



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



COMMUNIQUÉ

VISIT TO THE SECRETARIAT OF A DELEGATION FROM ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE, JAPAN

Montreal 17 December 2008 – A high-level delegation from Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan visited the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 16 December 2008 to discuss preparations for the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, including closing celebrations in Ishikawa on 22 December 2010.

The delegation comprised: Mr. Koji Tawara, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Department; Mr. Takaaki Utsumi, Director of the Environment Policy Division, Environment Department; Ms. Anne McDonald, Director of the Ishikawa/Kanazawa Operating Unit of the Institute of Advanced Studies of the United Nations University (IAS/UNU) and Mr. Shota Sakajiri, Chief Planning Officer of the Regional Development Division, Planning and Development Department.

A presentation was made by Ms. McDonald on *Satoyama*, a centuries-old system of sustainable landscape management in Japan, which is akin to the ecosystem approach under the Convention on Biological Diversity and represents a harmonious relationship between nature and human culture. Based on sustainable, small-scale agricultural and forest production, and sound soil and water management, the ecology and biodiversity of the landscape is maintained as a foundation for human and social well-being. *Satoyama* is the focus of the subglobal assessments now under way in Japan as a follow-up and continuation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Ms. McDonald also touched on *Satoumi*, a similar approach to the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment.

Ms. McDonald emphasized that the global concerns expressed at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in May this year, translated into action within local communities in Japan towards bridging the gap between researchers and policy makers for continuous dialogue towards the achievement of the 2010 targets and beyond.

This can be seen through actions taken by Governor Masanori Tanimoto of Ishikawa Prefecture who, motivated by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties returned to Ishikawa and mobilized the environment, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and development communities to start developing a biodiversity plan for Ishikawa prefecture, which will be presented at the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. The development of biodiversity plans at the local level are being encouraged by the Japanese authorities as the host of that meeting.



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