



Ref: SCBD/BS/ET/ABw/48251

4 April 2005

NOTIFICATION

Madam/Sir

Re: Invitation to Provide Information to Biosafety Capacity-Building Databases in the BCH

At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 1) established a Coordination Mechanism to promote partnerships and complementarities between various capacity-building initiatives for the effective implementation of the Protocol. It includes capacity-building databases, among other elements. In decision BS-I/5, Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations were invited to share their experiences and information on biosafety capacity-building activities through the Coordination Mechanism.

I am pleased to inform you that the capacity-building databases, which are accessible through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) at: <http://bch.biodiv.org/capacitybuilding/default.shtml>, currently contain more than 150 active records. All newly registered or updated information is sent bi-weekly to national focal points as well as individuals that have subscribed to the Current Awareness Service. I wish to thank all those that have already provided information and I invite them to update their records and register any new initiatives, as well as outcomes and "lessons learned" from completed projects.

I wish also to encourage all Governments and relevant organizations that have not yet done so to provide information to the capacity-building databases directly online through the Management Centre of the BCH. In case you do not have an account and a password already to access the Management Centre, please go to the BCH home page (<http://bch.biodiv.org>) and click on "Enter the Management Centre". Then select "Sign Up for a BCH Account" and follow the instructions. While it is preferable for each institution to register the information directly, the information may also be sent to the Secretariat for incorporation in the BCH.

Please note that we are currently in the process of updating all the records in the BCH in preparation for the COP-MOP 2 meeting to be held from 30 May - 3 June 2005 in Montreal. In order to allow us ample time to prepare an up-to-date status report for COP-MOP 2, we would appreciate it if you could update/ provide the above-mentioned information **by 29 April 2005**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send an e-mail to: bch@biodiv.org.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: All National Focal Points for Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
Relevant Organizations

