves, and lava tree molds. Mt. Fuji was registered as a World Cultural Heritage site in 2013 in recognition of its value as a place of worship and a source of art. The Hakone Area has had visitors coming and going since ancient times as a post town on the old Tokaido Road. The area, which boasts superior sceneries and abundant hot springs, including Lake Ashi, the Sengokuhara Wetland, and Owakudani, where fumarole phenomena can be seen and smelt, has welcomed many visitors from overseas in recent years. The Izu landmass became a peninsula when islands and submarine volcanoes of the Southern Ocean moved northward on the Philippine Sea Plate and collided with Honshu. The area was designated a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2018 for its highly-varied coastline, gently-sloping Amagi Mountain Range, and other geological features. The Izu Islands Area is an archipelago stretching southward into the Pacific Ocean for about 120 to 290 kilometers from Tokyo. Each island has its own unique natural scenery, including an array of volcanic landforms made of both old and new lava, beautiful contrasts of different shades of sand and blue sea, and unique flora and fauna nurtured by volcanoes eruptions and the warm Kuroshio Current.


Shiraito Falls


Mr. Fuji from the view point at the top of Mt. Mihara on Oshima Island

Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park
https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/nps/park/fujihakone/index.html

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