



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



COMMUNIQUÉ

Director of the Biodiversity and Policy Division, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, visits the Secretariat

Montreal, 27 March 2009 – Following the convening of the Inter-Ministerial Committee and the regional preparatory committee on the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Tsunao Watanabe, Director of the Biodiversity and Policy Division of the Japanese Ministry of the Environment (MOE) paid a visit to the Secretariat of the Convention on 26-27 March 2009.

The two-day visit, held just days before the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in Paris, was an opportunity for the Secretariat and the Government of Japan to exchange views on the major challenges facing the preparations for fifth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (MOP-5) and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP-10), to be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in 2010. This major event will coincide with the review of progress achieved in the implementation of the Johannesburg biodiversity target aimed at reducing substantially the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and the adoption of the post-2010 biodiversity target. An international regime on access and benefit-sharing will be also adopted in Nagoya. The meeting will be preceded in September 2010 by a high-level meeting during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly to be convened at the level of heads of State and Government to celebrate 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity.

“I am extremely impressed by what I have learned today on the preparation on the Nagoya biodiversity meetings and I am extremely impressed by the leadership of Japan as host of one of the most crucial meetings facing the biodiversity family,” said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention.

The meetings between Mr. Watanabe and Secretariat staff was also an opportunity to exchange views on how to engage all Japanese stakeholders for Nagoya biodiversity meetings, including youth, the private-sector/business communities, the scientific community, women and non-governmental organizations.

Following the meetings, Mr. Watanabe said, “My visit to Montreal has provided me with the opportunity to exchange views with the secretariat on how best we can together meet the challenges facing the preparation of the COP-10 and MOP-5,”

Ministry of the Environment (MOE)

The Japanese Ministry of the Environment is the leading agency of the implementation of the Convention in Japan. Most importantly, MOE is the Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Preparations in the host Government for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties are coordinated by the close cooperation between MOE and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Biodiversity and Policy Division

The Biodiversity and Policy Division is the focal point for CBD-related issues in the Ministry. (*Global Biodiversity Strategy Office* under Biodiversity and Policy Division is actually the focal point of CBD in the Ministry). The Division’s work includes developing/reviewing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national-level assessment of 2010 target, public awareness projects on biodiversity (including the International Day for Biological Diversity, the International Year of Biodiversity, and *The Green Wave* initiative, involvement of private sector, the SATOYAMA Initiative, and coral-reef conservation.

