UNU-IAS, IICRC to Launch Sub-global Assessment of Satoyama and Satoumi in Japan on 8 March

Event: Users Meeting for Sub-global Assessment of Satoyama and Satoumi in Japan
Date/Time: 8 March 2007 (Thursday), 10:00–17:00
Venue: UNU-IAS, 6 F, Pacifico Yokohama
Organizer: United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre (IICRC)

Background Information
• Approximately 40 per cent of land in Japan is classified as satoyama. However, a combination of factors (including increased rural–urban migration, land-use conversion and the abandonment of traditional agricultural cultivation) is causing extensive degradation or loss of satoyama.
• Since late 2006, United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies and its Special Programme, Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre, have been preparing to launch the Sub-Global Assessment (SGA) of Satoyama and Satoumi in Japan.
• This initiative, which will follow and apply the framework of the sub-global assessments used by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), seeks to identify the ecosystem services provided by Japan’s satoyama and satoumi and to suggest ways in which they can be managed on a sustainable basis. The assessment will be based around policy-relevant issues and users’ needs, focusing on ecosystem services for human well-being.
• The SGA of satoyama and satoumi will be the first of its kind in Japan. It will be incorporated into and contribute to MA sub-global assessments that are being carried out around the world and, at the same time, feed into the enhancement of national and local strategies in Japan.
• Another major target is to provide input into the 10th Conference of Parties (COP-10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which Japan has offered to host in 2010.

Event Overview
• The Users Meeting on 8 March will establish the Board of the SGA and will officially launch the Sub-Global Assessment of Satoyama and Satoumi in Japan.
• Participants will be major users and other stakeholders, including local communities, industries, local and national government policy makers, politicians, research and academic institutions, NGOs and international organizations.
• At the Users Meeting, participants will consider the user needs to be incorporated into the SGA as well as discuss the work plan and schedule for the SGA.
• English–Japanese interpretation will be provided.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend this Users Meeting. Please contact Yumiko Usui at UNU-IAS (tel.: 045-221-2305, email: usui@ias.unu.edu) to confirm your attendance or to request interviews.