



COMMUNIQUÉ

The Japan International Biodiversity Award (JIBA) established

Montreal, 15 March 2010. In partnership with the AEON Environmental Foundation, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity is pleased to announce the establishment of the Japan International Biodiversity Award (JIBA). The award has been established to mark the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the AEON Environmental Foundation and to celebrate the 2010 International Year on Biodiversity.

This unique initiative aims at recognizing an individual, a community or an organization that has made a distinct contribution in promoting the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The steering committee of JIBA is chaired by Mr. Takuya Okada, Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation. It comprises also Mr. Shiro Wakui, Professor at the Tooin University of Yokohama, and Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Mr. Daizaburo Kuroda, Senior Counsellor to the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, attended as an advisor for the committee.

The steering committee is supported by a judging committee. The winner of the prize will be announced on 22 September 2010 in New York on the occasion of the high-level meeting on biodiversity during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, convened with the participation of Heads of State and Government to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity. The award ceremony will be held on 27 October 2010 on the occasion of the high-level segment of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Speaking at the first meeting of the steering committee for the award, held in Tokyo on 27 February 2010, Mr. Takuya Okada said, “Since its establishment twenty years ago, the AEON Environmental Foundation has promoted biodiversity in Japan and in Asia. The Japan International Biodiversity Award is yet another contribution to recognize, emulate, disseminate and duplicate best practices to protect life on Earth.”

Mr. Djoghla stated, “With the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, protecting biodiversity has ceased to be an auxiliary concern of the leaders of the world. JIBA is therefore an idea whose time has come and I call on other leaders to emulate AEON leadership.”



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