

Ishikawa Declaration

on Rio+20 and Biodiversity

We, the members of the Rio+20 and Biodiversity Japan, participating in the Global Launch of the United Nations Decades on Biodiversity (UNDB), in Ishikawa, Japan, on 17th – 18th December 2012,

Recognize that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) will take place in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, known as Earth Summit) and biodiversity shall be regarded as one of the most critical issues,

Emphasize that the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, has adopted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Nagoya Protocol and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol, which is recognized as the significant achievements in the history of CBD and the great progress in the conservation of the planet's ecosystem and the realization of a sustainable society,

Welcome that the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity has been declared by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 65/161) and the mainstreaming of biodiversity is now recognized as the highest agenda of the United Nations beyond the CBD framework,

Regret that the outcomes of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), such as the Durban Platform and the extension of the Kyoto Protocol, has set back the efforts in preventing biodiversity loss,

Recognize that there is only one earth and all life on earth share the single boat in face of biodiversity loss,

Request that importance of biodiversity and the Aichi Targets shall be strongly recognized at Rio+20,

Declare the following:

The international community should reemphasize the value and importance of biodiversity at Rio+20:

Japan, as the President of CBD-COP10, shall take the leadership in the international community, including but not limited to the Parties of CBD, towards the mainstreaming of biodiversity and the achievement of the Aichi Targets, the achievement of CBD-COP10.

Japan shall share with the international community the lessons we learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster and our will to restore nature and human life with the “Green Economy” which is based on biodiversity and with great respect to the web-of-life and connections between human beings and nature.

It has been alerted that the ecological tipping points might be approaching. Humankind is now faced with the situation where the concept of happiness and richness needs to be deeply reconsidered. With the exacerbated situations of environment, the true meaning of “development and prosperity” has to be questioned. We do need to take this matter seriously.

We believe that the answer can be found in the concept of “Living in Harmony with Nature” , in other words, in reconstruction of the society based on biodiversity for generations.

We Japanese have developed the spirit of “Living in Harmony with Nature” through our culture and history. As such, we have the responsibility to prove that a sustainable society where environment and development live together is achievable if we truly understand and respect the value of biodiversity. World needs a new vision and the initiatives under the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity shall bring great influence in the process of finding and sharing the one. We hope that this memorandum ceremony of biodiversity in Ishikawa is also recognized as the important milestone in the road towards the success of Rio+20 and hereby declare our will and spirit.