

## NGO Roles on Biodiversity Conservation: from Conflict to Consensus

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### Introduction

On the conference, so many issues on the conservation of biodiversity are still addressed among the representatives of the countries over the world. Particularly, the benefit sharing of something from the biodiversity and financial aid to maintain the biodiversity it are really heat up on the convention between developing countries and developed countries.

On the other hand, Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), Civilians and others like indigenous people watched out the process of the discussion on the policy of the CBD. Who do the action for sustainable CBD and support the fund for their activities to maintain the CBD? And how the benefits from biodiversity are shared? Even there are still so many problems on CBD activities such as the effect of climate change, poverty of those who live in which are rich biodiversity and the assessment method of the biodiversity.

Therefore, it is important for CBD to understand the role of NGOs on the field work. So we conducted to participate in some events and visit NGO booth to know their activities and what the barrier to do their activity is.

### Group work

We mainly asked NGOs as following questions;

- How Local NGOs in the environmental sector are formed?
- What are their challenges?
- What conflict means among NGOs?
- How do they resolve these conflicts and reach consensus?
- What contribution do they have in serving biodiversity?

 Comment

• Fuke

There were so many kinds of NGO booth as if it was biodiversity of NGOs. They kindly introduced their activities. They have collected the information by their own way for long time. Those information were distributed as books and leaflets or on the web site. I understood they make effort to their own targets and work hard on the field concerning the global issues not only biodiversity but also others such as culture, education, poverty and society etc.

We received too many leaflets from NGOs so that I would know their concrete activities later. However, What I impressed is that almost NGOs just work their own way. They don't corroborate each other on the activities. The part of certain NGO works were almost the same as other NGO works. I wondered why they don't corroborate and share their works. But it is easy to answer. because they have to get fund from government and financial groups.

I suppose it is possible to corroborate and share some part of information and activities among NGOs.

I was interested in the system of the Japanese citizen networks. This network was formed by the association with small citizen's group works. One citizen group doesn't have enough power to do work largely. But if those small groups were corroborated and share the information with network, they could work more powerful and widely at the same time.

I can't say good or bad. The priority and policy on each group are quite different. So they sometimes argue something on their activities. But it is advantage for member of the groups to have knowledge and suggestion from different viewpoint.

The priority and the policy are different among NGO works but I assumed that the formation of the NGO network will be one of the solutions conflicting on NGO works and promote their activities by sharing information among NGOs.

From Govinda

## **The Conference of the Parties 2010**

The conference of the Parties on biodiversity (COP 10) was held in Nagoya, Japan. As an observer I observe ground shaking presence of international parties, mainly non governmental organizations NGOs and civil society members, who share the same floor for biodiversity conservation.

NGOs share legitimacy of the state in few aspects, through their expertise and massive public support for their cause and fund raising, irrespective of donor agencies. In that manner, they have spontaneous responsibility for public cause. They are two in basic types; operational NGOs and advocacy NGOs. They are seen as early stage of immersing global society that counter multinational corporations and states.

Similarly, civil society which means the realm of autonomous groups and association is a private sphere, independent from public authority. It is a private, non commercial group or body which seeks to achieve its ends through non violent means. They are less in tangible as whole body and less in coordination with each other.

COP10 is a great deal of work in biodiversity conservation with massive flush of funds. Environment is on the edge due to overwhelming deterioration form ever ending commercial exploitation of nature. Who, how and when is getting optimal concern of everyone in terms of conserving biodiversity, but, the more and more funds have been diverted to lavish opera type function and discussion of handful of people from similar realm in deciding the fate of millions of species, more and more inefficiency will be observed further. In contrary, less and less participation from business organization limit any action on those decisions made on COP 10.

NGOs are particularly either action oriented or advocacy oriented as mention above, but the number of NGOs participating the conventions were advocacy centric rather action, for example with bulk of leaflets, publication and other materials mainly, published in English, which is sheer boredom materials due to their highly scientific base for those who are whether in lucrative business community or impoverished people in the world. In today' world action is more anticipated than debates round the year with much redtapism among NGOs.

Besides criticism, NGOs are inevitable in the sense that there is no reliable parties have emerged so far in conserving the biodiversity yet. They are collecting information, preparing solid ground for initiating conservation work. But their work has understandable limitation because of their interdependence with state parties and commercial stake holders, mainly corporations. In that case, to have result oriented perspective there is no way to escape from legal and commercial counterparts but engage more with them with more tangible, and adequate goal and timely action in that regards. Further, more effort to minimize conflict among parties and broader and cordial relations would harness benefits for NGOs in their roles.

NGOs still can convince most of concerning parties by showing the fact that whatever benefits corporate or national interests should be go hand in hand with nature otherwise resource depletion will bring unpreventable ugly disaster. Digging hole on the vessels not only endangered other lives only but own too ; and tell this simple truth does not need great dramas. But NGOs are repeating the same slogan for last many decades which has raise considerable voice and concerns in preserving biodiversity but nothing substantial has been achieved expect in the few part of the world. Therefore, NGOs must realize that their cause is appreciable but efficiency and approach in dealing the issue have to have much reform with creating appropriate methods of measuring their work standard and goal centricness. In this regard they can borrow fundamental approach of business management system from corporate sector.

Therefore, COP10 can either regarded as a repetition of dissipation act or significant turning point for NGOs from their past weakness to make a new path.