

Ref.: SCBD/OES/AD/70385

22 January 2010

NOTIFICATION

Establishment of the International Year of Biodiversity Museum

Dear Madam/Sir,

The International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) has officially begun, and in the spirit of global collaboration, activities are being held around the world to help raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity for human well-being. Parties and international organizations have been invited to celebrate this unique event in the life of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The official launch of the IYB was held in Berlin on 11 January 2010 under the leadership of the German COP 9 Presidency with the participation of the Chancellor, Her Excellency Angela Merkel. UNESCO also organized a high-level event and a science policy conference from 21 to 29 January 2010 in support of the IYB.

As the International Year continues to build momentum, several high profile events are being organized. A high-level segment of the 65th session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), with participation of Heads of State and Government will be held in New York in September 2010. Japan, in its capacity as President of COP 10 will host the IYB closing ceremony to be held on 10 - 11 December 2010 in Kanazawa Ishikawa prefecture.

The international community has responded with overwhelming enthusiasm to the call for engagement. It has been a pleasure to see the excellent outreach materials prepared for the International Year. In order to preserve the memory of this extraordinary achievement, and as a way to pay tribute to these efforts, the Secretariat is establishing an IYB Museum which will showcase a collection all the IYB outreach materials that have been created.

The content of the IYB Museum will be displayed at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan, as well as at the sixty-sixth session of the UNGA in New York in September 2011 when the IYB report will be considered. The IYB collection will then be permanently on display at the CBD Secretariat in Montreal, for the use and reference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

To all CBD National Focal Points and Relevant Organizations

With this in mind, the Secretariat kindly requests you to make available samples of your IYB materials for inclusion in the Museum by sending them to the attention of:

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity - IYB Museum
413 St. Jacques - Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary