The Cities and Biodiversity (CAB) research project has studied “bio-cultural diversity” as the interrelation between the natural environment and human culture, with a focus on food culture. The project has highlighted the importance of local food cultures in encouraging the consumption of regionally grown vegetables. This is not only because these vegetables remind people of their place, rich in nature and culture, but also because the consumption of regionally grown vegetables has increased, thanks to the efforts of OUIK and local universities.

Many people have been attracted to “Kaga vegetables,” and consumption of these locally grown vegetables has increased. OUIK has focused on the Satoyama Initiative, which encourages biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources. This initiative includes practices such as cooperation with a paper manufacturing company in Japan that uses bamboo wood tips as a material for making paper, the Nepali Government’s efforts to draw on the Satoyama Initiative to develop its national strategy, and collaborative research ideas proposed by a German university.

Future research and collaboration

Prof. Nakamura said that there should be careful examination of what is needed for further research, based on the experiences of collaboration with OUIK, Kanazawa University, the Hokuriku Regional Agricultural Administration Office of MAFF, and Ishikawa Prefecture through Noto’s GIAHS designation. He also shared his idea that Noto’s satoyama and satoumi have many possibilities for collaborative research together with OUIK and local universities.

Event Announcement

Cities and Biodiversity (CAB) Research Project Public Symposium

Food and Biodiversity of Kanazawa under Globalization – Can Kanazawa’s Food Culture Bear the Future?

Date: Saturday, 1 March 2014, 13:30 - 16:30
Venue: Large Meeting Room, Kanazawa Bunka Hall, Kanazawa, Ishikawa

Keynote Lecture: “Blessings of Nature – Food Culture of Kanazawa”
by Etsuko Aoki (Principal, Aoki Cooking School)

Discussants:
Etsuko Aoki
Toshiki Enomoto (Professor, Division of Food Science, Dept. of Bioreources and Environmental Sciences, Ishikawa Prefectural University)
Shinjiro Imura (President, Kanazawa Daichi Co. Ltd.)
Asuka (Food Analyst)

Many people have been attracted to ‘Kaga vegetables,’ and consumption of these locally grown vegetables has increased. This is not only because Kaga vegetables remind people of Kanazawa, a place rich in nature and culture, but also because the local food culture has encouraged consumption of Kaga vegetables. The local natural environment and linkages between agriculture and Kanazawa’s food culture, however, have rarely been discussed until recently.

The Cities and Biodiversity (CAB) research project has studied “bio-cultural diversity” as the interaction between the natural environment and culture. Based on the research outcomes, this symposium focuses on bio-cultural diversity by discussing agricultural production and the natural environment of the producing district, the richness of Kanazawa’s food culture, and future challenges.

For further information and registration, please contact UNU-IAS OUIK.

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.
On 1 November 2013, UNU-IAS OUIK organized a public seminar in order to discuss the outcomes and perspectives of two international conferences on satoyama and satoumi: the International Forum on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), which was held in Notō (Nanakyo City) of Ishikawa Prefecture in May 2013, and the Fourth Global Conference of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI-4), which was held in Fukuoka Prefecture in September 2013.

Keynote Lecture GIAHS and Satoyama Initiative – International Dissemination from Ishikawa/Kanazawa

Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Senior Vice Rector of the United Nations University (UNU), started by referring to the International Forum on GIAHS, which was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was the first time for FAO to hold the Forum in a designated GIAHS site, and Prof. Takeuchi emphasized the leadership of Governor Tanimoto of Ishikawa Prefecture in making the event a success.

GIAHS promotes and designates systems that stabilize livelihoods by exploiting the local environment and agricultural biodiversity through small-scale and environmentally friendly agriculture, while FAO has encouraged increasing agricultural productivity and extending farmland to secure food security. As a result, it is difficult to consider GIAHS as representing the mainstream position of FAO. Prof. Takeuchi, however, stressed that the attendance of José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, indicates that GIAHS is still important.

At the International Forum on GIAHS in Notō, three Japanese sites were designated along with two Chinese sites and one Indian site. Prof. Takeuchi said that the designation of Noto and Sado as the first GIAHS sites in a developed country in June 2011 stimulated the three new Japanese sites to apply for GIAHS designation. He emphasized the importance of “enhancing resiliency”, “establishing a new commons” with a range of local stakeholders beyond just farmers and fishermen, and “creating new business models” by adding value to agricultural products and the community itself when traditional agricultural systems are revitalized in modern society.

Prof. Takeuchi also introduced the background for establishing IPSI and a summary of the past conferences. The Fourth Global Conference of IPSI in Fukuoka (IPSI-4) was unique among those, because many overseas participants were able to join an excursion including a homestay in a local satoyama area prior to the IPSI-4 General Assembly and Public Forum. Due to these experiences, their common understanding of satoyama was helpful for further discussion during the conference. At the Public Forum, participants discussed how to strengthen collaboration and synergies among IPSI members and other relevant initiatives and programs, and how to encourage a participatory approach. Prof. Takeuchi emphasized the importance of political leadership in such efforts and drew attention to a national network to promote the Satoyama Initiative that was launched under the leadership of Ishikawa Prefecture and Fukuoka Prefecture.

At the end of his lecture, Prof. Takeuchi highlighted the importance of (1) international recognition of satoyama and satoumi in the Hokuriku region through activities relevant to GIAHS and the Satoyama Initiative, (2) global dissemination and information gathering on best practices of GIAHS in other countries as well as study of GIAHS sites in Japan, (3) reporting achievements at international conferences, and (4) sharing feedback from the dissemination and international discussion with local stakeholders.

Panel Discussion Presentation 1: Outcomes from International Conferences and Future Activities of Ishikawa Prefecture

At the beginning of the panel discussion, Mr. Tsutomu Okamoto, Director of the Satoyama Creation Office, Environment Division, Ishikawa Prefecture, presented Ishikawa Prefecture’s achievements and future initiatives for GIAHS and IPSI-4. He referred to cooperation among OUIK, Kanazawa University, and Ishikawa Prefecture to create lively satoyama and established the “Ishikawa Biodiversity Strategic Vision”, which was developed in March 2011 and the “Ishikawa Satoyama Creation Fund” that was established in May 2011 as examples of outstanding initiatives.

Regarding the “Japan Network for Promoting the Satoyama Initiative”, Mr. Okamoto explained that the organization was launched with the aim of networking the private sector, non-governmental and non-profit organizations, and local governments that are interested in the Satoyama Initiative. He said that Ishikawa Prefecture would contribute to the Satoyama Initiative by promoting and taking the lead in satoyama creation from the standpoint of a local IPSI member.

Presentation 2: How can Notō’s Satoyama and Satoumi Contribute to Community Revitalization in Notō of Ishikawa: Efforts by OUIK and Kanazawa University

Prof. Koji Nakamura, specially appointed professor of Kanazawa University, who also holds the position of visiting professor with UNU-IAS, gave a presentation about international trends and local activities on satoyama and satoumi. He explained how some of the outcomes of the Japan Satoyama Satoumi Assessment (JSSA), which was carried out between 2007 and 2010, led to the Satoyama Initiative, and referred to the important role of OUIK and Kanazawa University in conducting the JSSA. At the same time, he pointed out that the results of the JSSA have not yet been fully utilized and that the current local situation should be analyzed in more detail.

Prof. Nakamura indicated that utilization of satoyama would be an issue for the society, which is faced with depopulation, the population aging, and global environmental change, and emphasized that OUIK and local universities should work together to validate the efficiency of corresponding policies. He also expressed interest in updating the satoyama and satoumi assessment with the aim of revitalization of local communities as well as contributing to the international community, because more than three years have passed since the end of the JSSA. As he closed his presentation, Prof. Nakamura said that OUIK’s satoyama and satoumi research could be the next step for the JSSA.

Discussion (1) Collaborative Research by OUIK and UNU-ISP

Mr. Akira Nagata, Senior Programme Coordinator of the UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP), explained that the International GIAHS Workshop, which OUIK organized in May 2013, was successful and was followed by another international workshop in the Republic of Korea in August. These workshops led to the establishment of the East Asia Research Association for Agricultural Heritage Systems (ERAHS), which is a working group including researchers from China, the Republic of Korea, and Japan.

Mr. Nagata stressed the importance of disseminating research results to local people in Notō and Ishikawa Prefecture, and showed his enthusiasm for disseminating the concept of GIAHS to other countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America as well as other developed nations on the basis of ERAHS.

(2) Future Direction of Satoyama and Satoumi Research

Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Deputy Director of IPSI, raised three points regarding the future direction of satoyama and satoumi research after IPSI-4. Firstly, OUIK is unique among other UNU programmes because it has kept focusing on Notō as its research field. He stressed the significance of dissemination activities by OUIK as well as providing feedback to local communities. Secondly, research should be developed on satoyama and satoumi. Mr. Suzuki explained how the JSSA rephrased satoyama as Socio-ecological Production Landscapes (SEPLs) and that this was the turning point at which the Satoyama Initiative became an international programme. At the same time, he proposed carrying out further research on Notō’s satoyama and satoumi because it is not clear how satoyama and satoumi contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Thirdly, Mr. Suzuki stressed the importance of OUIK organizing international workshops and expressed his expectation of an upcoming event as an opportunity to examine differences between satoyama and satoumi in Japan and other countries through lectures by researchers from other developed countries.

(3) Background of GIAHS designation of Notō and other proposed sites

Mr. Nagata emphasized that the Notō region not only meets the five criteria of GIAHS designation, but has also maintained its traditions across large areas. He added that OUIK has contributed to Notō’s designation with the Hokuriku Regional Agricultural Administration Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF), which worked diligently toward the designation. According to Mr. Nagata, some areas in Japan have prepared applications for GIAHS designation. Based on the current situation, he indicated the possibility of changing the process of national selection due to the increase of regional interest in GIAHS. In addition, he explained that the level of review for the GIAHS sites designated in May 2013 was higher than before and that reviewing standards could rise in the future.
future challenges. The Cities and Biodiversity (CAB) research project has studied “bio-cultural diversity” as the interrelation between the natural agriculture and Kanazawa’s food culture, however, have rarely been discussed until recently.

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Issued by United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa (UNU-IAS OUIK) Siinoki Cultural Complex, Ishikawa Prefecture 3F, 2-1-1 Hirooka, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, JAPAN 920-0962 Tel: 076-224-2266 Fax: 076-224-2271 E-mail: unu-issouik@ias.unu.edu http://www.ias.unu.edu

**Event Announcement**

Cities and Biodiversity (CAB) Research Project Public Symposium Food and Biodiversity of Kanazawa under Globalization – Can Kanazawa’s Food Culture Bear the Future? Date: Saturday, 1 March 2014, 13:30 - 16:30 Venue: Large Meeting Room, Kanazawa Bunka Hall, Kanazawa, Ishikawa Keynote Lecture: “Blessings of Nature – Food Culture of Kanazawa” by Etsuko Aoki (Principal, Aoki Cooking School) Discussants: Etsuko Aoki Toshiki Enomoto (Professor, Division of Food Science, Dept. of Bioresources and Environmental Sciences, Ishikawa Prefectural University) Shinjiro Imura (President, Kanazawa Daichi Co. Ltd.) Asuka (Food Analyst)

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Panel Discussion

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