

Message for the website of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

On behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I am pleased to welcome all of you to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10), to be held from 18-29 October 2010 in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. It is indeed our tremendous honour to host this historic meeting.

As the host country of COP-10, Japan launched the logo and the slogan for the meeting—“Life in harmony, into the future”—on 13 October 2009. By arranging diverse animals and plants made by *origami**, this logo illustrates the diversity of life on Earth. More importantly, an adult and a child at the centre of the logo portray our life in harmony with nature and our determination to pass on to the next generation the wealth of biodiversity on our planet.

In addition to the preparation of COP-10 as a host, Japan is also keen to contribute to the implementation of the decisions to be adopted at the meeting. For example, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan will propose the *Satoyama* Initiative as a means to promote sustainable management and use of natural resources. Taking the opportunity of COP10, we will also establish a framework to promote international collaboration on the Initiative.

Biodiversity loss is accelerating around the globe, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. In this regard, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties provides a unique opportunity to respond to the global challenge of biodiversity and meet the needs of present generation and generations to come. Japan is ready to act as the host of the meeting and the President of the Conference of the Parties.

Moreover, we need the engagement of all the stakeholders to sustain the wealth of biodiversity on our planet. It is my hope that at this meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a wide range of stakeholders gather in Aichi-Nagoya and join forces for biodiversity and for our common future. I look forward to receiving all of you in Aichi-Nagoya in October 2010.

松本龍

Ryu Matsumoto

Minister of the Environment, Japan

* Origami is a traditional Japanese paper art in which various forms such as animals are created by folding a square paper.