

Public record from the House of Representatives, Standing Committee on the Environment, April 6, 2010

Member of parliament Mr. Koji YAZAKI asked a question about forest management related to climate change policy.

Reply by Mr. OZAWA, Minister of the Environment of Japan (excerpt):

“The other day, a friend of mine took some Swedish nature school teachers to my ministerial room and I had the opportunity to exchange some views with them. In a very typical Ministry of the Environment fashion I told them about “satoyama” and said that the Japanese people live in connection with nature, but unfortunately, from the point of view of those Swedish natural environment education specialists it is insufficient, extremely insufficient, they told me.

I have been to Sweden just once and with a perspective from that country of forests and lakes the Japanese city surroundings, even though some satoyamas exist, certainly have much less nature. Listening to them I thought that even if they tell me so there is unfortunately nothing that can be done about this reality.

However, I also thought that precisely because of this situation, it is really necessary for us to work even harder on such conservation of the natural environment. Sweden has a land area 1.2 times bigger than Japan and a population of about 10 million, so a country like ours with a very high population density must work on this with ten times or a hundred times more awareness compared to the natural environment educators from Sweden. This is how I am thinking now and especially considering COP10 I will work for it to become a big opportunity for nature conservation, including forests.”

This is a un-official translation by Lena Lindahl. The original text can be found here:

[http://www.shugiin.go.jp/itdb\\_kaigiroku.nsf/html/kaigiroku/001717420100406006.htm](http://www.shugiin.go.jp/itdb_kaigiroku.nsf/html/kaigiroku/001717420100406006.htm)