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The Embassy of Japan in Rwanda

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1 The First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions: Japan Reports the Implementation of Projects Totaling 12 Million US Dollars

The First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was held from November 9 to 12 in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic. As the first meeting of States Parties since the entry into force of the Convention in August 2010, it provided an opportunity to set a new stage to turn the vision of the Convention into action. During the meeting, discussions took place on specific operational issues relating to the implementation of the Convention, such as universalization of the Convention and the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions. Adopting the 2010 Vientiane Declaration and the Vientiane Action Plan by consensus, which present the direction for States Parties and signatory States in making specific efforts in the next five years, the States Parties affirmed their commitment to end the harm caused by cluster munitions.

From Japan, Mr. Hisashi Tokunaga, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the meeting. In his statement, Mr. Tokunaga explained that as a Friend of the President on universalization, Japan was taking a leading role in this area by cooperating with partner States and civil society representatives, and that Japan had been supporting the clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO), including cluster munitions, and their victims, with assistance amounting to about 12 million US dollars since the time of signing of the Convention. Parliamentary Vice-Minister Tokunaga furthermore expressed Japan's determination to continue to play an active role in this field. Japan was commended for making important contributions to the success of the meeting, including the assistance Mr. Akio Suda, Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, had provided to the President of the Meeting from Laos as the Vice-President.

2 The Aichi-Nagoya Ministerial Meeting of the REDD+ Partnership: Creating Momentum to Advance Negotiations at COP16

The Aichi-Nagoya Ministerial Meeting of the REDD+ Partnership was held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture in Japan on October 26, 2010, under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Seiji Maehara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and H.E. Mr. Samuel T. Abal, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

This Ministerial Meeting was held under the “REDD+ Partnership,” a mechanism designed to enhance the international coordination and cooperation on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+). The REDD+ Partnership was established in response to the widely held idea that reducing emissions from REDD+ has a crucial role to play in the tackling of global warming, which was broadly recognized by the international community at the COP15 meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at the end of the last year. The Ministerial Meeting was attended by Ministers and the heads of delegations from 62 countries participating in the REDD+ Partnership. Representatives from various international organizations, the UNFCCC Secretariat and non-government organizations (NGOs) also attended the meeting.

Japan actively led discussions, as a co-chair, and also as a top donor in the forestation area. The Ministerial Meeting confirmed the achievements of the past forest preservation activities under the REDD+ Partnership, such as the creation of databases on REDD+ actions, finance and results, and mechanisms to share information. The Meeting also released a Co-Chairs’ Summary that presents the outcome of activities under the Partnership and the directions of future activities to be taken by the international community. Ministers were able to strongly appeal to the international community by sharing the view that they should accelerate the initiatives of REDD+, a key pillar of climate change commitments, and create the momentum to further advance negotiations on climate change just a month before COP16.

3 The Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Japan Contributes to the Adoption of the Nagoya Protocol and Other Important Decisions as the President of the Conference

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, from October 18

to 29. The meeting drew the participation of more than 13,000 people from the Parties to the Convention, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other institutions. H.E. Mr. Ryu Matsumoto, Minister of the Environment, served as the President of the Conference. On October 27, H.E. Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan, attended the High Level Segment of COP10 that the Government of Japan hosted concurrently from October 27 to 29.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Kan announced the Life in Harmony Initiative (2 billion dollars) to support efforts being made by developing countries for biological diversity conservation; Minister Matsumoto announced the Japan Biodiversity Fund (1 billion yen) developed under the above Initiative to support the compilation of national strategies on biological diversity, and assistance (1 billion yen) to developing countries for capacity building regarding Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) related to genetic resources. Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Yutaka Banno, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, announced specific assistance measures concerning genetic resources and forest conservation.

COP10 adopted the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and the New Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the "Aichi Target") for 2011 onward. In addition, the fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP5), held prior to COP10, adopted the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress for Damages Resulting from Living Modified Organisms.

Japan, as the President of the COP10 and COP-MOP5 meetings, welcomes these outcomes. For the heavily debated Nagoya Protocol, Japan contributed to building consensus among the Parties toward the agreement by presenting a balanced draft President's text which reflected the interests of all the Parties at the meeting. Going forward, Japan will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and proactively support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the Aichi Target and implement the Nagoya Protocol by utilizing its knowledge and technology, taking into account the needs of developing countries.

4 Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA): Final Round Resolves Nearly All Substantive Issues

The eleventh and final round of the negotiations for the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) was concluded successfully in Tokyo, Japan on October 2, 2010, and the Government of Japan hosted the negotiations. Participants in the negotiations included Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, and the United States.

Participants in the negotiations constructively resolved nearly all substantive issues and produced a consolidated and largely finalized text of the proposed agreement. Besides, during the week, the Government of Japan hosted informal meetings with stakeholders, including representatives from NGOs and business leaders, and the participants in the round.

Japan congratulates this outcome, as it raised the necessity of the ACTA at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005 and has promoted its negotiations thereafter. The ACTA is an agreement that will establish an international framework to more effectively combat the proliferation of counterfeiting and piracy, which undermines legitimate trade and the sustainable development of the world economy. It is expected to contribute to ensuring sound development of the world contents industry. Japan will work with other participants with a view to realizing early taking-into-effect of the ACTA. The Government of Japan wishes to engage in discussions with other countries and regions with a view to promoting understanding on the challenges in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy and to expanding international cooperation in this field.