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**UNITED NATIONS
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UNU to Host International Biodiversity Symposium

Event: International Symposium: One Year Before CBD-COP10
Theme: "The Post-2010 Biodiversity Target and Asian Vision"
Date/Time: 10 October 2009 (Saturday), 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Venue: United Nations University Headquarters Building, Tokyo
Organizer: Japan Committee for IUCN (IUCN-J)
Co-Organizers: Nature Conservation Society of Japan, WWF-Japan, Wild Bird Society of Japan, Nippon Keidanren Committee for Nature Conservation, Biodiversity Network Japan, Conservation International Japan, and Bird Life Asia
Co-Sponsor: United Nations University (UNU) Supported by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Japan Civil Network for CBD

- Biological diversity (biodiversity) not only contributes to the health and stability of natural ecosystems; it also supports environmental processes that benefit us all, such as water and air purification, carbon sequestration, waste decomposition/detoxification, and pest/disease control.
- Today, biodiversity is being devastated by human activities — both through habitat destruction and habitat degradation. The negative consequences of the loss of biodiversity affect us all, but they are most keenly felt by the rural poor who rely most directly on the services provided by local ecosystems.
- In 2002, a strategic plan adopted by the 6th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity targeted a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss. This target, subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly, was incorporated into the Millennium Development Goals (as target 7b).
- The 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP10), to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, will review the progress made in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target and propose post-2010 biodiversity targets. This event is one year before CBD-COP10, with financial support by the Japan Fund for Global Environment and Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund..
- The symposium will open at 10:00 AM with remarks by Masahito Yoshida, Chair of IUCN-J; Issei Tajima, Vice Minister of the Environment, Japan; and Prof. Govindan Parayil, Vice-Rector of UNU and Director of UNU Institute of Advanced Studies. There will then be presentations by Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Dr. Jeff McNeely, IUCN Senior Scientific Advisor; Tsunao Watanabe, Deputy Director-General, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment Japan; and Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice-Rector of UNU and Director of UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace.
- Two sessions (presentations and panel discussions) in the afternoon will focus on "Mainstreaming Biodiversity and the Post-2010 Vision" (1:00 PM) and "Implementation of the Post-2010 Target" (3:30 PM). A brief concluding session (5:00 PM) will feature closing speeches by symposium co-chairs Mr. Yoshida and Dr. McNeely.
- Simultaneous Japanese–English interpretation will be provided. The symposium programme is available online (in Japanese only) at <http://www.iucn.jp/event/pdf/flyer2009.10.10.pdf/>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. For more information, to request an interview with a symposium participant, or to confirm your attendance, please contact Fumiko Nakao, UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS; tel. 045-221-2300; e-mail: nakao@ias.unu.edu).

UNU work in the field of biodiversity includes the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and three UNU-IAS programmes: the Biodiplomacy Initiative, Ecosystem Services Assessment, which serves as Secretariat for the MA Sub-global Follow-up, and the Satoyama Initiative, which aims to rebuild a sound relationship between humans and nature internationally.

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