



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



COMMUNIQUÉ

Asia and Pacific leads in preparing for 2010 Nagoya Biodiversity Summit

Nagoya (Japan) 13 September 2008 - The Sixteenth Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific, *ECO Asia 2008* convened in Nagoya, Japan focused on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

Since its establishment in 1991, the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific has evolved into an influential regional mechanism for discussing rapidly increasing cross-boundary environmental problems in the region. The Japanese Ministry of Environment has ably hosted the Congress since its inception as an instrument to catalyze the implementation of the Rio Summit decisions.

The sixteenth session of the Environment Congress held on 13th September 2008 chose biodiversity as its theme for the first time to encourage more than 30 countries of the Asia-Pacific region in preparing for the 10th session of the Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10).

Eleven countries and 16 international organizations participated in the ECO Asia to consider 18 key issues that would be critical in determining the success of COP 10 in Nagoya in 2010.

A meeting with the COP10 promotion committee of Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture was also convened with the participation of H.E. Dr Testuo Saito, the Minister of the Environment of Japan and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The meeting coincided with the signing ceremony for *Countdown 2010* by the Minister and the Mayor of Nagoya. "A successful COP 10" was one of the three commitments contained in the signed declaration.

"It is very heartening to see Japan, as the host country for COP 10, to bring together the important region of Asia and the Pacific for collectively preparing for the 2010 Biodiversity Summit," remarked Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD while requesting other regional environmental forums to follow this example by including the preparation of COP 10 and the 2010 celebration of the International Year on Biodiversity in the agenda of their future meetings.

In his contribution to the special issue of the CBD magazine *GINCANA* prepared for the Bonn meeting, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda stated that Japan is determined, in Asia and in the international community, to actively contribute to such activities and make further efforts toward the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as a potential host of COP 10.

"The convening in Nagoya, Aichi prefecture in June this year of the kick off seminar for COP 10 as well as the results of ECO Asia 2008 are clear demonstration of this commitment by the government of the people of Japan," stated Dr Ahmed Djoghlaif.

A summary of The 16th Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific is available [here](#).



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