



STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE SYMPOSIUM ON A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY AND THE GREEN ECONOMY

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Life in harmony, into the future
いのちの共生を、未来へ
COP 10 / MOP 5

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a historic address to the Japanese nation following the tragic March earthquake and tsunami, Emperor Akihito said: “I would like to let you know how deeply touched I am by the courage of those victims who have survived this catastrophe and who, by bracing themselves, are demonstrating their determination to live on.”

This sentiment is shared by all those who have had the privilege to witness the resilience of the Japanese people. We in the biodiversity community share a special connection with the people of Japan, having seen firsthand their determination and generosity at the 2010 biodiversity summit in Nagoya.

Under the leadership of Japan, some 18,000 participants gathered in Aichi-Nagoya last October to adopt the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, known as the Aichi Targets, as well as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

For the successful adoption of these indispensable tools in the fight to stop the loss of life on earth, the international community owes Japan a debt of gratitude.

We at the CBD are particularly grateful to the Japanese business community for the role it played at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit. At COP-10 Nippon Keidanren showed leadership by helping to establish the Japan Business and Biodiversity Partnership, an alliance of 400 companies with federal and local governments as well as NGOs.

Building on of this partnership, Keidanren and the Japanese Ministry of Environment are now planning to host a meeting to launch a global platform on business and biodiversity prior to COP-11 in India.

This global platform on business and biodiversity is both timely and necessary, since at COP-10 Parties called for private sector engagement in:

- Establishing national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives;
- Compiling and disseminating information on best practices for mainstreaming ecosystem services;
- Encouraging the development and application of tools and mechanisms that can facilitate integration of biodiversity conservation into business practices;
- Tracking the implementation of private sector progress in mainstreaming ecosystem services; and
- Supporting the Convention’s objectives as well as national ecosystem services strategies.

As you know, losing biodiversity brings substantial financial risks for businesses and the global economy. The UN study on *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* estimates the annual global cost of biodiversity loss at close to US\$ 3 trillion.

Moreover, preserving biodiversity also has the potential to create further business opportunities. Organic vegetables and fruits, certified timber, natural cosmetics, and eco-tourism are all examples of growth markets.

In addition, new markets and other mechanisms in development will enable companies to reduce the footprint of their activities on biodiversity. For example biodiversity offsets are conservation activities intended to compensate for the residual, unavoidable harm to biodiversity

caused by economic development projects. Additionally, several certification schemes are being developed in a variety of sectors such as forestry and fisheries.

With this in mind, I would like to ask the Japanese business community to continue to actively implement and promote biodiversity-friendly business strategies. That is the best way to ensure the successes of Nagoya are repeated a year from now at COP-11 in India, which will include a high-level session on business and biodiversity.

It is also the best way to ensure the 2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity as a whole will be a resounding success.

Thank you for your kind attention.