

‘Comparison of Approaches of Developed Countries with Developing Countries in Applying Biodiversity Convention into Practice.’

I. Activities at COP 10

Below is a list of talks which we attended and some conclusions derived from the talks:

No.	Title of Talk	Conclusion(s)
1.	ABS and Sustainable Forest Management- Potentials for Synergies and Challenges of Linking the Two Processes at National, Regional and International Levels.	The whole African nations managed to agree on a general implementation of ABS in the continent. SFM was hardly touched upon during the presentation. Business parties raised the issue of possible negative impacts on future trade and business, as no business will risk a whole lot amount of money on something that has yet to be found. Unlike in other countries, the genetic resources have not been properly documented.
2.	Invasive Species and Climate Change: Addressing Multiple Drivers of Global Change	The speakers highlighted a new danger to biodiversity, in relations to climate change. For example, devastating typhoons brought new species to continents where they become invasive species. They also emphasized on the difference between alien and invasive species. Previous non-invasive species have also been found to become invasive although they still do not know why.
3	Assessing implementation of CBD national biodiversity strategies and action plans	Some constraints of implementation of CBD were raised up, mostly related to funding and action plan. There were two perspectives were showed in this discussion, donor versus developing

		countries.
	The role of forests in conservation of global biodiversity “From Japan to the world	<p>In this side event, the current approach of biodiversity conservation and forest biodiversity were reported.</p> <p>At first, Japan’s forestry agency investigates each kind of forest to evaluate the forest’s condition. Then appropriate treatments for example the conservation of whole basin, and Green Corridor are practiced with the partnership among local community, Forestry Agency and NGOs.</p> <p>These projects in Japan are supported by large funds and much help from the local community and NGOs. It is possible to practice the same scale projects in developing countries.</p>
	Launching of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSC)	<p>The Satoyama Initiative is initiated by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and UNU-IAS.</p> <p>The vision of Satoyama Initiative is to realize societies in harmony with nature.</p> <p>The Satoyama vision is necessary to fuse modern technology and science into traditional indigenous ecological knowledge or to exploring new forms of co-management systems while respecting traditional communal tenure and management of land.</p> <p>The advantage of this project is its partnership with more than 50 organizations in the world (not only national or local government, United Nations but also NGO, companies, educational or research institutes).</p> <p>The Environment Ministries from Developing countries also participated in this initiative.</p>

Besides attending to some of the panel discussion, we also went to see the booth exhibitions which were located outside the conventional center. Many NGOs, companies and governmental agencies demonstrated their progressive work related to biodiversity. There were also some companies which are dealing with recycle or environment conscious products and/or investing in environmental friendly business.



Figure 1: Booth exhibitions at Shirotori Park

The final day, we had spent half day to join the WGII, Operations of the Convention and new emerging issues of biodiversity. WGII session focused on the frequency of the COP event (whether it should be held biennially or triennially) and the funding needed for implementing biodiversity conservation in developing countries. Some countries suggested that the frequency has to be decided with considering the possibility of practicing works.

After leaving the WGII discussion, we had a group discussion; each group member had expressed their interesting topic and made the final remark for this conference. Many interesting topics, important of agricultural biodiversity, role of NGOs on biodiversity, genetic resources, were discussed.



Figure 2: Group Discussion and Reflection

II. Discussion

According to the talk and discussion of each expert from different stakeholders, the different approaches in applying CBD in developed and developing countries were illustrated in most of discussion panels. Some of the weakness and strength in implementation of CBD were also addressed in this conference. There were some controversial points in biodiversity in term of sustainable use and fair distribution. It, therefore, was the best chance for all the stakeholders to get together to express their concerns and find the appropriate solutions.

The national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs) is the key factor in applying CBD, and it was proclaimed to be the primary mechanisms to implement the convention in effective way. This strategy is meant to be a roadmap for how the countries intend to fulfill the objectives of the convention in light of it specific national circumstances. There were big differences between developed and developing countries in term of implementation of NBSAPs. Although there had been various studies of NBSAPs, especially of developing countries', so far there has been no comprehensive conclusion of its effectiveness as a tool for national implementation. Three main gaps which cause developing countries' NBSAPs lack of effectiveness were identified:

Policy Gap: Decentralization is one of main constrain of NBSAPs, it interrupts some of the decision making at the local level. Limit exposure of biodiversity degradation also causes the severe effect on biodiversity loss. The alignment with other international organization and developed countries to exchange experience and share lesson learn are

within the limit.

Implementation Gap: Lack of technical assistant can make NBSAPs fail. Therefore, institutional capacity building is very important for developing countries. Guideline to implement CBD is not clear enough and it is difficult to understand especially at the local level, low education people. It could be the cause of poor participation and lack of stewardship.

Resource Gap: This is a difference between developed and developing countries. Developing countries clearly has a challenge in this issue, as evidenced by the request for financial help during the plenary session. Developed countries not only have to fund their conservation projects, they are also asked to provide financial aid to the developing countries. Another obstacle for some of developing countries is not eligible to get fund from some donors, UNDP/ GEF funded projects. Developing countries cannot reliance on some of international organization to achieve their goal in biodiversity conservation.

However, developed and developing countries have the same consensus about biodiversity conservation. For example, EU, which stated their commitment towards biodiversity conservation, represented most of the European countries while Africa, as a continent, managed to agree on a general Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) implementation.

III. Conclusion

As biodiversity has huge benefit for biological resource, ecosystem service and social benefit, international cooperation plays an important role to exchange and share lesson learn especially between developed and developing countries. Although it is hard for developing countries to move on with CBD, developing countries can deal with those problems by getting support from international organization and developed countries in terms of providing fund and capacity building.