



COMMUNIQUÉ

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED ON BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

Jakarta: More than 200 companies, non-governmental organizations and Governments from all over the world gathered in Jakarta recognizing that business related to biological diversity can be a far more profitable activity than many other economic activities.

The conference resulted in two major outputs: the adoption of the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity while providing useful comments for a Strategy to Advance the 2020 Business and Biodiversity Agenda. These two documents, posted on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity, will serve as road-maps up to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the International Year of Biodiversity.

Mr. Daizaburo Kuroda, Senior Counsellor of the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, stated that: “The creation of an enabling policy environment capable of encouraging the private sector will be one of the most pressing issues on the COP 10 agenda in Japan next year.”

“The inputs received on the draft Strategy to Advance the 2020 Business and Biodiversity Agenda has been an important contribution at this Conference and I look forward to working with the Parties and relevant stakeholders at WGRI-3 and COP10 further on this subject,” stated Ms. Nicola Breier, Head of Division, International Conservation Unit, German Federal Ministry of the Environment, and representative of the current President of the Conference of the Parties.

Building on the experience of the last three Biodiversity Challenge Conferences, participants recognized a need for a multisectoral global forum on business and biodiversity for promoting dialogue and partnerships between Parties, representatives of business, civil-society representatives and other stakeholders to advance the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and its new Strategic Plan to be adopted by the Parties in Nagoya next year.

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention, said that: “The key objective of the Conference as stated in decisions VIII/17 and IX/26 of the Parties to the Convention is to establish a strong partnership between business representatives and other stakeholders, was achieved with the agreement reached on the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity. The goal of this partnership is to implement the year 2050 vision on biodiversity and the year 2020 biodiversity target, which will be adopted in October 2010 at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.”

According to Mr. James Griffith, Managing Director at World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD): “The companies in Jakarta are seriously looking at ways on how they can work with Governments to enhance opportunities for business and use their expertise and entrepreneurship to conserve biological diversity.”



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A number of Indonesian companies and Government officials also joined the global participants at the Conference, which was opened by Prof. Dr. Gusti M. Hatta, State Environment Minister of Indonesia. He stated that: “Protecting biodiversity is important to Indonesia due to its potential for natural-based industrial development, such as the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries, and the reduction of biodiversity would lead to scarcity of biological raw material for business.” State Minister Hatta also said that conservation of biodiversity is not only a government responsibility, but also a responsibility of the business community.

“Some of the biggest business opportunities for the next 10 years are about natural capital. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) could be a \$100 billion business. Ecological restoration could provide the best adaptation against freshwater losses, food insecurity, and increasing natural hazards due to climate change – and it could provide tens of millions of jobs for the poor. Business can get this done,” stated Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, leader of a UNEP-led study on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB).

“This Conference connects well with next year’s event in Messe Nagoya, Japan, which will exhibit innovative ideas and technology that minimize human impact on biodiversity while providing the needed energy and resources for human well being,” stated Mr. Kanji Kurioka, Vice Chairman of Nagoya Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Jakarta conference.

The conference, funded by the Netherlands Government, was organized by the CBD Secretariat in partnership with UNEP and co-hosted by the Government of Indonesia. It was held from 30 November to 2 December 2009. The Conference report and the list of participants will soon be available on the CBD website (www.cbd.int/business3).
