



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING
ON THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM
Bangkok, 3-5 February 2005

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

A. *Background*

1. In decision VII/23, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, regional workshops as a catalysing mechanism to allow for the interaction of the international focal points with the national focal points to further enhance the scientific and technical cooperation goal of the clearing-house mechanism and to build capacities at the national level with regard to use of and access to new information technologies.
2. Accordingly, and following the generous financial contribution by the Government of Belgium, the Executive Secretary has organized the present regional meeting for Asia and the Pacific to provide countries of the region with an opportunity to express their needs and expectations with regard to the clearing-house mechanism's new efforts to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, particularly in regard to technology transfer, the 2010 target and cooperation with international thematic focal points and other relevant Conventions, organizations and initiatives.
3. The organization of the meeting also responds to the recommendation of the informal advisory committee made at its meetings of 9 March 2003, 9 November 2003 and 13 and 17 February 2004, by which it request the Executive Secretary to focus on the use of the clearing-house mechanism to promote technical and scientific cooperation, particularly within the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Convention, including invasive alien species, the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), coastal and marine biodiversity and the ecosystem approach.
4. This meeting further supports recommendations made during the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), particularly recommendation VI/4, paragraph 22, which called for the clearing-house mechanisms to be used to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation.
5. The meeting will consider issues relevant to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism in the Asia and Pacific region. Specific objectives for the meeting include:

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(a) To determine the regional information requirements and mechanisms needed to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation activities under the Convention at the local and national level;

(b) To identify likely problems and suggest solutions in the implementation and ongoing development of the clearing-house activities in the region;

(c) To explore partnerships for improving technical and scientific collaboration and reducing duplication of efforts.

B. Participants

6. Each Party in the Asia and the Pacific region has been invited to nominate one expert qualified in the fields of management of clearing-house mechanism issues, information-sharing systems and database-management, and capacity-building. Nominations were requested on 8 December 2005.

7. In order to further assist the deliberations of this workshop, Parties, Governments and relevant organizations have also been requested to submit their views and needs with regard to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism, as well as any other relevant information they may wish to convey prior to the meeting.

8. In addition to these participants, representatives of the following organizations active in the clearing-house mechanism issues have also been invited to participate as observers:

(a) Members of the informal advisory committee of the clearing-house mechanism;

(b) Representatives of the: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF);

(c) Representatives of the: Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), the Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum (PBIF); the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS); Species 2000; the Indigenous Biodiversity Information Network (IBIN); and AIDEnvironment;

(d) Representatives of donor organizations, particularly of those Governments who have indicated their interest in funding capacity-building activities to enable the active participation of developing countries in pilot projects promoted by the clearing-house mechanism.

C. Documents

9. A list of documents for the meeting is attached as annex I below.

D. Anticipated outcome of the meeting

10. It is expected that the meeting will facilitate a better definition of the needs of countries of the region with regard to the further development of the clearing-house mechanism, and will recommend possible solutions to overcome the identified constraints and impediments.

11. The recommendations of the meeting will be communicated to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, to be held in Brazil in 2006.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

12. The meeting will be held on 3-5 February 2005 in Bangkok. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary or his representative at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday 3 February 2005.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Election of officers

13. Participants will be invited to elect a Chair and Rapporteur. Nominations will be made from the floor.

2.2. Adoption of agenda

14. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/CHM/A&P.Reg/1/1).

2.3. Organization of work

15. A proposed programme of work for the meeting is shown in annex II below.

16. Participants will be invited to discuss the issues relevant to the promotion of technical and scientific cooperation as reflected in decisions V/14, VI/18 and VII/23 of the Conference of the Parties, recommendations of the informal advisory committee on the clearing-house mechanism, as well as issues pertaining to regional needs assessment in relation to use and future development of the clearing-house mechanism. To facilitate these discussions, it is proposed that these issues be clustered under two headings:

(a) Identification of regional needs to use effectively the clearing-house mechanism to promote technical and scientific collaboration and technology transfer, particularly with regard to the 2010 target;

(b) Identification of regional needs to use the clearing-house mechanism to implement effectively recommendations related to the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention.

17. Each of these headings will encompass various relevant issues. Following an introduction to the topic, participants will be invited to discuss relevant issues, with a view to making recommendations relevant to the objectives for the meeting.

ITEM 3. IDENTIFICATION OF REGIONAL NEEDS TO IMPLEMENT AND USE EFFECTIVELY THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM TO PROMOTE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION AND TO INTRODUCE NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

18. The Secretariat will make a short presentation on issues relevant to this item based on decisions V/14, VI/18 and VII/23 of the Conference of the Parties.

19. These issues will be considered in the light of the above-mentioned decisions V/14, VI/18 and VII/23 and the minutes of the meetings of the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism held on 9 March 2003, 9 November 2003 and 13 and 17 February 2004.

20. Possible group discussions that could be held under this item with a view to determining options for the promotion of technical and scientific collaboration and use of new information technologies include:

(a) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in strengthening national capacities, particularly in the use of new information technologies;

(b) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in the promotion of technical and scientific collaboration.

ITEM 4. IDENTIFICATION OF REGIONAL NEEDS TO IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVELY RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE THEMATIC AREAS AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES OF THE CONVENTION, INCLUDING IN FACILITATING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND COOPERATION

21. In considering this item, participants will be invited to consider the regional needs to implement decisions related to the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, including but not limited to: invasive alien species, taxonomy, traditional and local knowledge and coastal and marine biodiversity and transfer of technology.

22. Possible group discussions that could be held under this item with a view to determining options for enhancing national capacity include:

(a) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in enhancing national capacity to more effectively implement obligations under the Convention with regard to the programme areas and cross-cutting issues; and

(b) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in facilitating greater national and regional participation and collaboration in thematic and cross-cutting areas projects and transfer of technology, particularly in collaboration with international thematic focal points.

ITEM 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

23. Participants will be invited to formulate the general conclusions and recommendations on the issues considered at this meeting.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

24. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the meeting, on the basis of the draft report and draft recommendations to be presented by the Rapporteur.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

25. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5.30 p.m. on 5 February 2005.

Annex I

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING ON THE
CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM**

PLEASE NOTE:

**For reasons of economy, documents will be available at the meeting in a limited number.
Participants are requested to bring their copies of the documents to the meeting.**

Working documents

UNEP/CBD/CHM/A&P.Reg/1/1

Provisional agenda

UNEP/CBD/CHM/A&P.Reg/1/1/Add.1

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Background documents

Conference of the Parties decision V/14

Conference of the Parties decision VI/18

Conference of the Parties decision VII/23

Minutes of the meeting of the clearing-house mechanism informal advisory committee held 9 March 2003, 9 November 2003 and 13 and 17 February 2004

Results of the independent review of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/12

Annex II

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
REGIONAL MEETING ON THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM**

3 February 2005

9 a.m.	<i>Item 1.</i> Opening of the meeting.
9.15-10 a.m.	<i>Item 2.</i> Organiza 2.1. Election of officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work.
10-11.30 a.m.	Presentations
11.30 a.m.- 12 noon	Break
12 noon- 1 p.m.	Presentations
1-2 p.m.	Lunch
2-3 p.m.	<i>Item 3.</i> Identification of regional needs to implement and use effectively the clearing-house mechanism to promote technical and scientific collaboration and to introduce new information technologies
3-3.30 p.m.	Discussion
	Break
3.30-5.30 p.m.	

4 February 2005

9 a.m.	Resumption of the meeting.
9.15-11.30 a.m.	<i>Item 3.</i> Identification of regional needs to implement and use effectively the clearing-house mechanism to promote technical and scientific collaboration and to introduce new information technologies (<i>continued</i>);
11.30 a.m.- 12 noon	Break
12 noon – 1 p.m.	<i>Item 4.</i> Identification of regional needs to implement effectively recommendations related to the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, including in facilitating technology transfer and cooperation
1-2 p.m.	Lunch
2-3.30 p.m.	Presentations
	Break
3.45-5.30 p.m.	Discussion

5 February 2005

9 a.m.	Resumption of the meeting.
9.15-11.30 a.m.	<i>Item 4.</i> Identification of regional needs to implement effectively recommendations related to the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, including in facilitating technology transfer and cooperation (<i>continued</i>);
11.30 a.m.- 12 noon	Break
12 noon-1 p.m.	Conclusions and recommendations
1 p.m-2 p.m.	Lunch
2-3.30 p.m.	Conclusions and recommendations
	Break
3.45-5.30 p.m.	Adoption of report
