



COMMUNIQUÉ

Japan hosts international multi-stakeholder dialogue for COP 10

Kobe, Japan, 16 October 2009 – The Ministry of the Environment of Japan, in collaboration with IUCN, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Nippon Keidanren (a business association representing 1609 major companies and business organizations in Japan) Committee on Nature Conservation, and local authorities, convened the “Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue 2009” on 15-16 October 2009 in Kobe, Japan.

At the G8+5 Environment Ministers Meeting held in Kobe in 2008, the “Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity” was adopted. The Call for Action underlined the importance of promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation on biodiversity issues. At the same meeting, Japan announced its commitments for the implementation of the Call for Action including “to hold a global forum, “Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue” in order to promote information exchange, dialogue, discussion, and collaboration among various stakeholders.”

The aim of this two-day meeting was to facilitate international biodiversity-related discussions on key issues for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, from 19 to 29 October 2010, and also to feed the results into the ongoing international discussions leading up to meeting, including the Third Business & the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference to be held in Jakarta in November/December 2009 and the global and regional consultation meetings on the post-2010 biodiversity target.

The meeting was attended by 300 participants representing a wide range of stakeholders, such as business associations and individual companies, national and local governments, NGOs and civil society, academia, development agencies and international organizations. The stakeholders shared their experiences and views on the major biodiversity agenda, especially private sector engagement and the revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

“I hope the views provided by the participants representing various stakeholders will be valuable inputs to the success of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,” stated Issei Tajima, the Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment, Japan.

While reiterating the significance of private-sector engagement, the meeting recognized that various voluntary tools, such as declarations and guidelines, have been developed. The meeting emphasized that integrating biodiversity into business can not only offer opportunities, but also contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development. Meeting participants called for a continuous and comprehensive platform which could be a ground for discussion between various sectors. It was pointed out that it is essential to mainstream biodiversity into various sectors such as activities related to International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.



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As a contribution to the revision of the Strategic Plan, participants recognized the need for the further engagement of private sector and general public, as well as the need to address climate change and for enhanced conservation of marine ecosystems and the development of effective and corresponding indicators. The meeting also emphasized the importance of sustainable use of ecosystem services, which can be promoted by the *SATOYAMA* Initiative, and economic evaluation of biodiversity, such as The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study.

“The Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue is another demonstration of Japan’s leadership and commitment to promoting the biodiversity agenda. It is also a major step towards the establishment of constructive and permanent dialogue between all stakeholders including business to meet the unprecedented challenges of the loss of biodiversity compounded by climate change in a cohesive manner and united by the Aichi Nagoya 2050 biodiversity vision and the new 2020 biodiversity target,” stated Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention.

Masaki Suzuki, the Director-General of Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, stated: “Actions taken by local, national and global business entities will create a remarkable movement for biodiversity towards the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Also, many important aspects of necessary elements of the post 2010 target were identified. As the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is fast approaching, Japan will make every effort for the preparation of the meeting in close cooperation with partners both within and outside of Japan.”
