

“WHAT’S NEW” from the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg

The 2010 World Cup in South Africa is getting heat as the final is approaching on coming Sunday, and here in Luxembourg too, we are expecting heat as it would be 35 degrees this weekend.

Of course, the sunshine and a nice weather are something we are always waiting for, especially here in Luxembourg, but when we turn off the air-conditioner in a cozy office or in a car, then it reminds us of a recurrent issue: Global warming.

On July 5th 2010, the Ambassador of Belgium, H.E Mr. Alain Kundycki gave a press conference at the “Maison de l’Europe” in the Center of Luxembourg for a briefing on the issues that are given priorities during the rotating EU presidency of Belgium from the 1st of July.

Naturally, according to the Ambassador, the question of the climate change figures among the main issues of the Presidency, as the COP16 in Mexico is scheduled to be held in the end of this year.

The Ambassador said that this time the EU might look for some allies, as the COP15 in Copenhagen in December last year did not produce the desired results.

Actually, Japan wants to be the ally of the EU in the battle against the climate change. On the same day in Tokyo, Mr. Katsuya Okada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Ms. Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico held talks to discuss such issues as the climate change. The two ministers agreed to cooperate with each other in bringing to a success the COP16 in Mexico in December this year.

Surely, the EU and Japan can be a good team for tackling environmental issues, as Japan too wants to be a proactive player for advancing these common agendas. Before meeting in Mexico, leaders are set to meet in Nagoya in Japan in October for finding agreement for new actions in the framework of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10).

(http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/environment/pdfs/biodiversity_pamph.pdf)

The theme of the meeting is "Living in Harmony with nature", theme dear to the Japanese from centuries ago.

The World cup is exciting as we can enjoy a healthy nationalism before a TV set. But

for the vessel named Earth, we need to be always on the same team.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email to toshiharu.tarui@mofa.go.jp or call 46 41 51 34, the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg.