



OUIK Newsletter

Greetings from the Director

Tsunao Watanabe

Director

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa (UNU-IAS OUIK)

I was appointed as Director of the Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa (OUIK) in January 2014 and would like to express my sincere gratefulness to all the people who have provided their support to OUIK in a variety of different ways.

Until the summer of 2012, I was involved for 34 years at the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) with the conservation and management of the National Parks of Japan and its wildlife, including the Japanese crested ibis and wild cat. I also have worked on the ground on issues in cooperation with local people. In 2010, as Director of the Japan Secretariat, I contributed to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10).

Hakusan National Park, which is a symbol of Ishikawa Prefecture, just celebrated its 50th anniversary, and the collaborative efforts by local communities surrounding Mt. Hakusan have attracted international attention. In addition, the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture and Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture were designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) sites in 2011. Records exist of the Japanese crested ibis living in both Noto and Sado after the Second World War, and one of the objectives of the Noto GIAHS site is to revitalize the *satoyama* and *satoumi* areas, which provide a habitat for the Japanese crested ibis. Community-based practices in Noto can provide a leading example to the whole country of Japan.

The global Aichi Biodiversity Targets were adopted in 2010 under the Convention on Biological Diversity's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan with a vision of "living in harmony with nature." At that time, the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), which was jointly initiated by the United Nations University (UNU) and MOEJ, was established with the aim of realizing a nature-harmonious society. I believe that pioneering efforts in Ishikawa/Kanazawa have contributed to achieving such international outcomes. Participants of the Closing Event for the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the Global Launching of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity in 2011 may agree with me.

I believe that OUIK can play an important role in linking local efforts in Ishikawa/Kanazawa with the rest of the world for a sustainable society that utilizes the diversity of nature, life, and culture at the local level.

OUIK has focused on *Satoyama* and *Satoumi* (SAS), Sustainable Primary Industries (SPI), and Cities and Biodiversity (CAB) as its focal research themes during the last two years. I would like to continue enhancing these research activities in collaboration with local stakeholders to create new international trends from Ishikawa/Kanazawa.



Mr. Tsunao Watanabe was appointed as Senior Programme Coordinator of the United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP) in November 2012. Prior to this appointment, he served as Director-General of the Nature Conservation Bureau from January 2011, Councillor for Nature Conservation, Director for Biodiversity Policy Division, Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

He also played a pivotal role in the success of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10) in 2010. He graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Tokyo with a major in landscape architecture.

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.

OUIK Public Seminar

“Outcomes of *Satoyama-Satoumi* Conferences and Further Perspectives from OUIK” Seminar Report

Note: UNU organization names and speaker titles in the text are current as of 1 November 2013.

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 Noto (Nanao 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 Fukui 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.



Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi

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 Noto, 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 Fukui (IPSI-4) was unique among these, 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 Fukui 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 Okumoto**, 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 introduced 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. Okumoto 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

(4) Satoyama Initiative activities in Japan and abroad

Mr. Suzuki stressed the significance of international dissemination, and his appreciation that Ishikawa Prefecture had hosted international events including the Closing Event for the International Year of Biodiversity and the Global Launching of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity as well as the launch of the Japan Network for Promoting the Satoyama Initiative. He also introduced a few best practices of the Satoyama Initiative 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.

(5) 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 by 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.

(6) International contribution of Japanese GIAHS sites

There was a question from the floor regarding what discussants think about the international contribution of Japanese GIAHS sites. The idea was that through GIAHS, Noto's approach could be a model of both community development and the inheritance of traditional culture within the context of modern Japanese society, which is faced with a decreasing birthrate and aging population. **Mr. Nagata** agreed with this opinion and added that GIAHS sites in Japan could even act as a global model by providing a direction for both developed and developing countries.

Prof. Nakamura introduced that quite a few overseas researchers have gotten interested in depopulation and population aging in Japan following his presentations at international conferences and workshops. He also stressed the importance of active interchange among those researchers who are interested in the practices in Noto by using OUIK's network.

At the end of the seminar, all discussants expressed their determination to engage in future research and activities based on the panel discussion. Before closing the event, **Dr. Kazu Takemoto**, Director of OUIK, emphasized that the seminar had provided an opportunity to share future directions for a variety of different activities.

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)

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 interrelation 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.

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in *satoyama* creation from the standpoint of a local IPSI member.

Presentation 2: How can Noto's *Satoyama* and *Satoumi* Contribute to Community Revitalization in Noto 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, 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) introduced how OUIK's research on Sustainable Primary Industries (SPI) has focused on GIAHS in collaboration with UNU-ISP. He 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 communicating research results to local people in Noto 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 Noto 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 Noto'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 Noto and other proposed sites

Mr. Nagata emphasized that the Noto 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 Noto'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.



Clockwise from top left: Mr. Okumoto, Prof. Nakamura, Mr. Nagata, and Mr. Suzuki