



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **International symposium to be held to share experiences and support effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources**

*Montreal, 23 February 2012* – An international symposium on domestic measures to implement the obligations under the Nagoya Protocol will be held at the United Nations University Centre in Tokyo on 8-9 March 2012.

The symposium, organized with the financial and organizational support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Institute for Sustainability and Peace of the United Nations University, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, is designed to support a coherent implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Nagoya Protocol was adopted in October 2010, at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Nagoya, Japan.

To date there are 92 signatures to the Protocol. Two countries have ratified.

At the symposium, experts and/or government officials from Australia, Brazil, Ethiopia, the European Union, India, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom, among others, will provide their experience on preparing legislation and regulatory requirements adopted or being considered at the national level with a view to meet the obligations of Parties under the Nagoya Protocol. This will also be an opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities faced by countries in the implementation of the Protocol.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “This international symposium will assist in taking stock of developments at the national level regarding the implementation of this important legal instrument. The opportunity for key experts and government officials to exchange views on the types of measures envisaged to implement their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol will ensure complementary and coherence in the implementation of the Protocol.”

Atsushi Suginaka, Director, Global Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, said; “The Government of Japan is pleased to facilitate an exchange amongst experts and government officials on efforts carried out towards the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.”

An informal meeting to be held in conjunction with the symposium will provide an opportunity to deepen the discussion on national approaches towards the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to exchange information and opinions useful for the preparation of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Nagoya Protocol, a body established by the

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to prepare the first meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. Participants to this meeting will be those invited, as well as the other government officials and experts of international organizations registered.

The symposium and informal meeting will be held at Elizabeth Rose Hall, United Nations University Centre, 5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo. The working languages of the symposium are English and Japanese and therefore simultaneous interpretation will be provided. The informal meeting will be held in English.

Those wishing to participate in the symposium, as well as government officials and experts of international organizations who wish to participate in the informal meeting, are invited to visit the website:

<http://isp.unu.edu/events/2012/symposium-on-the-nagoya-protocol.html>

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