



**SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF
ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND
ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN
BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
Kuala Lumpur, 16-18 April 2007

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Annotations to the provisional agenda

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

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, in developing country Parties and in Parties with economies in transition. It states that such cooperation shall, subject to the different situations, capabilities and requirements of each Party, include scientific and technical training and the enhancement of technological and institutional capacities in biosafety.

2. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) adopted, in its decision BS-I/5, an Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol and invited Governments and relevant organizations, including academic institutions, to support its implementation. In annex II of the decision, the Parties identified potential roles that scientific and academic institutions could play in assisting countries to build their capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol. A coordination mechanism (annex IV) was also adopted to promote partnerships, complementarities and synergies between various biosafety capacity-building initiatives. The elements of the Coordination Mechanism include, *inter alia*, coordination meetings and workshops.

3. Pursuant to paragraph 19 of decision BS-I/5, the Government of Switzerland sponsored the first international coordination meeting of academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training, which was held in Geneva from 4 to 6 October 2004. The meeting was organized by the Convention Secretariat and the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) Biosafety Unit and the Geneva Environment Network. Participants in the meeting shared information regarding their ongoing biosafety training programmes and exchanged preliminary views on possible ways and means of improving the scope and delivery of biosafety training programmes and opportunities for collaboration. Among other things, the meeting developed a *Compendium of Academically-Accredited Biosafety Courses*, which is accessible through the Biosafety Clearing-House

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(BCH). ^{1/} The full report of the meeting can be accessed on the website of the Secretariat at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/bs/bscmet-01/official/bscmet-01-01-en.doc>.

4. In decision BS-II/3, the Parties to the Protocol adopted most of the recommendations from the above-mentioned coordination meeting. Among other things, the decision invites institutions offering biosafety training and education programmes to develop demand-driven training programmes that respond to the needs of countries. It also calls for the establishment of collaborative partnerships, especially between developed and developing country academic institutions, in order to foster the transfer of skills, the sharing of experiences and the exchange of course materials.

5. At its third meeting, which was held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 13 to 17 March 2006, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol emphasized the need to promote long-term education and training in biosafety in order to develop core expertise at the national level, especially in developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition (decision BS-III/3, paragraph 11). In decision BS-III/11, paragraphs 16 and 17, the Parties specifically encouraged Parties and other Governments to invite universities and colleges to develop and/or expand degree-granting programmes that focus on training biosafety professionals and to also develop, as appropriate, exchange and scholarship programmes related to biosafety.

B. Objectives and anticipated outcomes of the meeting

6. The overall objective of this second international meeting of academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training is to contribute to the enhancement of long-term education and training in biosafety in order to strengthen human resources capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol, particularly in developing countries. Participants at the meeting will discuss ways and means of implementing the above-mentioned decisions of the Parties regarding measures for enhancing formal biosafety education and training. In particular, the meeting is expected to identify strategies for encouraging the development of new degree and diploma-granting programmes in biosafety and/or the expansion of existing ones. Options for promoting South-South and North-South cooperation between institutions involved in biosafety education will also be discussed. The meeting will hear presentations of selected case studies on the experiences, best practices and lessons learned from existing biosafety education and training programmes and collaborative partnerships.

7. The meeting is expected to produce a report for consideration, as appropriate, by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Parties at its fourth meeting and relevant institutions and donor agencies. The report will include, among other things, recommendations for promoting the development of new degree and diploma-granting programmes in biosafety and for enhancing North-South and South-South collaboration in biosafety education. The meeting will also explore the possibility and modalities of establishing regional or sub-regional programmes to promote academic training in biosafety in developing countries. It is envisaged that the development and implementation of those programmes would be spearheaded and coordinated by one of the Universities or centres of excellence in the region. A global-level steering group, coordinated and serviced by the Convention Secretariat, will be established to provide advice and guidance in the development and implementation of the regional/ subregional programmes.

8. Furthermore as a follow-up to this second meeting, different regions (particularly Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean) will be encouraged to organise meetings of academic institutions interested in developing biosafety courses. These meetings would discuss options for developing the above mentioned regional biosafety education programmes and identify possible areas of cooperation. Participants will also be encouraged to embark on developing

^{1/} The compendium can be accessed through the Biosafety Clearing-House at: <http://bch.biodiv.org/capacitybuilding/programmes.shtml>. As of December 2006, it contained 38 registered biosafety courses.

academically-accredited biosafety courses (i.e. undergraduate, graduate and/or short-term certificate or in-service training courses) at their respective universities and to explore opportunities for collaboration with other institutions.

9. In the medium-term, it is hoped that the meeting will lead to increased cooperation between different biosafety training institutions, for example through establishment of collaborative or twinning initiatives. Such initiatives could include: the sharing of teaching and research materials, joint curriculum development and delivery of courses, exchange programmes for staff and graduate students, collaborative student instruction and supervision and development of joint research tools and initiatives in biosafety.

C. Organizers and participants

10. The meeting is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with support from the Governments of Denmark and Switzerland. It will be hosted by the Government of Malaysia.

11. More than 70 participants have been invited, including 34 sponsored participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The participants are representatives of academic institutions, regional centres of excellence and international organizations that are currently offering or plan to offer biosafety education and training programmes. Priority was given to those institutions that have registered courses in the *Compendium of Academically-Accredited Biosafety Courses in the Biosafety Clearing-House*.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

12. The meeting will be opened at 9 a.m. on 16 April 2007 by the Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Malaysia. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Director-General of UNIDO will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1 Election of officers

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

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

14. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/1), which was developed by the Secretariat.

2.3 Organization of work

15. The meeting will be invited to consider and adopt the proposed organization of work as contained in Annex I below. It is proposed that all the agenda items should be taken up in the plenary. Working groups will be established as necessary. Participants will be invited to raise any other relevant issues related to enhancing biosafety education and training under agenda item 5 (Other matters).

ITEM 3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

3.1. *Report of the first coordination meeting of academic and other institutions offering biosafety-related training and education programmes*

16. Under this agenda item, participants will review the status of implementation of the recommendations that were made by the first coordination meeting of academic and other institutions and identify any necessary improvements and follow-up actions. Participants will particularly be invited to review the *Compendium of Academically-Accredited Biosafety Courses* and its implementation.

3.2. *Decisions regarding biosafety education and training adopted at the second and third meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Convention*

17. Under this item, the Convention Secretariat will provide an overview of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, particularly those relating to biosafety education and training. Participants will be invited to share their general views and suggestions on how academic institutions and other organizations involved in biosafety education and training could effectively support the implementation of those decisions.

3.3. *Existing biosafety education and training programmes and collaborative partnerships*

18. Under this item, participants will be given about 1-2 minutes to give an overview of their ongoing biosafety education and training programmes and collaborative partnerships. Participants who wish to share more detailed information about their ongoing and planned activities will be invited to submit brief written reports to the Secretariat prior to the meeting. The information submitted will be compiled and made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/INF/1).

19. The meeting will also hear detailed presentations of a few selected case studies on existing collaborative partnerships between different universities and other institutions involved in biosafety education and training. The case studies will highlight relevant emerging experiences, best practices and lessons learned.

ITEM 4. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

4.1. *Strategies for promoting the development of new degree and diploma-granting programmes in biosafety and/or expansion of existing ones*

20. In its decision BS-III/3, paragraph 11, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol invited Parties and other Governments, in collaboration with relevant organizations to develop core local expertise in biosafety through training-of-trainers programmes, long-term formal training and/or attachment of personnel to specialized institutions or centres of excellence. In decision BS-III/11, paragraph 16, Parties and other Governments were specifically encouraged to invite universities and colleges to develop and/or expand degree-granting programmes that focus on training biosafety professionals.

21. Under this agenda item, participants will be invited to discuss options for implementing the above decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Among other things, they will explore the possibility of developing a global programme and/or regional initiatives to promote academic training in biosafety in developing countries. The purpose of such a programme/ initiatives would be to assist relevant developing country universities to develop academically-accredited biosafety courses at postgraduate, graduate, diploma or certificate levels and/or

to improve the scope, quality and delivery of existing ones, taking into account the needs and priorities of countries.

22. The meeting will have before it a background paper (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/2) entitled: “Enhancing formal education and training in biosafety: strategies for fostering the development of new academically accredited courses in developing countries and/or expansion of existing ones”. This background paper will be prepared by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with UNIDO and relevant organizations.

4.2. *Options for fostering South-South and North-South collaborative partnerships and networks between institutions involved in biosafety education and training*

23. Under this item, participants will discuss possible strategies and mechanisms for promoting collaboration between universities and relevant organizations involved in biosafety education and training. Opportunities for collaborative partnerships or twinning arrangements among developing country institutions and between developed and developing country institutions will also be explored.

24. Participants will further be invited to explore the possibility of establishing a network of universities and organizations offering biosafety education courses in order to:

- (a) Facilitate the sharing of information, knowledge and expertise;
- (b) Foster collaboration and twinning arrangements;
- (c) Facilitate the sharing of teaching and research materials;
- (d) Promote faculty and student exchanges; and
- (e) Promote the development and implementation of joint curriculum or research initiatives.

25. The meeting will have before it a background document (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/3) prepared by the Executive Secretary. The document will review the experiences and lessons learned from existing collaborative partnerships and networks.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

26. Under this item, participants will be invited to raise any other relevant matters related to biosafety education and training. Participants may also wish to discuss any necessary immediate follow-up actions to the meeting, including the need for region-specific meetings and initiatives.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

27. The meeting will be invited to formulate conclusions and recommendations and adopt the report of the meeting.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

28. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 4 p.m. on 18 April 2007.

*Annex I***PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

	Plenary
Monday 16 April 2007 9 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the meeting.
9.30 a.m. – 10 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.
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Coffee/ Tea Break
10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Review of previous and ongoing initiatives: 3.1 Report of the first meeting coordination meeting of academic and other institutions offering biosafety programmes and the progress made in implementing its conclusions and recommendations. 3.2 Decisions of the second and third meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety regarding biosafety education and training. 3.3 Presentations of existing biosafety education and training programmes and collaborative partnerships between different universities and other institutions.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 3 (Continued)</i>
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee/ Tea Break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 3 (Continued)</i>
Tuesday 17 April 2007 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4. Issues for in-depth consideration: 4.1. Long-term education and training in biosafety: Strategies for promoting the development of new degree and diploma-granting programmes and/or the expansion of existing ones.
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/ Tea Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4.2. Options for fostering South-South and North-South collaborative partnerships and networks between institutions involved in biosafety education and training.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break

2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4 (Continued)</i>
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee/ Tea Break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4 (Continued)</i>
Wednesday 18 April 2007 9 a.m. – 1p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 5. Other matters; 6. Conclusions and recommendations; 7. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS
AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

A. *Working documents*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/2	Promoting formal education and training in biosafety: strategies for fostering the development of new academically accredited courses in developing countries and/or the expansion of existing ones
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/3	South-South and North-South cooperation in biosafety education and training: a review of the experiences and lessons learned from existing collaborative partnerships and networks

B. *Information documents*

UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/INF/1	Ongoing biosafety education and training programmes and collaborative partnerships: a compilation of submissions from academic institutions and relevant organizations
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/2/INF/9	Report of the Coordination Meeting of Institutions Offering Biosafety-Related Training and Education Programmes, held 4-6 October 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland
