

# Asian Youth Statement on Biodiversity

## Conference of Asia Youth on Biodiversity in Aichi 2009

Nagoya, Japan  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (including 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.

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