



Convention on
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STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**SOUTH, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND EAST ASIA REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING
WORKSHOP**

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Life in harmony, into the future
いのちの共生を、未来へ
COP 10 / MOP 5

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The President of China Hu Jintao has stated, “We must give prominence to building a resource-conserving, environment-friendly society in our strategy for industrialization and modernization and get every organization and family to act accordingly.”

This statement is valid not only for China, but for all of South, Southeastern and Eastern Asia. This is not only by far the world’s most populous region, it is also home to the majority of our planet’s biodiversity hotspots. Hence, here more than anywhere, biodiversity needs to be mainstreamed into the development process across all sectors of government and society, and into the day-to-day decisions of individuals.

China is making some bold moves forward. In March this year the country adopted a new five-year plan for social and economic development which includes some ambitious environmental targets. China also recently adopted a 20-year plan (2011-2030) for ecological conservation and environmental protection in the source areas of the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers – a huge investment into this ecologically important but vulnerable area.

In 2010, China established a National Committee for International Year of Biodiversity and adopted an updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2011-2030, which includes short-term, mid-term and long-term goals to halt loss of biodiversity. I glad to say that other countries in the region have recently adopted new NBSAPs, including Japan, India and Bhutan.

Since all stakeholders must be involved in the saving biodiversity, it is symbolic that this week’s workshop is being held in Xi’an when the city is also currently hosting the International Horticultural Exposition, with the theme City and Nature – coexisting in harmony. And Xi’an is also hosting an international forum on cities and biodiversity as well as a national workshop on provincial and municipal biodiversity strategies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, thanks to the leadership of Japan last October 18,500 participants representing our 193 Parties and their partners adopted a package of measures at the tenth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. This package included the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization; the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in support of the three objectives of the Convention.

In order to engage the people of the world, the Nagoya meeting recommended that the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, coinciding with the timeframe for achieving the Aichi Targets.

To build on the success of Nagoya, and to translate the outcome of Nagoya into action at country level, the UN Decade on Biodiversity is beginning with a new wave of national biodiversity planning. This workshop is a critical part of that process. Many countries in this region have already gained substantial experience in developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). We now need to draw on this communal expertise, for time is of the essence.

To provide effective guidance on national implementation, national targets, in line with the Aichi Targets, need to be formulated as soon as possible, and integrated into updated

NBSAPs. Any delay in developing these NBSAPs will augur poorly for the achievement of the Aichi Targets. To assist eligible countries in translating the Aichi Targets into NBSAPs before COP-11, Japan has established a Japan Biodiversity Fund, which is now fully operational. Moreover, additional funds for national biodiversity planning have been made available through GEF-5.

In addition to revising NBSAPs, the signing and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol is an urgent topic. The Secretariat and the Global Environment Facility are working to ensure that the first meeting of the governing body of this historic instrument will take place in India in October 2012 back-to-back with COP11. To achieve this, 50 ratifications are required before 19 July 2012. The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol is also open for signature, and will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession. Finally, to reach consensus on funding targets at COP11, progress must be made in assessing the needs and gaps in funding for achieving the Aichi Targets and the implementation of NBSAPs.

The task we set ourselves in Nagoya was ambitious. It will require leadership and creative thinking from the Parties, national focal points, the financial mechanism and the Convention Secretariat to ensure the timely delivery of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan at national and regional levels. This workshop is therefore of the utmost importance, and I would like to sincerely thank the government of China, the Province of Shaanxi and the Administrative Committee for the 2011 International Horticulture Conference for hosting and supporting it.

Given the tremendous levels of biodiversity of this region and number of people who live here, your deliberations this week will have global repercussions. I therefore ask you to squarely meet the challenge before you and help set a path for a sustainable future for both this region and the rest of the world. I urge all participants to remember what is at stake in this process: nothing less than the future of life on Earth.

Thank you for your kind attention.