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UNU-IAS to Launch Findings of Japan *Satoyama-Satoumi* Assessment on 22 October

- Event:** CBD-COP10 Side Event – “Assessment Process: Exploring *Satoyama-Satoumi* Renaissance”
- Date/Time:** 22 October 2010 (Friday), 6:15–7:45 PM
- Venue:** Room 235, 3rd Floor of Bldg 2, Nagoya Congress Center
- Organizer:** United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)
- Co-organizers:** Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP)

Background

- The Japan *Satoyama-Satoumi* Assessment (JSSA), released at the 10th Conference of Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), proves that there has been a rapid decline in cultural landscapes commonly known as *satoyama* and *satoumi* in Japan over the past 50 years. This has important and potentially negative consequences for human well-being and for biodiversity.
- The study also reveals that critical to the success of a more integrated and holistic approach to ecosystem management is creation of a new “commons”. The study recommends a *satoyama-satoumi* approach, a decentralized decision-making process, and critical elements and aspects of the future work to be required to attain the sustainable development goals.
- The JSSA is a study of the interaction between humans and *satoyama* and *satoumi* ecosystems. The main goal of the study is to provide scientifically-credible and policy-relevant information on the significance of ecosystem services provided by *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes, and their contributions to economic and human development for the use of policymakers.
- By applying the framework of sub-global assessments developed by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), the study analyses changes that have occurred in these ecosystems over the past 50 years and identifies plausible alternative futures of those landscapes in the year 2050.
- Initiated in late 2006, the JSSA underwent extensive consultation with various “users” including national and local governments, academia and non-government organizations. Reflecting their interests and commitment, the JSSA work has been undertaken by more than 200 authors, stakeholders and reviewers from Japan and elsewhere.

Event overview

- This CBD-COP10 side event will present the JSSA’s findings and provide an arena to discuss its potential contributions to policy making and implementation to meet the CBD objectives.
- Panel discussants will be major users and stakeholders, including policymakers from developing and developed countries, experts from international processes and scientists. English–Japanese interpretation will be provided.
- The findings and recommendations emerging from the JSSA are released at the CBD-COP10 in the form of several types of publications including a Policy Brief and Summary for Decision Makers.
- Media representatives are cordially invited to attend this event. Please contact Ms. Hanano Sasaki of UNU-IAS (tel.: 045-221-2300, email: sasaki@ias.unu.edu) to confirm your attendance or to arrange an interview.