

**Overview of the Symposium on the Launch of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO3) and  
the Japan Biodiversity Outlook (JBO) - Current Status of Biodiversity  
- Life in Harmony, into the Future -**

The Symposium was held on 10 May 2010, at the United Nations University (UNU) Headquarters, Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Issei Tajima, Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), Dr. Yong-Woo Park, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP), and Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice Rector, UNU gave their opening remarks. These were followed by video messages from Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Honorary Ambassador for the Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10) to UN Convention on Biological Diversity, MISIA.

Professor A.H. Zakri, Science Advisor to the Government of Malaysia/ Co-Chair, GBO3 Scientific Review Panel/Member, IPCC Review Panel highlighted the unmet target of 2010 and the risks of biodiversity loss at the species, ecosystem and gene levels. He also explained the impact of biodiversity loss on ecosystem functioning, and presented the satoyama landscape as a sustainable model.

Professor Tohru Nakashizuka, Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University/Chair, JBO Science Committee explained the objective, assessment framework and results of JBO, and that although biodiversity loss has partially been achieved, its overall trend has not been halted.

Mr. Tsunao Watanabe, Deputy Director-General, Nature Conservation Bureau, MOEJ made a presentation on Japan's efforts in biodiversity conservation towards COP10 and beyond by taking into consideration issues raised in the GBO3 and JBO.

During the panel discussion, Professor Kazuhiro Ueta, Graduate School of Economics/Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University presented the values of biodiversity from the perspective of environmental economics. Professor Masahito Yoshida, Chair, Japan Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)/Co-Chair, Japan Civil Network for Convention on Biological Diversity highlighted the need of involvement from all levels of the society in conserving biodiversity. And Ms. Kaori Fujita, Biodiversity Producer, EcoManagement Forum, Nikkei Business Publications stated that while there is still insufficient understanding of biodiversity among the public, it is growing among enterprises.

Panel Coordinator, Prof. Takeuchi addressed the questions of “how to treat the outcome of biodiversity assessment of GBO3, and direction that should be aimed at” to all the panelists. The panelists provided the following answers:

Prof. Nakashizuka:

Assessment of the impact of biodiversity loss on daily living is necessary. Biodiversity should not only be the target of conservation, but be taken into consideration in each local area.

Prof. Ueta:

Biodiversity conservation should be understood as the building of management framework for passing down “stock” to future generation. Measures that promote understanding are necessary in the face of globalization and changed lifestyles that have caused values of biodiversity hard to perceive.

Prof. Yoshida:

It is important to increase the number of people working for biodiversity, as well as incorporating the measures of GBO3 and JBO.

Ms. Fujita:

While it is necessary to have efforts among enterprises towards biodiversity, framework building and regular assessment of the impact on biodiversity is also important.

Dr. Park:

Building a system where the market price reflects biodiversity is important. And it is necessary to consider the issue of poverty because of the differences of biodiversity status between developed and developing countries.

Mr. Watanabe:

Biodiversity issues which Japan should tackle have become clear. Efforts apart from the Ministry of the Environment, and regional efforts involving various entities are necessary.

Finally, Prof. Takeuchi concluded that the key to the issues of biodiversity are not only about nature, but about rebuilding relationship between nature and humans that lives in each of the local area, and the debate of biodiversity is not something that is uniformly possible across the globe, but on how to link global efforts with regional efforts.