



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

## COMMUNIQUÉ

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### **Japan launches the preparation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit to be held in Aichi Prefecture, Nagoya city in October 2010**

*17 June 2008, Montreal* – Just two weeks after the 191 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) took the decision in Bonn to convene the next United Nations Conference on Biodiversity, in Japan, Aichi Prefecture, Nagoya city in 2010, Japan has launched a national campaign for the preparation of the conference that will be a major event in the life of the Convention.

The tenth Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the CBD will take place from 19 to 29 October 2010, and will coincide with the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity. A kick-off seminar was organized on 14 June 2008 by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan in cooperation with the “COP 10 Promotion Committee” established by the Aichi Prefecture and the city of Nagoya. More than 1,100 participants attended this one day event.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Namiki Masayoshi, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment, with the participation of Mr. Masaaki Kanda, the Governor of Aichi Prefecture, and Mr. Takehisa Matubara. A song specially prepared for COP 10 was presented by 191 children. A panel discussion was held, moderated by the chief producer of the Japan Broadcasting Corporation with participation of the Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Mr. Daizaburo Kuroda, and Ms. Oomomo, a famous Japanese actress.

On 15 June, a seminar on COP 10, with more than 300 participants, was also organized by the daily newspaper, Asahi Shimbun, one of the leading and most widely-read national newspapers in Japan.

In addressing the participants at the events, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD, applauded Japan’s leadership in mobilizing all Japanese stakeholders well in advance of the historic meeting in 2010 that will coincide with the target date adopted by Heads of State to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, with the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, and with the adoption of the Nagoya international regime on access and benefit sharing.

During his visit to Nagoya, Dr. Djoghlaif held a series of meetings with the local authorities on the preparation of COP 10, as well as a meeting with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Higashiyama Botanical Garden signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the CBD Secretariat (SCBD) to support implementation of the Convention by providing training to focal points and contributing to outreach and communication activities on biodiversity. In so doing, Higashiyama joins a consortium of eight internationally renowned scientific institutions that has been established to support the enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. An MOU with Nagoya City University was also signed in support of the SCBD consortium of universities comprising more than 12 leading universities.



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In Tokyo, Dr. Djoghlafl held a meeting with HEM Ichiro Kamoshita, Minister of the Environment, on the preparation of COP 10, as well as on the biodiversity agenda of the forthcoming Group of Eight (G8) Summit to be held in Hokkaido Toyako in July 2008. Minister Kamoshita said, “as stated by Prime Minister HEM Yasuo Fukuda, Japan is fully committed to play its leadership role as the host of the Nagoya 2010 Biodiversity Summit – and the early start to the preparation of this landmark event is additional testimony of Japan’ s commitment.”

The Executive Secretary also held meetings with senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the local authorities and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as with senior representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the members of the Nippon Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation.

On 16 June 2008, as a guest speaker at the G8 Dialogue Series organized by the United Nations University (UNU) to contribute towards the G8 Summit, Dr. Djoghlafl delivered a presentation on climate change and biodiversity. The Executive Secretary was joined in the Dialogue by Governor Akiko Domoto of Chiba Prefecture, who played a leading role in the adoption of the first prefectural biodiversity strategy of Chiba. Dr. Djoghlafl also held a meeting with Professor Takeuchi, Vice-Rector of UNU, on the support of UNU to the CBD Secretariat in the context of the Secretary-General’s “One UN programme” for the convening of the Nagoya biodiversity meetings.

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