



Convention on
Biological Diversity



COMMUNIQUÉ

Building bridges for Biodiversity: Governor of Ishikawa Prefecture pays official visit to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Montreal 29 September 2010. As the world prepares for the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the governor of Ishikawa prefecture, Masinori Tanimoto, accompanied by an important delegation, paid a visit to the Secretariat to prepare the closing ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity, to be held in Kanazawa City on 18-19 December 2010. The ceremony will also coincide with the launch of the 2011 international Year of Forests.

The preparation of the New Biodiversity Vision of Ishikawa, to be presented at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, was also discussed. The New Biodiversity Vision of the prefecture will revolve around the traditional land management strategy, *Satoyama*, and the reintroduction of the Crested Ibis, which became extinct in the wild in Japan in 1981.

The biodiversity strategy will be presented to the expected 10,000 participants attending the Nagoya Summit on Biodiversity together with other strategies and action plans adopted at provincial and prefectural levels. This is with a view to promote action plans at local level for the implementation of the biodiversity strategic plan for 2011-2020 similar to the city and biodiversity action plans to be adopted at the City Summit on Biodiversity to be held with the expected participation of more than 300 mayors.

“It is an honour to be here at the centre of the work of the Convention. It is an honour to host the closing ceremonies for the IYB and to recognize all the hard work that has and will contribute to saving biodiversity,” said Governor Tanimoto.

The Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, Ms. Jan McAlpine, attending the meeting in her capacity as the designated focal point of the International Year of Forests, presented the celebration strategy for the Year as well as the forests event to be held at the closing ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity.

“The *Satoyama* Initiative demonstrates the importance of forests to biodiversity in communities and their landscapes. The work that Governor Tanimoto is doing could be a model for the world,” she said.

The event took place also with the participation of the Canadian film maker and explorer Jean Lemire. At the high-level event at the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the CEO of the AEON Environmental Foundation announced the winners of the MIDORI Prize that was established as a contribution to the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity and the Nagoya meetings. “Midori” means green in Japanese. Mr. Jean Lemire was awarded the prize under the category on implementation for his contribution to the Secretariat’s *The Green Wave* initiative aimed at reconnecting children and youth with nature. The award ceremony will take place in Nagoya on 27 October 2010 on the occasion of the ministerial segment to be held with the participation of Heads of State and Government.

“There is nothing more exciting than engaging the youth and children in the battle for life on Earth. I was moved by my appointment as *The Green Wave* honorary ambassador and I am humbled to receive this prestigious prize at the service of a great cause,” said Mr. Lemire.

Ahmed Djoghlaf, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “The New York Summit has highlighted the urgency to act as a



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



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family of nations with its diversity to protect biodiversity. Today's event demonstrates the way ahead and the urgent need to establish a global alliance for protecting life on Earth. This is our dream and our vision for the forthcoming Nagoya Biodiversity Summit."

During his visit, the Governor presented the Secretariat with a donation to its Museum of Nature and Culture. The Japanese doll, in a hand-crafted wooden display case, represents the commitment of the Prefecture to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Year of Biodiversity.
