

SIDE EVENT

Sub-global Assessment of *Satoyama* and *Satoumi* in Japan and Its Contributions to *Satoyama* Initiative

Friday, 29 January 2010, 12:10 - 12:50 hours

Venue: Salle XII, UNESCO HQ, Paris

Organised by: United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan

Background and Agenda:

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) was the most comprehensive assessment ever undertaken on the links between ecosystem health and human well-being. It was carried out between 2001 and 2005, and represented a major international effort involving more than 1360 experts from 95 countries. Launched by the then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, it responded to government requests for information received through four international conventions, and was designed to also meet needs of other stakeholders, including the business community, the health sector, nongovernmental organizations, and indigenous peoples. As a multiscale assessment with a number of components called sub-global assessments (SGAs), it was also intended to meet the needs of decision-makers at the scales at which the assessments were undertaken. The findings proved that society is degrading the planet's ecosystem services resulting notably in biodiversity loss and climate change impacts, and that the current decline of these services represents a serious obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MA recommended immediate action to halt and reverse the ecosystem services decline.

Since its completion in 2005, various initiatives have been underway to follow-up on the MA achievements. While some of the SGAs initiated under the MA are still ongoing, a number of new SGAs have begun to emerge in the wake of the MA. The SGA of *Satoyama* and *Satoumi* in Japan (Japan SGA) was launched by UNU-IAS in 2007 to assess the ecosystem services derived from *satoyama* and *satoumi* and to provide the scientific base for actions to be taken towards the conservation and sustainable management of *satoyama* and *satoumi*. It applies the MA conceptual framework, conducted based around policy relevant issues and user needs. The SGA is the first integrated assessment in Japan where all dimensions including social, cultural, economic and ecological aspects are incorporated and assessed. The findings are expected to be used in local and national plans, strategies and policies, and also to contribute to the relevant international processes. In particular, it aims to provide inputs into the Tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10) that will be held in Japan in October 2010.

This side event will introduce the assessment work in Japan, which is intended to feed into *Satoyama* Initiative and to the CBD/COP10. The panelists will outline the concepts and approaches innovated through the MA and the SGA as well as the preliminary findings of the Japanese assessment, and will also discuss how the outcome from the Japan SGA can be integrated to the *Satoyama* Initiative for consideration by the CBD/COP10.

Programme:

Facilitator: Yoshihiro Natori, Senior Fellow, United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 12:10 – 12:15 | <i>Opening and Introduction to Sub-global Assessment of Satoyama and Satoumi in Japan</i>
Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice Rector, United Nations University (UNU) (Board Co-chair of Japan SGA) |
| 12:25– 12:35 | <i>Role of Ecosystem Assessments in Environment and Development Policy Making Processes</i>
A. H. Zakri, Director, Centre for Global Sustainability Study, Universiti Sains Malaysia
(Board Co-chair of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment) |
| 12:35- 12:45 | <i>Key Contributions of Japanese Sub-global Assessment to Satoyama Initiative</i>
Anantha Kumar Duraiappah, Director, International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) (Nippon Science Assessment Panel Co-chair of Japan SGA) |
| 12:45-12:50 | Q & A and Discussion |