

Message for the website of the International Year of Biodiversity

2010 is going to be a remarkable year in the history of biodiversity, as it has been designated the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations.

There will be various events taking place throughout the world to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under the slogan of the International Year of Biodiversity: “Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life.” As the host country of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in October 2010, Japan will use every opportunity to convey the message of the International Year of Biodiversity within and outside of Japan.

Just four weeks prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in September 2010, a one-day special meeting on biodiversity will be held during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly. This will be the first time in the history that Heads of State and Government from all over the world will meet to discuss how to address the global challenges for biodiversity.

In December 2010, the closing ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity will be held in Ishikawa Prefecture, which has an abundance of *satoyama*— a Japanese rural landscape where biodiversity has been sustainably used. This international event is going to be an excellent opportunity to report on the results of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as all the various events to mark the International Year that will take place around the world.

Let us unite for the celebration of biodiversity and see you all in Aichi-Nagoya, and Ishikawa!

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