

# The Launch of “Sato-Navi” and Mini-Symposium & Training Workshop

Satochi-satoyama areas account for about 40% of the country. They are considered important areas as native habitats of indigenous living things, as well as in forming ecosystem networks.

They also have important roles in terms of water conservation, landscape and culture, etc.

However, biodiversity of “satochi-satoyama” is decreasing both in quality and quantity due to overgrowing bamboo and bamboo grass and so forth caused by reduced human approaches to nature, with the change in society such as depopulation and aging. This problem is listed as one of the three crises in the *“Third National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan”* (H19.11.27)

The ministry of the environment is launching “sato-navi” and organizing mini-symposiums & training workshops with a view to providing various information so that the baby boom generation living in cities can easily participate in NPO activities and volunteer work, and receive expert advice and training.

## 1. “Sato-Navi”

“Sato-navi” provides people living in satochi-satoyama areas, conservation groups and volunteer candidates living in cities with useful information on the web. The information to be provided includes:

### 1) Information for volunteer candidates

1. Providing information on conservation groups for “satochi-satoyama” throughout the nation
2. Organizing training workshops for activity beginners etc.

### 2) Information for people living in satochi-satoyama areas and conservation groups

1. Providing information on experts in making conservation plans, and of specific technologies for conservation of “satochi-satoyama”
2. Organizing training workshops etc.

[HP address] <http://www.satonavi.go.jp>

(Scheduled to be launched on January 22, 2008)

## 2. Mini-Symposium & Training Workshop

The Ministry of the Environment is organizing lectures and training workshops for practical plan-making for conservation/restoration of “satochi-satoyama” and for improving work skills, both provided by experts. They will be held at ten locations throughout the nation from January to March, 2008 for leaders of conservation groups and volunteer candidates. The locations are Hokkaido, Yamagata, Kanagawa, Nagano, Aichi, Mie, Ishikawa, Shimane, Kochi and Kumamoto prefectures.

## 3. Contact

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