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26 February 2010

NOTIFICATION

Regional Workshop for Asia-Pacific Countries on the Fourth National Report Apia, Samoa, 19 to 22 April 2010

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Conference of the Parties (COP), in its decision VIII/14, stated that Parties shall submit the fourth national report by 30 March 2009. In the same decision, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the support to Parties for the preparation of national reports, including through organizing regional workshops in this regard.

However, our records show that your country is yet to submit the fourth national report and it is very important to have reports from all the Parties for reviewing progress towards the 2010 target, which will be undertaken at the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI 3, Nairobi, 24-28 May 2010) and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 10, Nagoya, 18-29 October 2010). More importantly, this review provides a solid basis for the revising of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the post-2010 period.

In response to the request above, I am therefore pleased to announce that, with the generous support of the Government of Japan, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility, and the kind collaboration of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, a workshop will be held from 19 to 22 April 2010 in Apia, Samoa, for relevant countries listed below. I believe that this workshop will facilitate the submission of the fourth national reports of these countries.

Accordingly, I would like to invite you to nominate an officer or expert responsible for preparing your country's fourth national report, no later than **19 March 2010**. In doing so, I would like to emphasize that the nominee should be the officer or expert deeply involved in the preparation of the fourth national report and in a position to revise and/or finalize the report within four weeks after the workshop. To make this workshop as productive and useful as possible, all participating countries are required to send to the Secretariat a draft of their fourth national report by **26 March 2010** and to also bring this draft to the workshop for review.

To: CBD National Focal Points of the following countries:

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, and Vanuatu

The working language of the workshop will be English. The documents of the workshop will be made available in due course.

One participant from each country will be financially supported to attend this workshop. This covers round-trip economy-class air tickets, hotel accommodation, and part of daily subsistence allowances to cover meals and incidentals.

I look forward to receiving your nomination and, more importantly, your country's fourth national report soon. We thank you very much for your support and cooperation.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary