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# S A N S A I

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No.5 April 2011

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## Foreword

The United Nations proclaimed 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity, billing it as a unique opportunity to increase understanding of the vital role biodiversity plays in sustaining life on our planet. International efforts to safeguard biodiversity systems and habitats climaxed with the Convention for Biodiversity 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 10), which ran from 18 to 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. *Sansai* No. 5 continues the debate, with three papers that consider different aspects of the global struggle to preserve biodiversity.

The first comes from Dr Estella Leopold, emeritus professor of the University of Washington, USA, and recipient of the 2010 International Cosmos Prize. This accolade is awarded annually to individuals whose research and work are recognized as contributing to a significant understanding of the relationships among living organisms, the interdependence of life and the global environment. Transcribed from a commemorative lecture given at the Shiran Kaikan, Kyoto University, on 11 October 2010, this paper celebrates the power and energy of those US citizens who are lobbying for the protection of nature and biodiversity. Aptly, this speech about people's voices launches the Voices section of this journal, a new section that *Sansai's* editors hope will provide a forum for key thinkers and doers in the environmental movement.

The theme of biodiversity is pursued in two more pieces that appear in different sections of the journal. A paper from Mr Jason Hon, a PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GSGES), Kyoto University, addresses the critical ecological state of Malaysia's peat swamp forests, which are rapidly disappearing as the Malaysian government rushes to increase palm oil production in response to rocketing world demand. Then, Associate Professor Jane Singer, also of GSGES, combines analysis and commentary with an incisive and often humorous insider's perspective on the COP 10 meeting held at Nagoya last October.

All three of these papers show us why biodiversity is important and how it is at risk. They are joined by two more contributions, which add insight to the biodiversity debate in unique ways. First, a cartoon from Professor Takatsuki Hiroshi (pen name High Moon), emeritus of Kyoto University, queries the assumption that it is our right as human beings to possess, plunder and squabble over the Earth. He suggests that we are no more than equal members of a planetary community in which all species must co-exist rather than try to conquer one another. Next, a moving tribute to Dr Carmen Blacker, renowned scholar of Japanese culture, religion and folklore, from my co-editor, Professor Toshio Yokoyama (Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University), reminds us that while the dwindling diversity of plant and animal species is of pressing concern, the passing of cultural diversity, along with those who celebrate it, is

something that all of us should mourn.

*Sansai*'s remaining papers address a variety of other concerns. One paper is co-authored by a team of six engineering scientists (main author Dr Chinagarn Kunacheva, GSGES), most of whom are based at Kyoto University. It examines the emerging problem of persistent organic pollutants in our water supply. Two papers address the issue of sustainable agriculture. The first is a field report by a project research team (main author Professor Yoichiro Sato) from the Research Institute of Humanity and Nature in the north of Kyoto city. It introduces us to the distant and compromised historical agricultural practices observed at field sites in Japan and China and speculates on the future of sustainable agriculture. The second is a Perspectives piece by Emeritus Professor Saburo Matsui, who advocates the production of probiotic compost made from recycled organic waste for use in sustainable farming practices.

Finally, two papers highlight what is arguably the most pressing environmental issue of our time: climate change. The first full paper to appear in this issue of *Sansai* comes from Dr Takaaki Miyaguchi, coordinator of the United Nations Volunteer Programme in Bonn, Germany. This paper highlights the efforts of vulnerable communities to prepare for the impacts — some already being experienced, others likely to occur — of climate change. Conversely, the last article featured in this issue calls for climate change-related efforts to be made at the other end of the scale, at the international level, where governments must act now to empower local authorities and communities to reduce emissions and curb climate change. This piece on the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico (COP 16), comes from Ms Sarah Marchildon, a master's student at GSGES, and complements Jane Singer's piece on COP 10 in Nagoya. GSGES currently has two former journalists within its ranks — Marchildon being one and Singer the other. Together, their timely reports from the front line of international negotiations on biodiversity and climate change launch Dispatches, another section published for the first time in *Sansai* No. 5.

The new Voices and Dispatches sections increase the journal's capacity to reach beyond academia without compromising academic standards. *Sansai* set out five years ago to break down the disciplinary barriers that sometimes impede the development of global environmental studies. It aims to present an international intellectual forum for individuals working on environmental issues in non-governmental organizations, government and industry as well as academia. These new sections help the journal to meet this admittedly ambitious goal and are part of *Sansai*'s ongoing efforts to be more inclusive, not just in terms of how it talks about issues but in who gets to do the talking. *Sansai*'s editors hope you will enjoy the conversation and be willing to take part. It is in this spirit that we would like to direct all our readers to the Instructions for Authors

supplied at the back of this issue and accessible online at <http://repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dspace/bulletin/sansai>.

3 March 2011

Tracey Gannon (PhD)  
Editor-in-chief, *Sansai*  
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# Voices



Research  
papers

# Current projects and initiatives

# Perspectives

# Dispatches

## Instructions for authors

### Submission of papers

*Sansai* publishes original research papers not normally exceeding 10,000 words, inclusive of notes and references, on any branch of global environmental studies. The journal also welcomes the submission of project reports, research notes, shorter essays introducing research perspectives, letters to the editors and book reviews. All submissions should be written in a way that is accessible to a broad readership.

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The submission of a paper to *Sansai*'s full paper, project report or perspectives sections implies that it has not been published previously and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Manuscripts under consideration for publication in these sections will be reviewed by at least two reviewers, chosen by the editorial board of *Sansai*. Authors may be requested to revise conditionally accepted manuscripts within eight weeks of the receipt of reviews. The final decision to approve or reject manuscripts for publication will be made by the editorial board of *Sansai*.

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Manuscripts should be written in English and double spaced on A4 paper. Authors may use British or American spelling as long as their use is consistent. Contributors for whom English is a second language are encouraged to have their papers read by a native English speaker to avoid ambiguity of meaning. Notes should be identified with

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1. A title page, including the title, the first and last names of authors and their affiliations, any sources of support in the form of funding or grants, a list of up to five keywords or key concepts for the reader's reference and an abstract of no more than 250 words.
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A biographical description of each author of no more than 150 words will be requested when the final manuscript is accepted for publication.

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All publications cited in the text should be presented in a list of references following the body of the manuscript. Whenever a reference text is cited in the main text, the author(s) and year of publication should be given in parenthesis in the style of the 'author/date' reference system (e.g. "Since Yoshino (1986: 61) states that..." or "Results shown in recent studies (Kobayashi and Oshima 1991) support this hypothesis..."). Where three or more authors exist for any given reference, use the first author followed by "et al." in the text but spell out each author's full name or surname and initials in the reference list given at the end of the text. The letters "a", "b", "c" etc. should be affixed in the case where two or more works by one author in the same year are cited in the text, e.g. (Alfonze 1999a).

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**Proceedings:** Woese, Carl R. (2002) 'On the evolution of cells' in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 99 (13): 8472-7.

**Electronic sources:** UN (1992) 'Chapter 26 [Agenda 21]: Promoting Education, Public Awareness and Training'. Available at <[www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21chapter36.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21chapter36.htm)> [Accessed 8 February 2006]

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**Cover design by Hirohide Kobayashi**, associate professor of the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University. The title, *Sansai*, incorporates letters modelled on typefaces used in the first edition of Dr Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language* (1755) — a landmark in the history of language development. The four Chinese characters that appear on the back cover are a photographic reproduction of the wooden gate-plate of Sansai Gakurin. They were written by the sinologist Dr Ichiro Kominami, emeritus professor of Kyoto University, in the style of late 2<sup>nd</sup> century stone inscriptions of the Confucian classics that stood in the forecourt of the Grand School of Luoyang, the capital of the late Han dynasty.

**三才 第五冊**

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