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10 March 2005

NOTIFICATION

Workshop on cultural, environmental and social impact assessments based on the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines and aimed at further strengthening the understanding of the link between environment and cultural diversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform Parties and governments that the workshop on cultural, environmental and social impact assessments based on the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines and aimed at further strengthening the understanding of the link between environment and cultural diversity, will be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 30 May to 2 June 2005, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations University (UNU), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

In response to a request of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), at its seventh meeting the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary “*to consult and coordinate with the Secretariat of the Forum and to collaborate with United Nations agencies and relevant international organizations with a view to organizing a workshop on cultural, environmental and social impact assessments based on the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines and aimed at further strengthening the understanding of the link between environment and cultural diversity, with the participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities, and urged Parties and Governments to provide financial resources in support of the organization of the workshop*”.

Further to this request, the Executive Secretary entered into a partnership with UNESCO, UNU, FAO AND UNPFII to hold the workshop in connection with the broader Symposium being organized on the theme “Conserving Cultural and Biological Diversity: the Role of Sacred Natural Sites and Cultural Landscapes”. This international symposium is an activity of [the World EXPO 2005](#) in Aichi (Japan). It is embedded within the EXPO's central theme on "Nature's Wisdom" and also reflects the theme of the United Nations Pavilion at the EXPO 2005 on "Celebrating Diversity".

To: CBD National Focal Points



In this vein, the symposium aims at highlighting the interrelationship of biological and cultural diversity of our planet. All over the world, sacred natural sites are expressions of traditional belief and land management systems, which play an important role for the conservation of biological diversity. The website of the symposium can be visited at: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/SNS/symposium.htm>.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Government of The Netherlands, the Secretariat will be in a position to support the participation of a number of representatives from indigenous and local communities in the Symposium. Interested Parties and Governments are kindly invited to submit, no later than 31 March 2005, the names of indigenous and local community representatives who could participate in the Symposium. The Secretariat will select participants among the nominations received on the basis of expertise, equitable geographic representation and gender balance.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary