



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DISCUSSES PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES WITH ALL JAPANESE STAKEHOLDERS

**Montreal, 26 May 2009.** Japan organized a major celebration on the International Day for Biological Diversity, joined by Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, who was on an official visit to Japan from 21 to 26 May 2009 at the invitation of the Japanese Ministry of the Environment. The event included the launch of a movement as part of *The Green Wave* initiative in Japan with the participation of some 50 schools.

#### *Meeting the Japanese Government officials*

During his visit, the Executive Secretary had a meeting with Mr. Tetsuo Saito the Minister of the Environment of Japan, the Vice-Minister Mr. Yoshino Masayoshi, as well as Mr. Daizaburo Kuroda the Director General of Nature Conservation Bureau and other directors in the Ministry of the Environment.

The Executive Secretary also had a meeting with Ms Kuniko Ozaki, the newly appointed Ambassador for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama, the Director General for Global Issues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During these meetings, the preparation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was discussed as well the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, including high-level meeting to be held in conjunction with the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly and the closing ceremony for the Year, to be held in December 2010 in Ishikawa Prefecture. With respect to the latter event, the Executive Secretary visited Ishikawa Prefecture and had discussions with Governor Tanimoto. The preparation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Nagoya City Summit on Biodiversity were also discussed with Mr. Takashi Kawamura, the newly elected Mayor of Nagoya.

Mr. Kuroda, the Director General of Nature Conservation stated: "It was a wonderful opportunity for me to have a series of meetings and discussions with the Executive Secretary on major agendas and issues concerning the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which is just some five hundred days away. I promised him that Japan will make every effort for success of the meeting in close cooperation with the Convention Secretariat. We also had very productive discussion on the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity. We had a great honour to have the Executive Secretary to our celebration for International Biodiversity Day and the "one-year birthday" of *The Green Wave* in Japan."

Mr. Djoghla concluded his visit in Japan by stating: "I am extremely impressed by the engagement of all stakeholders without any exception of the Japanese society for the success of the Nagoya biodiversity Summit and I have no doubt that the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be a watershed event in the life of the Convention, and Nagoya City will enter in 2010 in the history of the biodiversity movement like its sister city of Kyoto did in 1997 for the climate change movement."

#### *Involving civil society*

The preparation of the Nagoya biodiversity events was also discussed with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties local promotion committee of Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya City to ensure active engagement of all stakeholders for the success of the meeting. A meeting was held with the Rector of the United Nations University as well as the Rector of the University of Kanazawa and the senior officials of the National Institute of Environmental Studies to discuss the engagement of the scientific community. The

engagement of NGOs was similarly discussed with the member of the newly established Japan Civil Society Network for CBD. The involvement of the private sector was discussed with the Nippon Keidanren Committee for Nature Conservation (Japan Business Federation). The preparation of Messe Nagoya on Biodiversity in 2010, which will include an international fair on green technology, was discussed with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Nagoya and a meeting was also convened with the Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation.

The engagement of local authorities was discussed with senior officials of Aichi Prefecture and the engagement of parliamentarians was discussed with GLOBE Japan and the secretariat of GLOBE International as well as Mr. Ian Johnson, the Chairman of the newly established GLOBE Commission on Land Use Change and Ecosystems.

***Meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)***

The visit of the Executive Secretary coincided with the visit to Japan of Ms Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to discuss the fifth GEF replenishment. The Executive Secretary had a meeting with Ms Barbut on the GEF contribution to the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity during the fifth GEF Assembly to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in May 2010.

-----