

**Cities and Biodiversity (CAB) Research Project**

**Public Symposium: "Bio-cultural Interaction Systems: The Future of Communities Creating Innovative Cities through Linkages with Rural Areas"**

**Date: 10 March 2013**

The goal of this research project is to propose reconstruction of linkages between cities and rural areas by examining the city of Kanazawa as a model case. Prof. Taisuke Miyachi from Hokkaido University Graduate School presented case studies of seaweed collecting and reed beds conservation in fishing villages of the Tohoku region as good examples of human-nature interactions. He also emphasized that environmental conservation is to maintain appropriate interactions between human beings and nature.

At the panel discussion, Prof. Takakazu Yumoto from Kyoto University, Nami Moriyama (Misogigawa Co. Ltd.) and Mutsumi Koura (Community trade al/Peace Bank Ishikawa) joined Prof. Miyachi and discussed values of biodiversity, linkages between production areas and areas where ecosystem services are consumed, and the significance and diversity of culture. A poster session was also held during the coffee break, and participants enjoyed mingling with panellists talking about the posters, which introduced linkages between biodiversity and cultural diversity.

**Satoyama and Satoumi (SAS) Research Project**

**Design Workshop for Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services Assessment for Human Well-Being in Ishikawa**

**Dates: 19-21 March 2013**

The Japan *Satoyama Satoumi* Assessment, which was undertaken between 2007 and 2010, examined the ecosystem services provided by *satoyama-satoumi* landscapes at the national and sub-national levels. It also examined those in Ishikawa Prefecture within the framework of the Hokushinetsu Cluster. However, to meet emerging needs and address specific issues on the ground, it is critical to conduct a new assessment on a smaller scale. With this understanding, OUIK organized the design workshop from 19-21 March 2013 to plan a biodiversity and ecosystem services assessment with a focus on Ishikawa Prefecture.

The first day of the workshop brought together national and local government officials and scientists, who shared the ongoing activities for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. During the following days, convening mainly scientists, the workshop discussed key questions and a conceptual framework around the issues including profitability of agriculture, sustainability of conservation activities, pride associated with one's locality, and links with the international community. It also identified ways to feed the assessment outcomes into both the local and international communities.

**Public Symposium "The New Commons: Governing *Satoyama-Satoumi* Landscapes for Human Well-Being"**

**Date: 21 March 2013**

The public symposium, held on 21 March 2013, convened a variety of stakeholders including experts from Japan and abroad, who discussed an innovative path towards sustainable use and management of *satoyama-satoumi* landscapes in Ishikawa. The first keynote lecture, given by Prof. Tohru Nakashizuka of Tohoku University, highlighted the significance of biodiversity and ecosystem services by providing concrete examples. Prof. Koji Nakamura of Kanazawa University introduced plans for a new assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services that will focus on Ishikawa Prefecture, building on the Japan *Satoyama Satoumi* Assessment. The final keynote lecture provided by Prof. Anantha Kumar Duraiappah of UNU-IHDP, discussed the new commons, which he defined as the spatial boundary containing different ecosystem types that together produce a critical minimum set of regulating services to produce a bundle of provisioning services.

During the panel discussion, Mr. Yoshinari Ohtsumi (Wajima Chamber of Commerce/Ohtsumi Marine Products) first highlighted the significance of developing human resources. This was followed by the talk by Mr. Shinjiro Imura (Kanazawa Agriculture/Kanazawa Daichi Co. Ltd./Asian Agriculture), who shared his hope of contributing to Japan's food self-sufficiency through organic farming as well as to the revitalization of the Noto region. Mr. Taisuke Watanabe (Ishikawa Prefectural Government) subsequently introduced a series of initiatives, which the Ishikawa Prefectural Government has been facilitating to support Ishikawa's *satoyama* and *satoumi*, including an incentive system in which volunteer activities are rewarded with eco-points, and support allocated from the *Satoyama* Creation Fund to assist productive restoration activities. Common themes emphasized throughout the final discussion included the need to scale up successful local initiatives and the importance of developing human resources.

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# OUIK Newsletter

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## Development of GIAHS in the Noto Region and the Role of OUIK

**Kazuhiko Takeuchi**  
Senior Vice Rector  
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Two years have passed since "Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi" and "Sado's Satoyama in Harmony with the Japanese Crested Ibis" were designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) sites in Beijing, China in June 2011. This was the first such designation in Japan as well as the first for a developed country. I can still vividly recall how hard the local stakeholders, including UNU-IAS Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa (OUIK), worked to achieve this recognition, as almost no one had heard of GIAHS when we first proposed for both sites to prepare applications.

Since then, "Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi" has made steady progress under the dynamic leadership of Governor Tanimoto of Ishikawa Prefecture. Implementation began last year of new initiatives such as the "Noto Smart Drive Project", which combines eco-tourism with the use of smart phones and the branding of "Noto Rice", which promotes environmentally-friendly rice cultivation throughout the Noto region. At the end of May this year, Noto will also host the bi-annual GIAHS International Forum, where José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other distinguished guests from all over the world will gather to discuss the future of GIAHS. I sincerely hope that the progress in "Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi" will achieve even greater successes in the future.

As the Director of the United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP), my team and I have been working closely with OUIK to support the local stakeholders of the Noto region since they applied with FAO for GIAHS designation of "Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi". Under a research project funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan, UNU-ISP has also collaborated with OUIK to co-organize a stakeholder meeting on "Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi" last year. Furthermore, from April this year, we will be enhancing cooperation with OUIK under one of its three research fields, namely "Sustainable Primary Industries", in particular focusing on research related to GIAHS. In addition to our core research on resilience, multi-stakeholder participation and promoting the "sixth industry" approach, we will also be endeavoring to conduct research on "Noto rice" based on the needs of Ishikawa Prefecture, as well as case studies on advancing *satoyama*. International GIAHS workshops will also be conducted to provide opportunities for information exchange and sharing of best practices with other GIAHS sites and the general public.

We look forward to OUIK's active future contributions to sustainable development and the various missions of the United Nations, through their promotion of GIAHS related developments from Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture to the global community.

### OUIK's Objectives:

1. To contribute to international research activities, in collaboration with local partners, towards a sustainable society, and
2. To develop communication and networks with local stakeholders through public outreach and capacity building, while sharing information on international trends.



## Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems: GIAHS



### GIAHS-Related Initiatives of UNU-ISP: Domestic and International Trends

Since August 2012, the United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP) has been working on research to develop a comprehensive assessment method for indigenous agri-cultural systems, under a project funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan. The objective of this research is to develop a method to assess the management of indigenous agri-cultural systems using a comprehensive perspective that encompasses their diversified cultures, landscapes and biodiversity. In particular, in addition to FAO's five assessment criteria, new assessment criteria will be included, namely: (1) strengthening of resilience to change, (2) voluntary initiatives based on the participation of various stakeholders, including private sector organizations, government, NPOs, etc., and (3) a "sixth-industry" approach including the use of historical, cultural and tourism resources for rural revitalization, that matches the situation in Japan.

Within the context of this research, the agricultural heritage systems and designation criteria for China and the Republic of Korea were also studied last year. In March and April of last year, China and the Republic of Korea, respectively, implemented their policies on Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (NIAHS). Both sets of designation criteria have incorporated additional elements created by each country while remaining consistent with FAO's criteria. In the future, we hope to advance discussions regarding assessment criteria for Japan, China and the Republic of Korea.

Furthermore, in Japan, in addition to Noto and Sado, three new sites are currently applying for GIAHS designation. These sites are "Managing Aso Grasslands for Sustainable Agriculture" in Kumamoto Prefecture, "Traditional Tea-grass Integrated System in Shizuoka (Chagusaba)" in Shizuoka Prefecture, and "Kunisaki Peninsula Usa Integrated Forestry, Agriculture and Fisheries System" in Oita Prefecture. UNU-ISP supported the applications of these sites by providing technical assistance, by reviewing the GIAHS proposal submissions to be sent to FAO and by making recommendations. The designation of new GIAHS sites will be announced at the GIAHS International Forum to be held in May this year.

Just as Europe is at the forefront of World Heritage with UNESCO, Asia can take a leading role with GIAHS. At a pre-event for the GIAHS International Forum in May, OUIK will be organizing the International GIAHS Workshop, which will hopefully provide a good opportunity to discuss and enhance cooperation among Asian countries, especially among Japan, China and the Republic of Korea towards the development of GIAHS in the future.

Akira Nagata, Senior Programme Coordinator  
United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace

### OUIK Research Project Related to GIAHS

The Sustainable Primary Industries (SPI) Project of UNU-IAS Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa (OUIK) is designed to document and analyze local initiatives for rebuilding and revitalizing the rural communities and rural economy, which are declining continuously due to rapid modernization and globalization. With a particular focus on Noto Peninsula region of Ishikawa Prefecture, the project will examine how local initiatives contribute to the restoration of *satoyama-satoumi* socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes in a sustainable way, and how resilience towards natural and social transformations of remote villages in a global context could be enhanced. The overall goal will be to identify appropriate policies at the local level for effective rural regeneration strategies involving a wide range of stakeholders. The research will be organized around the following five objectives:

- (1) Document traditional knowledge relevant to utilization and customary management of agricultural, forestry and coastal resources, using a case study of edible wild plants and irrigation ponds.
- (2) Identify the future scenarios and propose policies for enhancing resilience and sustainability of "Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi" landscapes through consensus building meetings involving multiple stakeholders.
- (3) Investigate the recent trend towards conversion from conventional farming to sustainable farming activities, and identify the socio-economic factors that have contributed to the conversion to environmentally friendly farming practices.
- (4) Document *satoyama* conservation initiatives to explore the role played by multiple stakeholders through a "new commons" approach and its potential, using a case study of abandoned land restoration.
- (5) Document in detail the new local initiatives of "Integrative Sixth Industry Development" of creating new high value added businesses, using two cases of transporting agricultural products to the urban market and selling the homemade processed edible wild plants to the local tourist industry. Identify new possibilities and challenges perceived by stakeholders involved in rural tourist industry in a global context.

Research outcomes will be disseminated at international conferences and seminars, and delivered as research papers.

Chen Bixia, Research Associate  
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### GIAHS through the Perspective of the Satoyama Initiative

Today's world is in the midst of rapid changes due to major advances in science and technology as well as increasing economic globalization. At the same time, environmental issues such as dramatic biodiversity loss, land degradation and water pollution have raised concerns over adverse effects to many aspects of people's lives, such as food production, health, culture and traditions. To address these issues, efforts are being made in many parts of the world to gain a deeper understanding of the roles that traditional land use and resource management play in providing various benefits to local communities and how they help to maintain balance in ecosystems. This knowledge can then be used in efforts toward creating sustainable societies. Under FAO's leadership, GIAHS provides one such positive example by designating remarkable landscapes with important farming methods and rich biodiversity that has evolved through the co-adaptation of communities with their environments.

Another example of such efforts is provided by the Satoyama Initiative, which was proposed by the Japanese Government and United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies. With the vision of realizing societies in harmony with nature, the Initiative aims to conserve and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS). The Initiative uses the term SEPLS to refer to areas where people have innovated and tried to sustainably use goods and services derived from ecosystems in production activities and their daily lives, which in turn contributes to securing people's livelihoods and well-being. To promote and facilitate collaboration among the various activities taking place in SEPLS, the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) was launched during CBD COP10 in 2010. UNU-IAS serves as the secretariat of IPSI. Today, more than 130 member organizations from different sectors and countries are engaging in a range of research, policy, capacity building and on-the-ground activities.

The Satoyama Initiative and GIAHS share many aspects: both target landscapes created through human-nature interactions and explore pathways for development based on the characteristics of the local settings and by learning from time-tested knowledge derived from current and past generations. It is therefore important that both initiatives cooperate in a complementary fashion in order to contribute to the development of sustainable societies.

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Wataru Suzuki, Fellow, Satoyama Initiative Coordinator  
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Participants of the Third IPSI Global Conference in Hyderabad, India in 2012