



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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**BIODIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURE**

MESSAGE

**Statement by the Executive Secretary
Dr Ahmed Djoghlaif**

**At the first national meeting of the
Satoyama Satoumi Sub-Global Assessment Inter-Cluster Meeting**

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ONE NATURE • ONE WORLD • OUR FUTURE
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely honoured to attend this first national meeting of the Satoyama Satoumi Sub-Global Assessment. It is truly appropriate to be meeting here in Ishikawa, home of Godo Nakanishi. In 1934, he founded the Wild Bird Society of Japan – an initiative that started out small but has grown throughout the years. Nakanishi once said, “No-no-tori ha no ni” (wild birds should be in the wild). The Wild Bird Society of Japan has followed this motto and ensured that wild spaces remain for birds by working to protect important migration stop-over sites such as the Fujimae Tidal Flat. Since birds do not adhere to national boundaries, the conservation efforts to protect birds in Japan have worked in favour of bird populations internationally. Indeed, Godo Nakanishi, as local pioneer, has had an international impact – and so too will all of you here today.

Reverence for Nature and the concept of sustainable use of biodiversity has long been a part of the Japanese identity and culture. Artists and philosophers throughout history have brought the natural beauty to the fore and emphasized the cultural value of Nature in man’s life. Indeed, the principles of Satoyama, developed centuries ago, are clear examples of how humans can live in harmony with Nature and how maintaining the well-being of an ecosystem directly contributes to the well-being of humans. Through its unique blend of human settlement and diverse ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, farmlands, and grasslands, Satoyama has provided the basic necessities to local communities throughout the ages.

Satoyama landscape teaches us that we need to understand the influence of past land use on current vegetation, which in turn provides practical information for future conservation. It teaches us how to integrate human and Nature in a manner that is beneficial to both. It teaches us the value of coexistence with Nature. Japan’s contribution to the conservation of biodiversity is in line with the spirit and letter of its recently finalized third national biodiversity strategy and action plan, which calls for a “Grand Design” based on adaptive management, the precautionary approach and the full engagement of society. This “Grand Design” cannot be achieved without mobilizing science and technology in support of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use, as well the equitable sharing of benefits derived from its use.

We cannot protect what we do not know. Additionally, we cannot create effective legislation if it is not informed by up-to-date science. As such, your meeting today is invaluable to advancing the conservation of biodiversity in Japan. It creates a forum for dialogue and exchange between science and government professionals. It creates the links necessary to ensure that the communication channels remain open and that policy is informed by science.

Indeed, more than ever, the mobilization of the scientific community is required to address the challenges of the unprecedented loss of biodiversity, compounded by climate change and rapid urbanization. Meeting the biodiversity challenges requires the active engagement of all stakeholders. Under the motto, “One Nature • One World • Our Future”, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity was held with the active engagement of all stakeholders, including heads of State, ministers, parliamentarians, mayors and local authorities, NGOs, business, indigenous people, youth and children, media, and artists. “A Naturalianz” was born for the protection of life on Earth.

In his contribution to the CBD magazine *Gincana*, former Prime Minister of Japan, HEM Yasuo Fukuda stated that, “It is important for each country to address sincerely what they are able to do and what they should do toward the achievement of the biodiversity 2010 target and additional targets, by collaborating with other countries, international organizations, NGOs and so forth. Japan is determined, in Asia and in the international community, to actively contribute to such activities and

make further efforts toward the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as a potential host of COP-10”.

Japan has demonstrated its commitment to play a leadership role in promoting the biodiversity agenda. Japan included biodiversity as a priority issue of the Hokkaido Summit of the Group of Eight and played a leadership role in the preparation and adoption of the Kobe Call for Action on Biodiversity adopted by the G8.

Indeed achieving the Kobe Call for Action on Biodiversity is essential for the success of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit. Its implementation calls for strength of purpose, with a sense of leadership. 2010 will be a year of great importance for global biodiversity and indeed the world as a whole. The world will gather in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to assess progress made for achieving the Johannesburg Biodiversity Target aimed at reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and shaping the way for future action. This meeting will be preceded by the High Level Segment of the sixty fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to biodiversity. The Nagoya meeting will also coincide with the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity.

At the Arthur M. Sackler Colloquia of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, held last month, participants have argued that humanity is in the midst of the sixth global mass extinction of species. Two biologists of the University of Stanford in California stated that “the future of biodiversity for the 10 million of years to come will be determined in the fifty to one hundred years to come by the activities of one single specie: Homo sapiens”. The Nagoya Biodiversity Summit is therefore of a crucial importance to the future agenda of biodiversity of our planet. Your work in this Satoyama Satoumi Sub-Global Assessment Inter-Cluster Meeting will be an important contribution supporting research worldwide and making a distinct contribution to the success of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit.

I wish you a fruitful exchange and best of luck in your work.

Thank you for your kind attention.