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UNU-IAS, IICRC to Hold Workshop on Sub-global Assessment of *Satoyama* and *Satoumi* in Japan

- Event:** Open Consultation Workshop on Sub-global Assessment of *Satoyama* and *Satoumi* in Japan
- Date/Time:** 27 July 2007 (Friday), 13:00–17:30
- Venue:** UN House, Tokyo (Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall)
- Organizer:** United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre (IICRC)

Background Information

- This Open Consultation Workshop is one of a series of meetings leading up to the Sub-global Assessment (SGA) of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on *Satoyama* and *Satoumi* in Japan.
- Approximately 40 per cent of land in Japan is classified as *satoyama*; however, it is being lost or degraded due to increased rural–urban migration, an aging workforce and abandonment, and land–use conversion. This trend threatens the vital ecosystem services of *satoyama* including biodiversity and genetic resources, diet culture, traditional knowledge and cultural values, climate regulation, and disease and pest regulation.
- The SGA will identify the ecosystem services provided by *satoyama* and *satoumi*, and suggest ways in which they can be managed on a sustainable basis. The assessment, based around policy-relevant questions and users' needs with a focus on changes in ecosystem services for local livelihoods, will be the first of its kind in Japan. It is expected to be used in local and national plans, strategies and policies, and to contribute to international processes on environment and sustainable development.
- Another major goal is to provide input into the Tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP-10) that Japan plans to host in 2010. Furthermore, the outcome will be fed into the next Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Event Overview

- The Open Consultation Workshop will convene a wide range of users and stakeholders from national and local governments, academic and research institutions, industry and NGOs as well as individuals interested in *satoyama* and *satoumi* issues. Participants will discuss important issues associated with the assessment and provide input into the process.
- The specific objectives of the workshop are to:
 - introduce the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the SGA on *satoyama* and *satoumi*;
 - establish criteria for assessment sites, and discuss and identify possible sites;
 - examine the condition and trends of *satoyama* and *satoumi*; and
 - discuss and determine criteria for the selection of science panel members and authors for the assessment.
- English–Japanese interpretation will be provided.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Yumiko Usui at UNU-IAS (tel.: 045-221-2305, e-mail: usui@ias.unu.edu) to confirm your attendance or to arrange an interview.

* *Satoyama and satoumi encompass various ecosystems, such as farmlands, secondary forests, irrigation ponds and tidelands along with human settlements, and provide vital services for human well-being.*