



# Ramsar COP 12 Side Event [1112] Follow-up of rice paddy resolution (X.31)

This side event aims to review the progress and challenges in enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies, in order to examine the effect of **Resolution X.31, Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems, and explore next steps.**

The side event will provide case studies on the implementation of resolution X.31 at national and local levels, which may encourage other Contracting Parties and related groups to promote the conservation and wise use of rice paddies, other artificial wetlands and their biodiversity.

**Date&Time: June 8th, 2015 18:15–19:45**

**Room: Rio de Janeiro A**

<b>Programme</b>	
	<b>Coordinator</b> Mr. Minoru Kashiwagi, Co-Representative, Ramsar Network Japan
<b>18:15-18:20</b>	<b>Opening Address</b> Mr. Akinori Ogawa, Deputy Director-General of Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
<b>18:20-19:30</b>	<b>Presentations (10 minutes each, 7 persons)</b>
18:20-18:30	"Growing trend towards rice paddy biodiversity enhancement since Rice paddy Resolution X.31." Mr. Masayuki KURECHI, Co-Representative, Ramsar Network Japan
18:30-18:40	"Progresses and challenges from the view of biodiversity conservation after rice paddy resolution (X.31) in Japan" Ms. Kaori TSUJITA, Assistant Director, Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
18:40-18:50	"Outline of MAFF's policy for enriching biological diversity in the rice paddy field in Japan" Mr. Kouki TAKADA, Technical Official, Environment Policy Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries(MAFF), Japan
18:50-19:00	"Current state and Conservation Policy of Rice paddy in Korea" Mr. Taesung KIM, Senior Researcher, National Wetlands Center of Korea, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
19:00-19:10	"Business sector contribution to the enhancement of biodiversity in rice paddies" Mr. Yoshinori HASHIBE, Manager, Agricultural Department, Aleph Inc. *a Japanese company
19:10-19:20	"Implementation of Rice Resolution in Uganda" Mr. Ronald KATO, Assistant Commissioner - Water for Agricultural Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, The Republic of Uganda
19:20-19:30	"Rice Sector and Environmental Issues Facing Wetlands in the Orinoco Basin" Mr. Deynner Alexander APONTE FONSECA, Agricultural Engineer - Regional Autonomous Corporation Orinoquia -Corporinoquia
<b>19:30-19:45</b>	Panel discussion (Question and Answer) and Closing
	 participatory dance skit <b>"TAMBO-de-TANGO"</b> 

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[http://www.ramnet-j.org/ramsar\\_cop12/](http://www.ramnet-j.org/ramsar_cop12/)

## Speakers' Profiles & Abstracts



**Mr. Masayuki KURECHI**, Co-Representative, Ramsar Network Japan

Born in 1949 in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. BSc, Faculty of Natural Science, Tohoku University. President, Japanese Association for Wild Geese Protection. Co-representative, Ramsar Network Japan. Engaged in protection and conservation of species and habitats of Geese. Involved in practicing participatory activities of the citizens for the restoration of nature and revitalisation of local community. Introduced Winter-Flooded Rice Paddy that attracts attention as that practices circular agriculture or biodiversity paddies to broad range of people.

### **“Growing trend since Rice paddy Resolution X.31 towards enhancement of rice paddy biodiversity”**

#### **● Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade Project (RiceBED Project) Developed on Rice Paddy resolutions :**

In 2008, COP10 of Ramsar Convention adopted the so-called Rice Paddy Resolution X.31 for the enhancement of biodiversity in rice paddies. In 2010, COP10 of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Decision X/34 on agricultural biodiversity that incorporated Ramsar Resolution X.31 on Rice Paddies. CBD COP10 further requested the United Nations to designate the period of 2011 – 2020 as a United Nations Decade of Biodiversity to implement a CBD decision, Aichi Targets for the recovery of biodiversity in, with all the members and agencies and institutions of the world in the decade. The proposal was adopted at the UN General Assembly in the same year.

To continue and use the best of this trend, Ramsar Network Japan launched the Rice BED Project to link those people in various places in Japan interested in and linked with living things in rice paddies. It is to prepare a place where participants can exchange their experiences, identify concrete targets and actions aiming to recover vivid rice paddy full of biodiversity. It can be a movement of various sectors heading to one goal in the future under a big umbrella of the Rice BED Project.

#### **● RiceBED Project in order to substantiate Promises (Aichi Targets) with the world**

CBD-COP10 held in Nagoya in 2010 adopted 20 Targets (Aichi Targets) that aims to recover biodiversity in the coming decade. United Nations Decade on Biological Diversity that is a framework for a wider implementation of the Aichi Target was launched by the United Nations. Rice BED Project is an umbrella project for organisations and individuals working locally and nationally to host concrete activities for the enhancement of biodiversity in rice paddies. It is a framework to promote implementation of the resolution of Ramsar and the decision of CBD for enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies by all the sectors. The framework provides a tool for the implementation of the resolution and the decision in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity, and supports a wide variety of actions practiced by a broad range of sectors. The project aims to bundle various activities for recovering sustainable life, coexisting with living things in rice paddies, that has already been started in every locality. The link will expand and strengthen the projects practiced thus far by sharing each other, by stimulating each other, and creating new activities. The Rice BED Project calls for a broad participation of farming people and citizens interested in biodiversity in rice paddies, and collaborate with as many people so as to support concrete activities for enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies. It is also an important aim to enlarge the circle for revitalising local communities on the basis of biodiversity. The presentation reports on the development thus far and the state of progress at present regarding the Rice BED Project. This project is designated as licenced collaboration project by the National Committee on the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity, Japan. High expectations are placed on the result. [http://undb.jp/activity/accredited\\_01.html](http://undb.jp/activity/accredited_01.html)

#### **● Rice BED Project from Asia to Africa and Neotropics (Latin America)**

There are reasonable number of Ramsar with rice growing habitat. Especially in Asia, Africa and Neotropics, around ten percent of Ramsar sites involve rice growing habitat. It is required to launch Network mainly among these areas to share Information and work together for enhancing biodiversity of rice paddy for the future.

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**Ms. Kaori TSUJITA**, Assistant Director, Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

### **“Progresses and challenges from the view of biodiversity conservation after rice paddy resolution (X.31) in Japan”**

After rice paddy resolution, some progresses in the biodiversity conservation of rice paddies have been made in Japan.

First, “The International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative (IPSI)” was launched in 2010 on the occasion of CBD-COP10, initiated by Japan. *Satoyama* is a Japanese word which means socio-ecological production landscapes including rice paddies. IPSI aims to promote the revitalization and sustainable management of *Satoyama* around the world. I would like to outline the IPSI and its activities.

Second, “Important *Satoyama* in Japan” is now being developed. Besides, “Important Wetlands in Japan” which was first selected in 2002 is under review. Both “Important *Satoyama* in Japan” and “Important Wetlands in Japan” are the lists aiming to raising awareness of the importance of those environments. Both lists partly include rice paddies.

Third, we started the consideration for the conservation of freshwater fishes. Freshwater fishes use secondary natural environment such as paddy fields as well as rivers. More and more freshwater fish species have been getting threatened. I would like to introduce this new challenge.

I hope this side event is a good opportunity to further promote rice paddy resolution and discuss the way forward.



**Mr. Kouki TAKADA,**

Technical Official, Environment Policy Division,  
Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries(MAFF),  
Japan

### **“Outline of MAFF’s policy for enriching biological diversity in the rice paddy field in Japan”**

In Japan, the area of rice paddy field, an artificial wetland, is 2.4million square kilo meters, occupying 54% of the total cultivated acreage, of which 85% is equipped with modern irrigating system.

Paragraph 10 of the Resolution X. 31 “Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems” takes note and encourages such practices as to flooding rice paddy fields when they are not in use for rice production, in order to provide sustainable habitat for some fauna, including migratory waterbirds, and to control weeds and pest insects.

The Japanese farmers who are aware of the importance of conserving biological diversity have made their best efforts to correspond to the Resolution, through utilizing their irrigating system in rice paddy fields.

This presentation gives you an overview of MAFF's policy that supports those farmers enriching biological diversity, as well as promoting agricultural production in their rice paddy fields.



**Mr. Taesung KIM**, Senior Researcher, The National Wetlands Center, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea  
-Biosafety Research Division, National Institute of Environmental Research(2001.7-2013.1)  
-ABS protocol TF, Ministry of Environment(2012.2-2012.10)  
-Inland wetland Restoration Team, National Wetlands Center (2013.1-present)

## Current Status and Conservation Policy of Rice paddy in Republic of Korea

Rice is one of the most important staple foods as it supplies about 20% of the total calorie supply in the world. Over the past century, natural wetlands have been converted to agricultural fields to fulfill increasing rice consumption in the domestic and international countries.

But, this agricultural conversion has been declined in Korea since 1990s. The decline was mainly resulted from aging population in the rural area and increase of international crop trades.

The importance of rice paddy was widely recognized during the Changwon declaration, Ramsar COP10. Korean government now more focuses on the environment-friendly agricultural practices to enhance ecological health of rice-paddy ecosystem.

As diverse endangered species were identified in the rice paddy area, it requires priority conservation from the society. Ganghwa Maehwamareum (*Ranunculus kazusensis*) Habitat was registered as Ramsar sites (2008). This Ramsar site is a human-made rice paddy wetland near the Incheon city, purchased by the Korea National Trust Foundation. Some of the other rice paddy wetlands have also been managed with environment-friendly agricultural practices (i.e. weed removal by using ducks, snails, and crabs) more than 10 years.

Wetland Conservation Act and Biodiversity Management Contract were established by law to protect rice paddy wetlands. Biodiversity Management Contract in Korea was implemented from 2002 to provide food habitat especially for migratory birds. National Bird Census results showed gradually increase of total population in the rice paddy sites with Biodiversity Management Contract (including Gumho Lake, Suncheon Bay, Upo Wetlands).

Current national environmental policies related with rice paddy, mostly focus on one specific aim (i.e. migratory bird, safe food production). This topic based policies may bias overall conservation of rice paddy habitat and balance among wildlife interactions. For an effective conservation of the rice paddy wetlands, more broaden multi-scale approaches, including ecosystem and landscape level policy enforcement, will be need.



**Mr. Yoshinori Hashibe**, Manager, Agricultural Department, Aleph Inc. \*a Japanese company

Joined Eco-Project of Aleph Inc. in 2000 and has been involved environmental management and agricultural research. Set up "Fuyumizu-tambo" Project to prove and usher Winter-flooded Rice Paddy in Hokkaido since 2005. Currently manages Agricultural Department and Aleph Analysis Centre which mainly analyses soil and food component.

Aleph Inc. operates over 300 restaurants all over Japan led by the hamburger steak restaurant chain "Bikkuri Donkey". Aiming to provide high quality meals in affordable price range, the company launched an experimental farm in 1988 and started exploring on sustainable agriculture. It is a member of the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative, which is a member of the CBD Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity.

**“Business sector contribution to the enhancement of biodiversity in rice paddies”**

Aleph's philosophy: The food industry should make human being be improved.

Principles of food procurement for our restaurants:

Three guarantees: Safety / Quality / Traceability

Three contributions: Health / Environment / Productivity

Aleph's activities to enhance biodiversity in rice paddies:

- (1) Rice procurement with environmental concerns
  - Less Agrochemical Rice (with only one application of herbicide, no other chemicals)
    - ...all restaurants since 2006 (except (2))
  - Living-Things-Friendly Rice (organic rice with concerns for biodiversity)
    - ...21 restaurants in 2014
- (2) CEPA activities:
  - Wildlife monitoring (with customers, farmers and employees)
  - Demonstration in Eniwa rice paddy
  - Yatsuda conservation activities with local NGO
  - "Fuyumizu Tango" (original movie)

Aleph's project was registered as part of the Rice BED project in 2013.



Bikkuri Donkey restaurant



"Living-Things-Friendly" rice paddy with fishways



Rice paddy wildlife monitoring with customers



**Mr. Ronald Kato Kayizz**

Assistant Commissioner - Water for Agricultural Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), The Republic of Uganda

Ronald Kato Kayizzi holds a Master's degree in Water and Waste Engineering from Loughborough University in the United Kingdom and a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from Makerere University in Uganda. He has 18 years of professional qualifications and hands-on experience in planning, supervising and monitoring a wide range of agriculture investment projects under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). He currently serves as the Assistant Commissioner, Water for Agricultural Production, MAAIF.

### **“Implementation of Rice Resolution in Uganda”**

Ronald Kato Kayizzi will give a presentation on challenges and opportunities in implementing the Rice Resolution in Uganda. The country has recently witnessed robust economic growth with impressive performance since 1987 by maintaining low inflation rates. Discovery of substantial oil reserves in the western part of the country has contributed to optimistic outlook over the coming decades. Despite the development potentials, rural poverty remains an enormous challenge to the national government. Rapid population growth has also been a glaring threat on food security of the nation that is projected to grow over 100 million by the year 2050 (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs).

MAAIF is currently implementing a project on Irrigation Scheme Development (PISD) in Central and Eastern Uganda with a technical support from the Government of Japan through JICA. The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), on the other hand, is engaged in the National Wetlands Management Project with the technical assistance also from the Government of Japan.

The conservation and management of wetland resources is a vital National Policy spearheaded by MWE; while, the food security and poverty reduction is the commitment of MAAIF. Exploring the balance between development and conservation in pursuit of the wise use principles has been the core approach of MAAIF in implementing the PISD. The parallel implementation has accelerated policy dialogue between the two ministries. MAAIF laid down four major pillars in implementing Rice Resolution in Uganda: 1) Confine the development intervention in selected areas; 2) Integrate wetland restoration and environmental management components in planning process; 3) Leverage multi-functionality of rice cropping system; and 4) Enhance participation of community in water management to deliver spatially equitable and sustainable services.



Deynner Alexander APONTE FONSECA, Agricultural Engineer –  
Regional Autonomous Corporation Orinoquia  
-Corporinoquia

Profile: Agronomist, contractor of the Regional Autonomous Corporation of the Orinoco, environmental authority and administrator of natural resources in the Orinoco entity.

### **“Rice Sector and Environmental Issues Facing Wetlands in the Orinoco Basin”**

In 2014 were planted in the Orinoco area of 146538 hectares, most influential of wetlands (flooded savanna) being the most cultivated area in the country with a total production of 751 305 tonnes, agricultural expansion has caused various problems mainly with change in land use, wildlife displacement, destruction of temporary wetlands that are home to migratory birds and species in the area and the contamination of water sources.

The importance of area designation RAMSAR the Orinoco is given to the global importance that is still the largest wetland in the Orinoco by the Humboldt Institute, with areas of high conservation value for the water resource to birds and other species depend on them, also because ecosystems are the highest availability but are most threatened by human action when crops without environmental planning.

Environmental regulations in the Orinoco restricts or regulates some production activities in certain areas of environmental importance, however the technical capacity is not enough for the extensive territory at the intergovernmental support for the sake of sustainable productive development is necessary and environmental quality superior, although Colombia is one of the richest countries in water resources with only six have been designated Ramsar sites.