

Report on the Youth Biodiversity Symposium 2023 in Yokohama

19 November 2023 Sun
13:00 - 18:00 (JST)
PACIFICO Yokohama 6th floor GALERIO
(Nishi-ku Minatomirai 1-1-1)



A symposium was conducted with the central theme of biodiversity, aiming to advocate for a positive relationship with nature. The event drew the active participation of approximately 50 individuals, including representatives of youth, international organizations, and companies. Engaging discussions and workshops took place, featuring keynote speeches, presentations on initiatives, insightful panel discussions, and valuable networking opportunities.

Sponsored by: The City of Yokohama
With support from: Japan Conference for 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework (J-GBF),
Kanto Regional Office of the Ministry of the Environment

Opening Remarks

Mr. Kenya Endo, Director of the City of Yokohama Environmental Planning Bureau, emphasized the significance of biodiversity and discussed the objectives of the symposium and GREEN × EXPO 2027, highlighting the importance of diverse activities by various entities.



Opening Remarks

Keynote Speeches



"The Future of Biodiversity and Citizen Science"

Hiromi Kobori
(Special Professor,
Tokyo City University)

Examining global biodiversity trends, Professor Kobori highlighted the importance of citizen science, illustrating practical examples and achievements.



Keynote Speech #1



"Driving Transformation Youth Power"

Melena Sakiyama
(Co-founder, GYBN Network)

Special focus was given to the influence of youth on societal changes and policy decisions for effective environmental problem-solving.



Keynote Speech #2

Panel Discussion #1



Moderator

Mr. Teppei Dohke
Secretary General of
the Japan committee of IUCN

Under the guidance of Mr. Teppei Dohke, the Secretary General of the Japan Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the event was held in two parts.

In the first part, Mr. Ryo Sasai, Mr. Naoki Okano, Mr. Yu Murase, and Ms. Rie Yamashita presented their initiatives and engaged in a discussion on various environmental topics such as food waste, fair trade, single-use plastics, and sustainable practices under the theme of "My Environmental Actions."



Panel Discussion #1
"My Environmental Actions"

Panel Discussion #2

In the second session, Mr. Dohke continued to moderate the discussion on "Environmental Actions to Take Together" with five panelists, including Mr. Okano and Ms. Yamashita from the first session, as well as representatives from Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Secretariat), and the Japan Association for the International Horticultural Expo 2027 in Yokohama.



Speech from CBD Secretariat



Speech from GYBN

Each panel discussion featured lively exchanges of opinions among the panelists, responding to questions from the audience. Both the panelists and moderator, Mr. Dohke, actively contributed to the conversations all aimed at realizing a life in harmony with nature.



Panel Discussion #2
"Environmental Actions to Take Together"

Participants' Feedback

- ✓ Learning about the activities of youth generations globally was highly interesting.
- ✓ Youth's activities and messages resonated deeply among all participants.

Exhibition Booth Highlights

The activities of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and Earth Day Tokyo were introduced, along with informational displays from ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). The event included panel exhibits and announcements of upcoming activities in Yokohama.



Earth Day Tokyo



FAO

Networking Session

Participants engaged in free talk, fostering camaraderie. The importance of biodiversity and opportunities to contribute to biodiversity conservation were discussed, encouraging further exchanges and networking among all participants.

Participants' Feedback

- ✓ Stimulating for participants of the same generation and across generations.
- ✓ Deepened understanding of international trends.
- ✓ Became a catalyst for youth to engage in activities beyond national borders.



Networking



Closing Remarks

Ms. Naoko Hamashima, Director, Office for Mainstreaming Biodiversity, Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau (MOEJ), shared expectations regarding the symposium's contribution to achieving Nature Positive Economy.

Ms. Hamashima(MOEJ)



Looking Ahead to the Next Year

Mr. Christian Schwarzer, co-founder of GYBN, announced that the International Youth Conference on Biodiversity will be held in August 2024, in Yokohama, in collaboration with national and international partners..

Announced by Mr. Christian Schwarzer (GYBN)

