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**UNITED NATIONS
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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.

MEDIA ALERT