

FOREWORD

This is a report to the 11th Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention by the Government of Japan as an implementation of the Resolution X.31 Enhancing Biodiversity in Rice Paddies as Wetland Systems, which was proposed jointly by the Governments of Republic of Korea and Japan, and adopted at the 10th Conference of Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands, Ramsar, Iran, 1971) in 2008. The activity also follows the Decision X/34 adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010. It reports cases of good practices to enhance biodiversity in rice paddies in Japan, Korea and other countries. It is edited by an NGO in Japan but is an outcome of co-operation between the government and NGOs in Japan with a support from other countries since the adoption of the Resolution X.31.

To implement this resolution, Japanese Government started actions to raise awareness on the significance and importance of rice paddies for the conservation of biodiversity and to promote further understanding and implementation to enhance the biodiversity of rice paddies. The government organised workshops and symposia, including an International Workshop on Resolution on Rice Paddies in Takashima City, Shiga Prefecture, Japan, in 2010, and Asian Wetland Symposium held at Wuxi, China, to collate information on knowledge and case studies of enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies. Regular communication on this issue between the government and NGOs has been initiated on this issue to exchange information to work together for actions to enhance biodiversity in rice paddies.

This report includes information that have been shared so far between government and NGOs at the regular exchange of information with a lot of help from those people who have known the significance of biodiversity in rice paddies both for wetland ecosystem and for agriculture.

We distribute this report as a CD and not in a printed material. It means that this is not a complete information book but an open ended reference book.

We would like this to be revised and added according to practices that would be developed from now on.