

### **PL-9** Benefits and Challenges of Community Engagement for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity: Lessons from Participatory Landscape Management under the Satoyama Initiative

10:45-12:45 24 July 2014

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The exclusion of ecosystem-dependent communities from the management and use of local resources has been one of the drivers of ecosystem degradation around the world. In this context, the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) seeks to overcome the loss of biodiversity in production landscapes and seascapes by promoting good practices for participatory planning and management. This Session aimed to showcase some of the opportunities and challenges of participatory ecosystem use, based on the experiences accumulated under the Satoyama Initiative. The Session introduced an example of an innovative, locally-rooted form of marketing, which can act as a bridge between sustainable production and consumption. This was followed by presentations of studies by IPSI partners, as well as a panel discussion on the possibilities and challenges of community engagement for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Senior Vice Rector of the United Nations University (UNU), Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi, delivered the Session's Keynote Speech. He introduced the International Partnership of the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), as well as the concept of Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS) and pointed to the importance of "creating resilient societies by local efforts."

Mr. Toru Fukushima, President of Fukushimaya, contributed the Guest Presentation on "local community based supermarket business" to the Session, explaining the role that companies can play in bridging sustainable production and consumption, and the factors contributing to Fukushimaya's success as a new business model.

The Panel Session included three presentations:

- Dr. Kuang-Chung Lee, National Dong-Hwa University, Taiwan, presented a case study of a Rice Paddy Cultural Landscape conservation project in an Indigenous Community of Taiwan, and illustrated how community engagement can help overcome existing challenges.
- Dr. Kaoru Ichikawa, Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, UNU (UNU-IAS) explained how the Indicators of Resilience in SEPLS, developed by IPSI, can be used for community engagement and what the expected benefits are.
- Dr. Ykhanbai Khijaba, Environmental and Development Association "JASIL", Mongolia, described the challenges faced in the sustainable use of pastoral landscapes and the preliminary results of the use of the IPSI Indicators of Resilience in Mongolia.

#### **Key messages of the session**

The various approaches to engage local communities in the sustainable use of SEPLS and biodiversity developed and adopted within the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative provide a number of valuable lessons. Particularly important are the communication between different stakeholders (e.g. between producers and consumers), and consensus building processes, both within the local communities (e.g. through regularly held community forums) and between the local and scientific community to be able to speak with one voice. The Session also highlighted the importance of ensuring human well-being beyond the generation of material wealth. An effective community engagement contributes to strengthen both the resilience of ecosystems and the "resilience of the human spirit."