

3. Statement

(1) Aims

One of the significant outcomes of this conference was the Asian Youth Statement on Biodiversity. Ideas and opinions by the participants from around Asia were integrated in the Statement. The Statement would also be a helpful material in showing a way to solve problems on biodiversity.

(2) Outline

The Asian Youth Statement on Biodiversity was developed through following processes.

Before the conference, the staff members gathered the ideas and opinions from the participants concerning the contents of the statement via e-mail. The staff members made a draft by arranging and categorizing the collected proposals.

During the conference, participants had 3 sessions to discuss the draft statement. First all the participants were divided into small groups and discussed its contents and phrasing. Then the participants chose a topic of their interest and discussed in depth. After the group discussions, a plenary session was held, and the participants reached a consensus of the statement.

The major points of the Statement are listed below:

- Goals for the global society in solving biodiversity problems
- Comments on the themes from the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Actions that each stakeholder of the society should take to solve the biodiversity problems

(3) Utilizing the statement

The statement was distributed to all participants via e-mail. Each participant will have a chance to use the statement in promoting the importance of and the point of view on biodiversity expressed by the youth participated in the conference.

Participants expressed their hope that the statement will contribute to the development of message from youth to COP10.

Asian Youth Statement on Biodiversity

Conference of Asia Youth on Biodiversity in Aichi 2009

Nagoya, Japan

2nd – 6th August 2009

Preamble:

Biodiversity is essential to our lives. However, our co-existence with the environment is threatened because of unsustainable development. We, the Asian youth, which is comprise of more than half of the youth population, recognize the need to learn about biodiversity, conserve biodiversity, and sustainably use biodiversity. We commit ourselves and call on everyone to take action.

1. Our Present and Future

We, the Asian youth, wish to be able to lead a good and sustainable life on Earth. For our survival, we have to sustain proper function of the ecosystem, make good use of valuable plant and animal species, and maintain natural habitats for threatened or endangered species.

2. Education and Campaign

We recognize the need to educate everyone on biodiversity in order to conserve it and use it in a sustainable and equitable way. We call on all the sectors of society, the civil society, to support all of the campaign to raise awareness on biodiversity.

3. Global Perspective and Partnership

We should not forget that biodiversity enable economic development. As our economy becomes more interdependent, we need to adopt global perspective and build partnership for conservation and proper utilization of biodiversity.

1. Thematic Programs of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

1.A Agricultural Biodiversity

- Concerned that indigenous agricultural biodiversity is threatened by unsustainable globalization, monoculture policy, improper farming practice and abandonment of indigenous farming;
- Warning that safety of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are not guaranteed, and manipulating genes is equivalent to manipulating biodiversity which may bring negative impacts to the future generation.

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Hope that there would be support and cooperation from governments and other public and private sectors toward a stronger emphasis on polyculture;
- Expect the Parties to develop an appropriate and efficient framework to promote agriculture that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity; and
- Expect that the same should be proven to be safe before exporting GMOs.

1.B Forest Biodiversity

- Recognizing that forests' economic and environmental assets can be utilized in a sustainable manner by categorizing and managing forests in accordance with conservational purposes, such as "forests to acquire lumber" and "forests to protect biodiversity;"

- Reaffirming that forests are disappearing and being degraded through deforestation, excessive cultivation, unsustainable slash-and-burn farming, overgrazing, illegal logging, and increase of human exploitation of forests; and
- Emphasizing that forests such as Mangrove Forest and Rainforests should be protected by priority because they are especially rich in biodiversity and ecosystem services.

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Call on national and local governments to categorize forests, such as “forests to acquire lumber” and “forests to protect biodiversity,” and involve citizens to manage forests in a sustainable way;
- Urge the expert in national and local governments to prohibit people, corporations or companies, and community from immoderate mining, quarrying, and constructing dams/ships in fragile ecosystem;
- Encourage national and local governments to use native species for reforestation; and
- Call on the business sector to promote methods with other scientists in NGOs for sustainable forestry management such as Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) through methods like agro-forestry.

1.C Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

- Recognizing that the main drivers of Marine and Coastal biodiversity loss are pollution, unsustainable exploitation of marine resources, and climate change: acidification of oceans.

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Call on the national and local governments to enforce the integrated coastal and marine management;
- Call on the Parties to organize the network of the Marine Protected Areas by 2012; and
- Encourage the business sector to promote and/or provide the consumers the products certified by Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

2. Cross-Cutting Issues of the CBD

2.A 2010 Biodiversity Target and Post 2010 Target

- Being aware of the importance in setting the common target in the world while recognizing the obscurity of the goal of the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Call on the Parties to set the concrete post-2010 target, so called “Aichi-Nagoya Target,” in order to guarantee the lives of the future generation with a mid-term strategy (toward 2020) and a long-term vision(toward 2050).

2.B Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)

- Recognizing that the third objectives of CBD, which is “fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,” has not been achieved; and
- Knowing that there is strong voice of criticism for the unfair use of genetic resources so called “bio-piracy.”

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Call on the Parties to complete the discussion on the international regime of ABS in order to realize “fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources” by COP10;
- Expect the Parties to set up the committees to monitor and resolve controversies on such issues;
- Call on business sector and researchers to disclose the information of the use of genetic resources; and
- Expect governments to take legislative measures and apply them strictly to companies, supporting them to follow the rule after completion of the international regime of ABS.

2.C Climate Change and Biodiversity

- Recognizing that climate change and loss of biodiversity are mutually contributing to the escalation of each phenomenon.

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Encourage all sectors to address the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss collectively; and
- Consider the ecological implications of climate change mitigation measures.

2.D Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

- Stressing the importance to propagate the fact that biodiversity is essential for the survival of humankind through education and promotion campaign; and
- Recognizing that more active and participatory approaches are essential for conservation of biodiversity.

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Expect civil society, especially researchers, to visualize the potentials of biodiversity and its relations between our daily lives, and to think about what we can do.

2.E Invasive Alien Species

- Recognizing that invasive alien species destroy the indigenous ecosystem and degrade ecosystem service.

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Call for the Parties to formulate and implement laws to forbid the handling of invasive alien species, and to take action to prevent blending spread into the wild; and
- Call on the civil society to pay extra attention when transporting species both at a regional or global scale, and realize that the act of doing so may lead to the loss of biodiversity.

2.F Tourism and Biodiversity

- Knowing that ecotourism provides an opportunity to realize how important ecosystem and biodiversity is to us.

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Hope that ecotourism be promoted and prevailed more as an enjoyable part of environmental education;
- Expect that environmental education would truly contribute to conserving biodiversity and revitalizing local areas; and
- Call on the people to ensure that ecotourism may never be the cause of environmental exploitation.

2.G Indigenous and Local Communities, Traditional Knowledge

- Recognizing that the role of the indigenous and local communities and the use of indigenous technology are important for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

We, the participants of the Conference,

- Stress the need to respect human rights of the indigenous and local communities.

3. Youth Commitment and Youth Call to Stakeholders

3.A Youth Commitment

We, as representatives of young generation, declare to increase our commitment to:

- Use various ways to deepen our understanding of biodiversity problems among the youth;
- Connect with local community to organize eco field trips;
- Familiarize ourselves with issues on CBD because the young generation is responsible for creating a better world;
- Share information based on multidisciplinary research and keep ourselves updated with the latest reports by international

networking;

- Urge our leaders to fully and strictly implement existing local, national and international laws that are made to conserve biodiversity;
- Be the agents of change in the community by acting accordingly with regard to resolving the loss of biodiversity through a well-coordinated efforts with young people and other main stakeholders under the civil society; and
- Work on local campaigns; start small, grow little by little.

We, on behalf of the young generation, call on

3.B National and Local Governments

- To strengthen and implement the measures related to conserve biodiversity and sustainable development, for instance, creating green jobs, subsidizing business sector and individuals, who are supporting biodiversity conservation;
- To impose strict regulations; and
- To organize regular meetings among government bodies and experts and enterprises to address and tackle problems, related to biodiversity.

3.C Business Sector

- To use eco-friendly raw materials and furniture;
- To increase investment, support and involvement for organizations that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity; and
- To implement necessary action for conserving biodiversity at the grassroots level

3.D Civil Society and Researchers

- To strongly recommend governments and corporations to carefully choose products well in consideration of the environment; and
- To promote sharing good practices of local activities at the community level,

3.E Mass Media

- To raise public awareness by delivering information on biodiversity to society through multiple channels in easily understandable manner.

3.F Global Society (includes International Organizations)

- To strengthen efforts to conserve biodiversity, considering the importance of biodiversity, through a well-enforced monitoring system; and
- To strictly monitor, promote, and implement the different strategies and methods in conserving and preserving the world's biodiversity across different sectors of the society.

4 Excursion

(1). Learning about Japanese "Satoyama" Environment

On 3rd August, participants of the conference went to Mie-kenmin-no mori (Mie Prefectural Forest Park) to learn about *satoyama*, a particular kind of Japanese forest that has rich biodiversity. Sadami Kiryu, the Vice President of the Yokkaichi Nature Conservation Committee, lectured the participants about biodiversity through observing the difference between properly managed woods and not managed woods.

Kouzou Suzuki, the former professor of Mie University of Agriculture, and Kimiko Aoyama, member of the Yokkaichi Nature Conservation Committee guided the participants to the field after the lecture.

They observed the difference between the woods that had been managed properly by people and the ones had not been managed. In both types of woods, they measured the height of trees in different layers— high tree layer (*ko-boku*), sub-tree layer (*ako-boku*), bush layer (*tei-boku*), and herbaceous layer (*sou-hon*)— to find out what kind of trees are in each layer. It was clear from the observation that the woods that had been conserved and properly managed had more variety of trees than the ones that had not.

Outline of Mr. Kiryu's lecture:

In the woods, there were a variety of trees such as high trees and low trees. Ten-meter high trees are classified as high tree layer, and Red oak and Japanese red pine fall into this category. The second highest trees, which are five-meter to eight-meter high, are classified as sub-tree layer. Two-meter to three-meter high trees are classified as bush layer. And finally trees of one-meter or lower are classified as herbaceous layer. Generally, woods consist of these four layers: high tree layer, sub-tree layer, bush layer, and herbaceous layer.

Another way of classifying trees is by their types such as deciduous trees and evergreen trees. The deciduous trees sprout in spring, bear green leaves in summer, and shed their leaves in fall. And the surface of their leaves tends to be rough. On the other hand, the evergreen trees bear green leaves all the year round. Old leaves fall as new leaves emerge, and the surface of their leaves tends to be glossy and thick.

Understanding and learning about *satoyama* is very important. To conserve biodiversity, people need to understand the benefit of biodiversity and learn more about the nature.

(2). Visiting Paramita Museum

The participants visited Paramita Museum located in Komono Town, Mie Prefecture. The main exhibition of the museum was Art of amitaayus. They looked around the museum with a guide for an hour and learned about the difference between the art created in the area and the one in their hometown. They also observed the courtyard, where local vegetation is exhibited.