



Last month the 10<sup>th</sup> “Conference of the Parties” (COP10) was held in Nagoya, Japan. COP is a Convention on Biological Diversity which takes place roughly once every two years. The common theme of COP10 was “Toward the Harmony of Humans and Nature”.

During COP10, VIVAT International and the Institute for Social Ethics of VIVAT's affiliate Nanzan University, organized a side-event, namely a symposium on “Integrating Religious Values and Greater Stakeholder Participation into Environmental Governance”. The symposium consisting of three ten-minute presentations by experts was followed by a panel discussion. The panel comprising a Shinto, Buddhist and Christian presenters opened the discussion on the need for a more integrated approach to environmental governance to reflect on both religious values and key social issues such as poverty, gender, indigenous peoples etc. This side-event was held on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of Oct. at Nagoya Congress Center, the main venue for COP10. There were for about 25-30 participants.

In preparation to side-event, a study session was held at the SVD seminary in Nagoya. Since OMI is one of the original signatories of the charter of VIVAT International, our mission superior and I were invited by Fr.Narui SVD. It was for the first time that 3 different congregations (SSpS, SVD & OMI) as members of VIVAT International came together to work for a cause here in Japan. What we did was a very small event but I am sure it created some awareness. We hope to work together in future.

Bradly Rozairo

COP10 logo



Life in harmony, into the future