

Draft

HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE

Window on COP10: Biodiversity in Japan's *Satoyama* and *Satoumi* (Traditional Rural Landscapes)

Wednesday, 28 May 2008, 18:15 - 19:45 hours

Venue: Saal Reger, Maritim

Organised by: United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan

Cooperated by: Forest Culture Association

Background and Agenda:

Human interaction is central to the management of the ecosystems in *satoyama* and *satoumi* where several types of ecosystems—secondary forests, agricultural lands, irrigation ponds, and grasslands, tidelands and sandy beaches—along with human settlements have historically coexisted in Japan. Those landscapes are a heritage that our predecessors have created and maintained with their wisdom and passed on to the present. However, they are being lost or degraded due to a combination of various factors including the change in energy source, the increased rural-urban migration, an aging workforce, and the abandonment of cultivation.

The Sub-global Assessment in Japan is the ecosystem assessment on *satoyama* and *satoumi*, which applies the framework of the sub-global assessments developed by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA). The assessment process is based around user needs and led by the engagement of various users including policy makers, business and industries, research and academic institutes, and civil society. This initiative is the first integrated assessment in Japan where social, cultural, economic and ecological aspects will be considered, and among which biodiversity is a key component to be focused on. The outcome of the assessment is expected for use in enhancing the local and national policies, improving the investment-related decisions and the risk management and enhancing civil society efforts to promote sustainable development, among other.

In particular, it aims to provide inputs into the Tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-10) that Japan plans to host in 2010. Furthermore, it is intended to feed into the MA follow-up, where UNU-IAS is hosting the Secretariat for the SGAs around the world in cooperation with some of the MA partners including United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

This side event will introduce the assessment initiative in Japan, which intends to respond to some key questions; to what extent humans should intervene in the environment; how are the links between biodiversity and human well-being; and how to reduce negative trade-offs and provide synergies. The panelists will outline the concepts and approaches innovated through the sub-global assessment, with the emphasis on their contributions to the national biodiversity strategy and local strategies and planning on biodiversity.

Programme:

- 18:15 –19:30 *Opening and Introduction to Sub-global Assessment of Satoyama and Satoumi in Japan*
UNU-IAS
Ecosystem Assessment, National & Local Strategies, and CBD
Secretariat of CBD
National Biodiversity Strategy in Japan
Ministry of the Environment
The Role of City Government in Ecosystem Management
Nagoya City
Historical Values and Current Initiatives on Satoyama and Satoumi in Ishikawa Prefecture
Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan
National Strategy and Satoyama Initiative in Japan
Ministry of the Environment
Civil Society and Ecosystems
Nagoya City
- 19:30-19:45 Q & A and Discussion