



Convention on
Biological Diversity



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

PRESS RELEASE

German Chancellor Angela Merkel Awarded Special Biodiversity Prize

Nagoya, Japan, 28 October – German Chancellor Angela Merkel received the special MIDORI Prize for biodiversity in recognition for her special contribution to saving biodiversity during the International Year of Biodiversity. The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity was announced at an awards ceremony held 27 October at a reception hosted by the Japanese Minister of Environment in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity honours individuals who have made outstanding contributions to conservation and sustainable use at local and global levels, and who have developmentally influenced various biodiversity-related efforts, as well as raising awareness about biodiversity. Established as an international award for biodiversity following the implementation of the “Japan Awards for Biodiversity 2009”, the award is co-organized by the AEON Environmental Foundation and Japan’s Ministry of the Environment.

Chancellor Merkel was commended for showing strong leadership on global environment issues such as biodiversity and climate change and, among other things, for placing biodiversity as a top agenda item at the G8 summit in Heiligendamm in 2007. Mrs. Ursula Heinen-Esser, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Government of Germany, accepted the award on behalf of Chancellor Merkel.

The Special Prize was established at the suggestion of the judges at the Judging Committee Meeting, in commemoration of the International Year of Biodiversity declared by the United Nations. A wooden plaque and a prize of US\$ 500,000 was awarded to Chancellor Merkel.

The AEON Environmental Foundation established the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity and announced the three recipients at a press conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 21 September 2010:

- Mr. Jean Lemire (Canada, biologist, explorer and film maker)
- Dr. Gretchen C. Daily (United States of America, Professor, Stanford University)
- Dr. Emil Salim (Indonesia, Chairman of the Advisory Council to the President of Indonesia, former Minister of State for Population and the Environment).

“The establishment of The MIDORI Prize, at the occasion of the Aichi Nagoya Summit and coinciding with the International Year of Biodiversity, is presented to individuals who have demonstrated that protecting biodiversity is good business and that supporting the biodiversity



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COP 10 / MOP 5

agenda is an important generational responsibility – this is what the MIDORI Prize is all about,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Based on the establishment of the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity, the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity reached agreement on 26 October that they would cooperate domestically and internationally on the conservation of biodiversity. This cooperation includes:

- Implementation of programmes related to biodiversity, such as educating youth, public relations activities and the planting of trees.
- Promotion of the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity.

Note to editors

The AEON Environmental Foundation

Founded in 1991 with the objective of developing its own conservation activities and supporting the work of other environmental groups, the AEON Environmental Foundation aims to implement, aid, and otherwise support work aimed at ensuring environmental conservation in developing countries, particularly in the areas of tree-planting and afforestation areas, and take the action required to achieve the other goals of the Foundation.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a supplementary treaty to the Convention, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 159 countries and the European Union have ratified the Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal.

For more information visit www.cbd.int

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