

IYB Celebrations by Viet Nam

The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life.

Vietnam has carried out immense activities to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, to conserve and utilize the biodiversity in a sustainable way.

Firstly, information about IYB is regularly updated on the website of the Vietnam Environment Administration (at <http://www.vea.gov.vn>). A request by the Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) was sent to all provinces for the celebration of IYB2010 and the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB). Consequently, many provinces have carried out their own celebration activities, such as awareness raising, thematic workshops as well as the implementation of the Biodiversity Law 2008.

On 18 and 19 March 2010, the Second Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation of Truong Son Cordillera – for IndoChina countries – on the occasion of International Year of Biodiversity 2010 was organized in Hanoi. Nearly 200 participants attended the Workshop. Measures for biodiversity conservation in Vietnam as well as in the transboundary areas with neighbor countries were proposed and discussed.

On 22 May 2010, a talk show on biodiversity for the celebration of IDB 2010 was held at Giang Vo Secondary School. More than 1,000 thousand pupils attended and took part in the talk show and the talk quiz. At the same time, a tree planting session was organised as a part of the Greenwave campaign. Furthermore, different ministries celebrated the IDB, for example, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development organized the celebration of IDB at Ba Vi National Park, to promote the development and sustainable use of forests.

A special issue of the Environment Magazine on the International Year of Biodiversity was published on 25 May 2010. Information and best practices about biodiversity conservation were presented.

In addition, a key event on IYB celebration was held on 4 and 5 June 2010. A National Workshop on the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 was organised on 4 June 2010 in Quang Binh province. The workshop gathered managers and scientists to discuss conservation measures for Vietnam. At the same time, the Biodiversity Action Day (B-Day) was jointly organised between Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Quang Binh National Park and GTZ, originated from the initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation and German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

The national official celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity and International Day of Biodiversity was held on 5 June 2010 in Quang Binh, together with the celebration of the World Environment Day and the Vietnam Marine and Ocean Week. Thousands of people including managers, scientists, students, workers, youth, etc...participated in the national celebration. The President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam also attended the celebration.

The Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO3), in addition, was translated and printed in Vietnamese. The launching of the Vietnamese version of GBO3 was organised in 25 October 2010. This book is an important material for biodiversity conservation at the global level and at the national level, in particular.

In addition, a contest on biodiversity understanding among pupils of Giang Vo Secondary School was launched. Hundreds of papers and paintings about biodiversity and conservation recommendations have been received. Awards and prizes were given to the winners at the contest awarding ceremony in 25 October 2010.

In other words, IYB was celebrated at national and local level. Awareness on biodiversity conservation has been raised. Greater attention for biodiversity conservation has been paid to. The meaning that biodiversity is our life has been acknowledged.