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**PRESS INVITATION**  
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## Public Symposium: “Connecting and Supporting Forests, the Countryside, Rivers and the Sea”

**DATE + TIME:** Saturday, 30 May 2015, 1:30–4:30 PM

**VENUE:** U Thant International Conference Hall, United Nations University (UNU) Headquarters, Tokyo

**ORGANIZERS:** UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), and the Global Environmental Outreach Centre, in cooperation with the Japan Committee for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

**LANGUAGE:** Japanese (English interpretation will not be provided)

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You are cordially invited to attend “Connecting and Supporting Forests, the Countryside, Rivers and the Sea”, a public symposium in commemoration of the UN International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) on 30 May 2015.

Every year, many commemorative ceremonies for IDB are held all over the world to increase awareness and understanding of biodiversity issues. This year’s IDB theme is “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development”.

Our lives are supported by nature’s bounty, such as clean water and air, food and other resources, as well as distinctive cultures and leisure activities based on nature. Interconnected forests, countryside, rivers and seas provide this natural bounty; however, overuse and poor management of the environment and unsustainable development have disconnected the linkages between these ecosystems, degrading their quality. Furthermore, climate change has been accelerating such fragmentation and degradation.

This symposium will discuss how to conserve the richness of interconnected forests, countryside, rivers and seas, and ways of enhancing their bounty. In this symposium, MOEJ’s project team, “Connecting and Supporting Forests, the Countryside, Rivers and the Sea”, will present the preliminary results of dialogues and discussions they have had with local governments and experts on this issue.

Please note that this symposium will be conducted in Japanese; English interpretation will not be provided.

For more information, please see the event page on the UNU-IAS website:

<http://ias.unu.edu/en/events/upcoming/connecting-and-supporting-the-forests-rivers-the-sea-and-satoyama.html>

To register for this event, please send an email to [morisatokawaumi@next-eye.co.jp](mailto:morisatokawaumi@next-eye.co.jp) with your contact information (name, organization and telephone number).

Please note that members of the press will be required to show official credentials at the event registration desk. Press photographers will be required to wear arm badges.