

**Thematic Session
Climate Crisis and Biodiversity**

**Street Trees,
Green blood vessel of urban biodiversity**

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In the era of climate crisis, trees on streets offer fresh and cool green atmosphere, reduce air pollutants such as fine dust, absorb carbon, provide clean air, and create beautiful scenery that make us want to take a walk. Also, the trees provide habitat for wildlife in cities that lack green areas and connect separated urban green areas to contribute to preserving biodiversity. With polarization in urban development and social inequality leading to environmental imbalance within regions, the status of growth of trees on streets shows inequal trend as well. Trees on streets, as a green vessel for urban environment and citizens' health, must play a critical role in preserving urban biodiversity and addressing imbalance of green areas.

To curve air pollution and extreme hot waves and make carbon absorbed, we must have healthy trees that have abundant branches and leaves. Trees on streets, however, are cut down extremely and harshly these days. In terms of preserving urban biodiversity, the role of roadside trees is to connect habitats in an intact and healthy manner. If we well manage the trees rather than recklessly cut them, they will provide more benefits for citizens. With reckless cutting of huge trees, not only biomass of trees, but also beautiful views made by trees in cities, interconnection between various living creatures and human beings, and eco-sensibility of children are bound to disappear.

In our society, public trees including the ones on streets are considered public facilities, while trees in a privately owned land are considered as private assets. Just as animals are protected with their own legal status as living creatures not as objects, trees need to be regarded and respected as living existences by law. For trees on streets to function as a stable linkage, we must get away from an inappropriate management practice, protect their roots and improve soil environment to make sure trees could exercise stable lives.

Trees on streets are natural creatures that we first encounter when leaving house. A city where the nature and humans coexist begins from the hearts and behaviours of citizens to care and preserve trees surrounding their neighbours. We must guarantee the dignity of trees and respect their way of growing and own characteristics. If we want to see the trees living in a very complex space of city with us as their friends, colleagues, and families, they need citizens' hands. Citizens needs to check up and monitor trees and draw an online map for a mutual communication. Also, citizens' activities to take care of the trees on streets must expand further in daily lives.