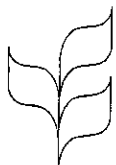




**CBD**



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12 to 16 May 1997

**VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MYANMAR  
ON THE CONTENTS OF THE FUTURE PROTOCOL**

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# Myanmar's Participation in The Activities of Setting out a Protocol for Biosafety and Comments .

A brief country report to the Second meeting of  
Open - ended Ad - Hoc Working Group on Biosafety  
Montreal , Canada , 12 - 16 May 1997 .

Presented by -  
The representative from Myanmar .  
30 April 1997 .

## Myanmar's Participation in the Activities of Setting out a Protocol for Biosafety and Comments .

### **The Participation of Myanmar to the Convention**

The problems related to the trade of living modified organisms (LMO) among the developed and developing countries drew the attention and curiosity of the scientists and the environmental protection agencies .

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) initiated to seek a way of legalized protection for the safe transfer , handling and use of any living modified organisms resulting from advanced biotechnology . Several meetings have been held , inviting the governments' representatives , non governmental organizations (NGOs) and private agencies .

The focal point concerning biosafety has been debated to elaborate a framework of legally binding agreements until it reaches to the development of a Biosafety Protocol .

In this step-by-step approach, based on several international discussion , Myanmar got the opportunities to attend the meetings held in Madrid , Spain , 24 - 28 July 1995 and in Aarhus , Denmark , 22 - 26 July 1996 .

Myanmar has gained the sharing knowledge and experience of the threats of producing and trading living modified organisms (LMOs) and the release that might be harmful to the environment . Having agreement upon the statements suggested by the participants to the convention, Myanmar signed the ratification for the need of preparing a possible contents of a Biosafety Protocol .

The Open - ended Ad-Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biosafety established by the Conference of the Parties (COP) started with the mandate to consider the need for and modalities of the protocol setting out an appropriate procedures . The objective of the Open - ended Ad - Hoc Working Group is to constitute the essential commitment to Biosafety .

At this point , Myanmar realizes to seek out the scientifically sound concepts that convince the international cooperation base .

### **The Status of Myanmar concerned with LMO transfer**

Myanmar took part in the meeting relating to Biosafety as an observer for the reasons that (a) genetic engineering and its application are still new and (b) the trade of living modified organism (LMO) and the threats to the environment are recognized practically rare .

Anyway , Myanmar has a deep awareness upon the systems and legislation of safe transfer , handling and the use of newly introduced plants and microorganism .

Myanmar also recommends the development of an International Technical Guidelines for safety in biotechnology , conducted by UNEP realizing the threats and the challenges , (on unforeseen days) to the environment and biodiversity of Myanmar .

Myanmar agreed upon the statement to draw an efficient and effective framework for the development of international cooperation aimed at ensuring safety in biotechnology through effective risk assessment and risk management for the transfer .

The Activities undertaken in Myanmar that might partially be related to Biosafety.

Myanmar is originally rich in its natural resources and recognizes the importance of the sustainable use and management of its biological diversity.

The plan for National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan is underway, bearing the objectives of undertaking these enabling activities;

(a) To formulate the strategies necessary for the protection and sustainable use of Myanmar's Biodiversity.

(b) To seek the information on existing biodiversity, root causes of biodiversity loss and threats and the opportunities for its conservation and sustainable use.

The following activities and notification of policies and laws expose the attitude and awareness of Myanmar (may be partially) concerned with biosafety aspects.

Myanmar has signed and ratified the Convention on Biodiversity and Climate Change on 15 November 1995. The National Convention on Environmental Affairs (NCEA) was established in 1994. The NCEA has a good relationship in environmental affairs with international environment agencies. It is the favour of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which contribute relevant information and chances on environmental programs to NCEA of Myanmar.

### **Policies, Laws and Regulations of Myanmar relevant to protection, and conservation of the environment**

The National Environmental Policy was issued in 1994. A Forest Policy was issued in 1996. Both these policies stress protection, sustainability, efficiency, providing for basic needs, people's participation and public awareness.

The other important complementary laws have been enacted in 1992 and in 1994, The Forest Law and the Wildlife and Protected Areas Law. One of the objectives of the latter is to preserve wildlife in accordance with the international conventions adopted by the State.

The Pesticide Law was enacted in May 1990, In that Pesticide Law, it is stated that the Registration Board shall prohibit the use of any pesticide which is harmful to human beings, animals, crops and environment. In the procedures relating to the Pesticide Law. The Registration Board can reject the application based on toxicology, lack of efficiency, hazard to human health and environment or on non-economic justification.

The Myanmar Foreign Investment Commission issued a decree in June 1994, intended to control air, water, land pollution and other environmental degradation.

### FREDA (The Non Governmental Organization in Myanmar)

Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA) was formed in line with the environment and conservation policy of Ministry of Forestry. The FREDA is motivated to help the country programs concerned with conservation and promoting biological diversity to the environment.

### Conclusion and Comments

It can be said that Myanmar has not yet reached the stage of facing problems with living modified organisms (LMOs) trade and transfer. No one can predict that will be no more problems of LMO transfer in Myanmar.

Therefore the tendency of the environmental protection activities undertaken in Myanmar will direct and specify the related matters to Biosafety aspect in future.

Myanmar is proud of getting involved in the convention which will elaborate the glossary of terms and setting out a protocol on Biosafety .