



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### THIRD INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Tsukuba, Japan, 15-17 February 2010

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

### ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 22 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety requires Parties to cooperate in the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety, including biotechnology to the extent that it is required for biosafety, for the purpose of the effective implementation of the Protocol. It states that such cooperation includes scientific and technical training and the enhancement of technological and institutional capacities in biosafety.

2. At their previous meetings, the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol have made a number of decisions specifically aimed at promoting formal education and training in biosafety in order to develop a pool of biosafety professionals to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol. These include: decision BS-II/3 (paragraphs 5-11), decision BS-III/3 (paragraphs 11 (a) and 11 (b)), decision BS-III/11 (paragraphs 16-17) and decision BS-IV/3, paragraphs 7-13).

3. A number of initiatives have been taken at national, regional and international levels to promote formal education and training in biosafety. At the global level, two coordination meetings of academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training have been held to date. The first meeting took place in Geneva, from 4 to 6 October 2004. It was organized by the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNEP/GEF Biosafety Unit and the Geneva Environment Network. The meeting, *inter alia*, reviewed the status and nature of existing training and education programmes in biosafety and allowed participants to share experiences about their programmes. The main outcome of the meeting was the development of a common format (questionnaire) for the compendium of existing biosafety training and education programmes, which was later integrated into the Biosafety Clearing-House. The meeting also made several recommendations which were adopted in decision BS-II/3.

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4. The second meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 18 April 2007. It was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Government of Malaysia through the University of Malaya. The discussions focused on key considerations that need to be taken into account in developing new academic programmes in biosafety and/or expanding biosafety existing ones (including core curriculum elements and quality control criteria) and measures to promote South-South and North-South cooperation between institutions involved in biosafety education and training. Among other things, participants agreed to initiate, at the regional level, networks of academic institutions involved in biosafety education and training.

5. The present meeting is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Government of Japan through the University of Tsukuba in collaboration with the Institute of Advanced Studies of the United Nations University (UNU-IAS). The objectives of the meeting are to:

(a) Exchange information and experiences on existing biosafety education and training programmes and initiatives;

(b) Review the progress made in implementing recommendations of the previous two meetings of academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training;

(c) Propose strategies and mechanisms to improve biosafety education and training programmes in order to meet the needs of Parties to the Protocol, including the possibility of developing model biosafety education programmes tailored to the needs of different regions;

(d) Explore options for facilitating ongoing collaboration and exchange of information, training materials, curricula and faculty members between academic institutions and organizations offering biosafety education and training programmes.

6. The meeting is expected to make recommendations for advancing biosafety education and training and for promoting collaboration among academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting will be presented to the Parties to the Protocol for consideration at their fifth meeting, to be held in Nagoya from 11 to 15 October 2010,.

## **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

7. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Government of Japan, the host of the meeting, at 10 a.m. on 15 February 2010. A representative of the Secretariat will also make opening remarks.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### ***2.1. Election of officers***

8. The meeting will be invited to elect its Chair and Rapporteur from among the participants.

### ***2.2. Adoption of the agenda***

9. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/3/1), developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the local organizers in Japan.

### 2.3. *Organization of work*

10. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the proposed organization of work as contained in annex I below. Participants will also be invited to raise any other relevant issues related to the building of capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol under agenda item 7 (Other matters).

#### **ITEM 3. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES ON EXISTING BIOSAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES**

11. In the last decade, a few universities and other institutions around the world have developed biosafety education programmes at graduate and post-graduate levels and short-term non-academic training programmes.<sup>1</sup> Those programmes have evolved over time and important lessons have been learned. Under this item, four detailed invited case-studies on specific biosafety academic programmes will be presented. Participants will also be invited to make short presentations on the status of their biosafety education programmes and training activities and share their experiences and lessons learned with emphasis on the developments that have occurred since the last meeting held in 2007 in Kuala Lumpur. Those participants wishing to share more detailed information will be invited to submit to the Secretariat prior to the meeting written reports which will be compiled and made available prior to the meeting as an information document (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/3/INF/1).

#### **ITEM 4. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

12. The two previous international meetings of academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training (see paras. 3 and 4 above) made a number of recommendations and proposed follow-up actions. Under this item, the meeting will review the progress made in implementing those recommendations and make suggestions for improvement. Representatives from the five regional groupings, i.e., Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Western Europe and Others Group, will be invited to present reports on the progress made in implementing the follow-up activities in their respective regions. The meeting will also attempt to review in general how biosafety education and training has evolved over the last five years.

#### **ITEM 5. STRATEGIES AND MECHANISMS TO IMPROVE BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

13. Under this item, participants will be invited to review strategies and mechanisms for developing new, and/or improving existing, biosafety education and training programmes. There will be brainstorming sessions to tap new ideas aimed at meeting the biosafety education needs of countries, in particular developing country Parties to the Protocol.<sup>2</sup> Discussion groups will be established to

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<sup>1</sup> These include: Ancona Marche Polytechnic University (Italy), Ghent University (Belgium), Iowa State University (United States of America), Michigan State University (United States of America), Moi University, Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais (Brazil), Universidad de Concepción (Chile), University of Canterbury (New Zealand), University of Havana (Cuba), University of Malaya (Malaysia), University of Sheffield (UnitedK) and University of Tromsø (Norway). Institutions providing or coordination biosafety training include: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), GenØk-Centre for Biosafety, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and others.

<sup>2</sup> It is recognized that "standardization" of programmes is not possible but it is hoped that exchanging information and experiences may help to broaden the perspectives of different institutions on how to improve their programmes.

consolidate the ideas on different issues and elaborate options to operationalize those ideas. Among other things, the groups will be invited to:

- (a) Review the biosafety training needs expressed by Parties to the Protocol and make suggestions on how biosafety education and training programmes could respond to those needs;
- (b) Identify new topics/subject areas that need to be incorporated in the core curriculum of biosafety education and training programmes;
- (c) Explore the possibility of developing model biosafety education programmes/modules tailored to the needs of different regions and the mechanisms for doing so;
- (d) Discuss modalities for developing joint training materials on different subject areas;
- (e) Discuss minimum mandatory requirements and standards for certification in biosafety to be recommended to relevant authorities of academic institutions that award the credentials, in order to make biosafety an internationally recognized discipline;
- (f) Propose quality-control criteria and mechanisms for biosafety education and training programmes;
- (g) Discuss mechanisms to facilitate transfer of academic credits across different biosafety academic programmes.

#### **ITEM 6. COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

14. Biosafety education and training programmes are relatively new offerings in most academic institutions around the world, and many are still evolving. There is clearly a need for institutions offering those programmes to collaborate, share resources and learn from each other in order to effectively meet the global biosafety challenges and the demand for well trained professionals to address those challenges. This could include: collaborative degree programmes/joint curricula, academic credit transfer arrangements, exchange of teaching materials, sharing of facilities, faculty and student exchanges, joint fellowship programmes; and/or joint research programmes. Collaboration and networking is already taking place among some universities and institutions, for example those under the UNIDO e-Biosafety Training Network,<sup>3</sup> the BiosafeTrain programme<sup>4</sup> and the Asian Biosafety Education Network (ABEN).<sup>5</sup>

15. Under this agenda item, participants will be invited to explore strategies and concrete actions to facilitate the establishment of new, and/or strengthening existing, collaborative arrangements or networks among academic institutions and other organizations offering biosafety education programmes, at regional or subregional levels, taking into account the experiences and lessons learned from related collaborative partnerships and networks.

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<sup>3</sup> See details about the network at: [http://binas.unido.org/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://binas.unido.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)

<sup>4</sup> BiosafeTrain programme: <http://www.biosafetrain.dk>

<sup>5</sup> See details about the Asian Biosafety Education Network at: <http://www.aben.ait.ac.th>

**ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS**

16. Under this item, participants will be invited to raise any other matters relevant to capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Protocol.

**ITEM 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

17. Participants will be invited to formulate and adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, which may be submitted for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Protocol.

**ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

18. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on 17 February 2010.

## Annex I

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

<b>15 February 2010</b> 10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the meeting.
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 2. Organizational matters: 2.1. Election of officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work.
<b>10.45 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
11.15 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Exchange of information and experiences on existing biosafety education programmes.
<b>1 p.m. – 2 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 3 ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4. Progress on the implementation of the recommendations of previous international meetings of academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training.
<b>16 February 2010</b> 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 5. Strategies and mechanisms to improve biosafety education and training.
<b>10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 5 ( <i>continued</i> ) Group discussions on item 5
<b>1 p.m. – 2 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 6. Collaboration and exchange of information among academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training.
<b>3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 6 ( <i>continued</i> ) Group discussions on item 6
<b>17 February 2010</b> 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> Group presentations
<b>10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> Consideration of group discussion reports
<b>1 p.m. – 2 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 7. Other matters 8. Conclusions and recommendations 9. Closure of the meeting.

*Annex II*

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS  
AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAININGS**

**A. Working documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/3/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/3/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/3/2	Biosafety education and training: The current status and future prospects

**B. Information documents**

UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/3/INF/1	Compilation of updates on existing biosafety education and training programmes
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/3/INF/2	Report of the regional workshop on biosafety education relevant to genetically engineered crops for academic and non-academic stakeholders in East Africa, held 17-19 April 2007, Entebbe, Uganda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/3/INF/3	Report of the First Workshop on Biosafety Education in Asia held 31 October to 1 November 2007 at the University of Tsukuba, Japan.
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/4	Report of the Second International Meeting of Academic Institutions and Organizations Involved in Biosafety Education and Training held 16 - 18 April 2007, Kuala Lumpur
UNEP/CBD/BS/CMET/1/1	Report of the first coordination meeting for representatives of academic institutions actively involved in education and training programmes in biosafety held 4-6 October 2004, Geneva

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