

Opening Remarks by State Minister Kiuchi at the Regional Consultation Workshop on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Asia and the Pacific

【Introduction】

- Thank you for your kind introduction. I am Minoru Kiuchi, State Minister for the Environment, Japan. I would like to say a few words on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the host country of this workshop.
- First, I would like to offer my heartfelt welcome to all the participants in the workshop, from the Asia-Pacific region, from relevant international organizations, NGOs (non-governmental organizations), and IPLCs (indigenous peoples and local communities), to Mr. Basile van Havre and Mr. Francis Meri Sabino Ogwal, the co-chairs of the OEWG (Open-Ended Working Group), and to all the other staff members of the CBD Secretariat who put in all of the hard work to prepare this workshop. Welcome to Japan, all of you.
- Around eight years ago, in October 2010, the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) was held in this venue, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were adopted. To host the first workshop for deliberation on the next framework in this place is our responsibility as COP10 president and also a great honour.
- Once again, discussions must start here to create a new framework through which we will pass our mother earth on to future generations by building on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and by taking to heart the lessons that we have learned in implementing them.
- At the opening ceremony of COP10, Mr. Ryu Matsumoto, the then Minister of the Environment who chaired the conference, sent this message to the world: “In order to hand down nature, or life on earth, with which we are entrusted by our children, to future generations, let us look back at the relationship between human beings and nature thus far, consolidate this wisdom and take concerted actions in the international community”.
- I would like to call on you once again. At this workshop, let us bring together wisdom from across the Asia-Pacific region so that we can establish what we should do over the next 10 years in order to realize a world in which we can “live in harmony with nature,” a vision to be achieved by 2050.

【Effective Implementation of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework】

- The Global Biodiversity Framework must both represent an ideal vision of what the future of

biodiversity and our society should be like, and be achieved.

- The Aichi Biodiversity Targets comprehensively cover effective and urgent actions necessary to halt the loss of biodiversity. In the present situation, where further actions are necessary in order to live harmoniously with nature, I believe that the scope of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets can be used as the basis for the next framework. I also believe that in order to enhance the practical impact of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, it is necessary to develop an effective review system.
- Also, what is most important of all is that the contents of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework are widely understood and that they are turned into action. That is the mainstreaming of the framework is important. To that end, it is essential to make the structure and contents of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework easy to understand not only for people in the field of biodiversity but also for the general public.

【Key Elements of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework】

- Regarding the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, I believe that ideas like the SDGs that deal with multiple social challenges, including those in the economic and social fields, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity in facing those challenges, are particularly important. Japan is placing emphasis on the following three elements in its biodiversity activities.
 - The first element is the “Satoyama Initiative,” which deals with such challenges as improving local residents’ quality of life through sustainable use of natural resources based on biodiversity-conscious land utilization.
 - The second element is the “Ecosystem-based Approach,” which prevents, mitigates and adapts to natural disasters and climate change by simultaneously conserving and utilizing ecosystems.
 - The third element is placing importance on biodiversity in the procurement of raw materials by integrating biodiversity consciousness into supply chains.
- Japan intends to contribute to the discussion on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework from these perspectives.

【Conclusion】

- Finally, I hope that a shared understanding of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be cultivated through the discussions at this four-day workshop and that once again, this place will be the starting point of a new global framework.

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Thank you for your kind attention.