

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Ryu Matsumoto, Japan's Minister of the Environment**  
**At a panel session of the high-level meeting**  
**as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity**  
**22 September 2010, New York**

Mr. President of the General Assembly, Joseph Deiss, Mr. United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, Excellencies, distinguished representatives, and ladies and gentlemen,

All living things on the Earth exist in a natural environment endowed with biodiversity. We, as human beings, have always existed with nature. In such a remarkable year as the International Year of Biodiversity, IYB, Japan would like to fulfill our responsibilities as the president of CBD-COP10, in order to achieve "Living in harmony with nature,"

Mr. President,

Allow me to mention some major issues at COP10.

Based on the assessment that the 2010 biodiversity target has not been achieved, the participants shall agree to ambitious but realistic targets for post 2010 period, and then we shall move into a phase of action in a timely manner.

As for ABS, we must devise a flexible and practical scheme, and then, we must use the allocated benefits to conserve biodiversity in provider countries of the genetic resources.

Moreover, we will propose the *Satoyama* Initiative at COP10, as a new international effort for the conservation and sustainable use of human-influenced natural environments formed through human activities.

Mr. President,

on September 3rd, the ministers of countries who have held or will hold the presidency of the CBD COPs have met in Geneva. There, they could share the recognition that all countries should make efforts toward agreement on the major issues at COP10. Japan, as the president of COP10, has been encouraged by these positive developments.

At the end of this year, the closing event of the IYB will also be held in Japan.

We shall carry the success of COP10 to the Rio plus 20 meeting to be held in 2012, to the target year of 2015 for the Millennium Development Goals, and then to the year of 2020.

I look forward to meeting you all again in Aichi-Nagoya.

Thank you very much.