Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister
Yohei Kono, Chairman of the House of Representatives
Chikage Oogi, Chairman of the House of Councilors
Russian Division, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Natural Resources and Fuel Department, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Request to protect the habitat of the critically endangered Amur Leopard
- Japanese Government Support and Financing for the Siberia-Pacific Pipeline-

● Near the proposed Siberia-Pacific Pipeline oil terminal site at Perevoznaya is Russia's oldest nature reserve, "Kedrovaya Pad" which was recently designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This reserve is the habitat for many endangered species including the critically endangered Amur Leopard〈*Panthera pardus ssp. orientalis*〉. The Amur leopard was introduced to the Japanese public through a recent television program. Of the 325 terrestrial species on the Russian government's official endangered species list, 31% live in this area (15% of them are endemic species). Since the planned construction site passes through this precious ecosystem, the pipeline would have serious consequences for these endangered species and its precious habitat in the area.
Russia's only marine protected reserve is also in the vicinity of the pipeline route. Due to the geography of the Amur Bay and extreme weather conditions there, the risk of an oil-spill accident is said to be 17 times than if the terminal were constructed in another location. In the case of an accident, the marine reserve as well as marine environment and aquatic resources would be seriously impacted.

● By moving the planned construction site from the west coast of the Amur Bay (Perevoznaya) to an area near Nakhodka, these dangers can be avoided.

● We therefore urge the Japanese government not to provide public financing for the project through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation etc and not to promote project financing by Japanese private banks, as long as Perevoznaya remains the oil terminal site.

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