

ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS FOR

ACTIVITY CLUSTER 1: KNOWLEDGE FACILITATION

Title: United Nations University's Activities on Socio-ecological Production Landscapes

Member organisation: United Nations University (UNU)

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The UNU is an international community of scholars who work on a variety of global issues including environment, biodiversity, development and human well-being. While the organisation has focused on the development of the *Satoyama* Initiative and the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative in the last couple of years, the larger UNU community has been accumulating knowledge on the socio-ecological production landscapes of the world.

UNU has co-ordinated the Japan Satoyama Satomi Assessment (JSSA) following the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment approach, focusing on Japanese satoyama and satoumi ecosystems. The discussions in this project also contributed to the development of the concept of the *Satoyama* Initiative, represented in the term “socio-ecological production landscape”. The research activities on satoumi in Japan form the basis of UNU’s work on marine and coastal biodiversity, designed to build research capacities and promote local and global action.

UNU’s research experience on agrodiversity in developing countries has now developed into the regional network of sustainable land management in the Mountainous Region of Mainland Southeast Asia (MMSEA), home to diverse ethnic minority cultures and biological diversity. This research-oriented project aims to support indigenous innovations that enhance agrodiversity built on local knowledge and practices.

UNU focuses on the traditional knowledge of local and indigenous people, which is one of the important elements of the *Satoyama* Initiative, from a wider perspective that includes climate change, water management, biological resources, marine management, forestry and international policy making.

UNU will continue to work for the fulfilment of the vision of the *Satoyama* Initiative, that of living in harmony with nature, particularly through its research and knowledge facilitation activities.