

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Dist.
GENERAL
12 February 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING ON THE BIOSAFETY
CLEARING-HOUSE
Beijing, China, 4-8 March 2002

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS***Venue***

The Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting on the Biosafety Clearing-House, organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, will be held in conjunction with the UNEP-GEF Regional Workshop on Development of National Biosafety Frameworks, in Beijing, China from 4 to 8 March 2002. 4 March will be a joint introductory day, 5 to 6 March will focus on the UNEP/GEF workshop and 7 to 8 March will focus on the Biosafety Clearing-House. Both meetings will be held at:

**Xiyuan Hotel
1 Sanlihe Road
Haidian District
Beijing 100044
P. R. China**

Tel: +86 (10) 68313388

Fax: +86 (10) 68314577

E-mail: xyhotel@public3.bta.net.cn

Opening and Registration

The official opening of both meetings will be held in the Meeting Room, 1st floor, Xiyuan Hotel on Sunday evening, 3 March 2002, at 6:30 p.m. Registration will take place at the reception desk outside the Meeting Room on Sunday 3 March 2002 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will continue on Monday 4 March 2002 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. at the reception desk outside the Function Room, 4th floor, Xiyuan Hotel.

A pre-registration form is attached (Annex I below) for those who have not yet registered. It should be completed and returned to CBD Secretariat by 22 February 2002.

Services to delegates

The Business Center of the Hotel will provide, on a commercial basis, photocopying, fax and card operated telephones and other services. Participants may also access their email, free-of-charge, at the meeting room.

Hotel information

A block hotel reservation has been made for all participants at the Xiyuan Hotel (four stars), the venue of the meetings. The room rate is US\$ 88/ night, including breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The hotel costs for the sponsored participants will be paid directly to the hotel by the organizers. Eligible participants will be paid an ad hoc DSA at 20% of the prevailing rate to cover miscellaneous costs. Participants who are not sponsored are requested to confirm their reservation with the hotel directly as soon as possible.

Transport

The Government of China will provide a free-of-charge shuttle service to transport the participants from the Beijing Airport to the Xiyuan Hotel on Sunday 3 March 2002 and from the Xiyuan Hotel to the Beijing Airport on Friday and Saturday 8 and 9 March 2002.

Taxis are also available at the Beijing Airport to the Xiyuan Hotel (50 minutes), costing about ¥ 110 RMB(\$ 13.4 USD) for one way trip to the Xiyuan Hotel).

Time Zone

The Beijing Standard Time (BST), uniform throughout the country, is eight (+8) hours ahead of GMT.

Weather

During the month of March, highest average temperature in Beijing is + 8°C and the lowest average temperature is -1°C.

Electricity

220 volts, 50 Hertz.

Visas

Participants are required to obtain appropriate entry visa to China. Delegates are advised to check with the nearest Chinese diplomatic or consular mission regarding visa, vaccination and customs requirements.

Official language

The official language in China is Chinese but English is understood and spoken in hotels. The meeting will be held in English only.

Currency

The official currency in China is RMB (¥). The current exchange rate against the US dollar is approximately RMB 8.19 for one US dollar.

Credit cards

Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels in Beijing.

Posters and Publications

Participants wishing to display their posters and publications during the meeting should consult with the CBD Secretariat or with UNEP/GEF directly.

Special Events

From 1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday 6 March 2002, there will be a cultural tour, free-of-charge, of the Great Wall and the Tiananmen Square. Delegates might also wish to visit the Beijing Opera and other places.

Further information

Additional information may be requested, preferably by e-mail, from:

Mr. Wang Dehui
Deputy Director General, Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation
State Environmental Protection Administration
No. 115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie
Beijing 100035, P. R. China
Tel.: + 8610 6611-1453
Fax: + 8610 6611-1453
E-mail: dehuiwangsepa@yahoo.com.cn

General information about Beijing can be accessed at: <http://beijingtrip.com/>

Annex I

**Nomination form for the Asia and Pacific regional meeting on the
Biosafety Clearing-House,
(to be held in conjunction with the UNEP-GEF regional workshop on biosafety)
4-8 March 2002, Beijing, China.**

**This form must be returned to the CBD Secretariat before Friday, 22 February 2002
Please return by fax to +1 514 288-6588**

Participant details:

Family Name:	First Name:
Title (Mr / Ms / Dr / etc.):	Sex:
Job title:	Employer:
Address for correspondence:	
Telephone number (business hours):	Telephone number (after hours):
Facsimile number:	E-mail address:
Areas of expertise (please indicate any that apply): Biosafety regulation / Clearing-House Mechanism / Information-sharing / Other (please specify):	

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CBD NATIONAL FOCAL POINT MAKING
THE NOMINATION:**

Nominated by Government of: _____

Name of CBD National Focal Point: _____

Signature of Focal Point: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed form to:

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Center
393 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 300
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y-1N9, Canada

Facsimile: + 1 (514) 288-6588
Telephone: + 1 (514) 288-2220
E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org