

Second Global Private Donor Forum

The Second Edition of the Global Private Donor Forum took place this past October 26th, 2010 at the margins of the tenth Conference of Parties (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan. Preceding the Ministerial High Level Segment, the Private Donor Forum gathered prominent figures from diverse sectors, including business, private foundations and the international political platform and highlighted the message of the Third Global Biodiversity Outlook publication of the CBD, that the five main global drivers of biodiversity loss – habitat loss, the unsustainable use and overexploitation of resources, climate change, and the spread of invasive alien species, and pollution – have not only remained more or less constant over the last decade, but are in some cases intensifying. Irreversible degradation may take place if ecosystems are pushed beyond certain tipping points, leading to widespread loss of ecosystem services that we depend on.

The meeting's opening was graced with the presence of actor Harrison Ford and welcoming remarks were made by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif. "Companies also depend on biodiversity and its loss represents a very real business risk. As users and beneficiaries of biodiversity, businesses have an integral role to play in its preservation and management" stated Mr. Djoghlaif.



Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD and Doug Tompkins, President of Foundation for Deep Ecology

Held with the participation of Mr. Douglas Tompkins, President of Foundation for Deep Ecology and Chair of the First Global Private Donor Forum, and Mr. Takuya Okada, Chairman of AEON Environmental Foundation, the forum called upon its participants to move forward towards private financial commitment for biodiversity conservation.

In his presentation, Mr. Tompkins stated, "The private sector, especially the mega-rich who have ostensibly become mega-rich through some form of natural resources exploitation, need to pay their rent for living on the planet. What better way that privately supported conservation? Plus, they get to decide in what areas and how they will support biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, there will be no rich people either on a dead planet".

In an effort to demonstrate commitment and outreach towards global conservation of biodiversity, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of the participants of the forum, between AEON Environmental Foundation and the Convention on Biological Diversity. "Today, the preservation



Takuya Okada, Chairman of AEON Environmental Foundation with Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD during the signing of the MoU between both institutions

of global warming and conservation of biodiversity are recognized as two challenging issues at the global level... the AEON Environmental Foundation intends to make further contributions to save our beautiful and irreplaceable planet for future generations” reinforced Mr. Okada, Chairman of AEON Environmental Foundation.

Followed by a reception that included the CBD award presentation to Airbus for the company’s use of its global reach to help educate young people worldwide about the importance of biodiversity, and the presentation of the video *Discovery Project Earth* by James Gibbons, President of Discovery

Channel Japan, the Private Donor Forum successfully concluded its second edition, carrying on the tradition of exchange between private, public and international stakeholders that began in 2009 in Berlin with the First Global Donor Forum.
