

Steps Taken by Japan toward Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

Japan signed the Protocol on 11th May 2011. Since then, a working group comprised of the relevant ministries has been studying domestic measures necessary for ratification and implementation of the Protocol and also suitable for social, economical and ecological background of Japan. The study has been led by the Ministry of the Environment (MoE).

In parallel with the study of the working group, MoE organised last year some informal meetings of ABS experts and key persons from industry and academia in order to exchange views on expectations to and concerns arose from the Protocol and future domestic measures, and to collect information on examples of ABS related measures taken by the industry and academia. MoE also conducted some individual interviews with relevant companies, researchers, ABS experts and NGOs. Same kinds of interviews or informal consultations have also been conducted by some other ministries such as the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Information collected so far has been used as a basis of the study of the working group.

In addition, MoE has a plan to organise this year a consultative committee in order to be advised on major issues relevant to the domestic measures such as the coverage of the concept of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, measures to comply with legislation or regulatory requirements of provider countries, measures for awareness raising, and measures to address the impacts on industrial activities and academic researches. The committee would be comprised of the invited experts and key persons of the informal meetings and other experts, stakeholders and NGO, and scheduled to be open to the public.