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As an organization representing Japan's science community encompassing humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, the Science Council of Japan has been active in promoting institution design and policy implementation for sustainable development.

The annual International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability has been held as a crucial part of our efforts since 2003.

In the past seven conferences, scholars from Japan and abroad have been invited to deepen discussions in their fields of expertise and exchange information in the form of a public symposium on Energy, Asian Megacities, Dynamism in Asia, Global Innovation Ecosystem, International Cooperation for Development, Sustainable Well-Being, and Global Food Security. Each time, dynamic discussions are held and the exchanged scientific information is put to use in the operation of the Science Council of Japan as a valuable source of intellectual assets.

In 2010, we celebrate the first ever International Year of Biodiversity and in October in Aichi Prefecture, Nagoya City, the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention of Biological Diversity was held. The loss of biodiversity not only results in the abandonment of regional development and administration, but also compositely reflects numerous global environmental issues such as global warming and may act as a comprehensive indicator of the entirety of global environmental issues. The extinction rate of species owing to human activity is estimated to be over 1,000 times their natural rate of extinction, and the accompanying changes to the ecosystem are presumed to result in the rapid loss of potential in the numerous ecosystem services that are necessary for the people of current and future generations. To stop the loss of biodiversity as soon as possible and to maintain and recover an ecosystem that is able to provide well-balanced ecosystem services is one of the pressing issues in securing the sustainability of human society.

In COP10, dynamic discussions about not only conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, but also regarding the usage and benefit sharing of genetic resources has been held. And the Nagoya Protocol and the Aichi Target consisting of the 20 headline targets which should be accomplished by 2020 were adopted. Working towards the realisation of the newly set targets, there are numerous problems that will need to be scientifically and technologically resolved with the help of academics for international society and each signatory country to set specific strategies, and to make effective

approaches while involving various bodies including both citizens and companies. In order to attend to such social issues it is most important to utilise the accumulated knowledge and the technology of the numerous academic fields in an integrated way and to make proactive the interaction between science and society. It is considered to be a great honour that we hold the “International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability”, providing a venue for international discussions, following the success of COP10, which was an important milestone conference for biodiversity.

For the visiting scholars, administrative, corporate and civilian who adjusted their schedules so near to New Year’s Eve to attend this conference, we hope that the conference will be a stimulating and beneficial place of networking and information exchange in an alternate field, and moreover, it will contribute towards integrating knowledge for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

I hereby conclude my message as the representative of Science Council of Japan expressing the gratitude to United Nations University, Ishikawa Prefecture, NIKKEI Inc., Ministry of the Environment and everyone who will participate in the conference.