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23 May 2012

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to Participate in the Online Forum on Public Awareness, Education and Participation Concerning the Safe Transfer, Handling and Use of Living Modified Organisms

Dear Madam/Sir,

In its decision BS-V/13, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted a programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) for the period 2011-2015. In paragraph 7 of the decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to establish an online forum and other appropriate means to facilitate exchange of information and experiences on the implementation of the programme of work.

I am pleased to inform you that, pursuant to the above decision, an Online Forum on Public Awareness, Education and Participation Concerning the Safe Transfer, Handling and Use of LMOs has been launched in the Biosafety Clearing-House at: http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art23/pa_forum2012.shtml.

The first two discussion groups under the Forum will focus on public access to biosafety information. The discussion groups will **commence on 4 June 2012** and **end on 18 June 2012**.

Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations are invited to nominate individuals involved in, or responsible for, promoting public awareness, education and participation at the national level to participate in the Forum. Subject to availability of funding, the Secretariat plans to organise regional capacity-building workshops in 2012 and 2013 to further facilitate the implementation of the programme of work. Participants in those workshops will be selected from among those who will have participated in the Online Forum.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

To: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where CPB focal points have not yet been designated)
Relevant Organizations



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