

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **Winners of the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity announced at the United Nations**

*Montreal, 30 September 2010.* The winners of the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity were announced on 21 September at the United Nations in New York. Three winners each received \$100,000 for their work in support of safeguarding biodiversity.

The winners were Jean Lemire, a biologist-turned-filmmaker from Canada, Gretchen Daily of the Centre for Conservation Biology at Stanford University, and Emil Salim, a professor of economics at Indonesia University in Jakarta.

The announcement was made on the eve of the UN General Assembly's special high-level meeting devoted to the issue of biodiversity. The high-level meeting sets the stage for next month's world conference on biodiversity – the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – that takes place in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010.

The announcement was made by Mr. Takuya Okada, Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation, Japan. Present at the announcement were Mr. Ryu Matsumoto, Minister of the Environment of Japan; MISIA, the UN-appointed Honorary Ambassador for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10); and Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Mr. Matsumoto briefed the audience on preparations for the Nagoya meeting at which governments are expected to commit to stronger measures to safeguard biodiversity through a new strategic plan; and are also expected to adopt a new legal instrument to govern access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.

The Japanese singer MISIA, who has been designated by the United Nations as honorary ambassador to COP-10 spoke of her work to gain public attention to the issue of biodiversity and sustainable development. MISIA will work over the coming two years to bring attention to the issues addressed by the Conference of the Parties.

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghla spoke of the need for all stakeholders to work together in a global alliance to reverse the dangerous decline in biodiversity.

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