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19 September 2013

NOTIFICATION

Nomination of Experts to the Workshop of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms Ispra, Italy, 25 – 27 November 2013

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision BS-V/9, the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP) established, through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), an electronic network of laboratories to facilitate the identification of living modified organisms (LMOs) as well as the sharing of information and experiences. Furthermore, in that same decision, the COP-MOP requested the organization of workshops for representatives of laboratories involved in the detection of LMOs to exchange information and experience on the implementation of relevant standards and methods.

In implementing these requests, the Secretariat organized a series of online discussions under the Network of Laboratories for LMO Detection and Identification on topics that are relevant to LMO detection laboratories.¹ Further to the online discussions and following the generous offer by the Government of Japan, the Secretariat is organizing a workshop with the objective of:

- (i) Developing an implementation strategy with a view to guiding and assisting Parties in reaching the outcomes of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol that are relevant to the detection and identification of LMOs (under operational objectives 1.6, 1.8 and 2.3);² and
- (ii) Drafting a set of recommendations on the subject of detection and identification of LMOs for consideration by the COP-MOP at its seventh meeting.

Accordingly, I am pleased to invite Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to nominate representatives from their national LMO detection laboratories to take part in the upcoming workshop, which is scheduled to take place from 25 to 27 November 2013, at the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy. Each nomination is to be accompanied by a brief statement indicating the activities in which the nominee has been involved that are relevant to LMO detection and identification and the anticipated benefit of the workshop to the participant.

¹ Available at http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_detection/discussions.shtml.

² The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020 is available at http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/issues/cpb_stplan_txt.shtml.

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



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Due to the limited availability of funds for the workshop, participants from developing country Parties and Parties with economy in transition that are eligible for sponsorship will be selected from among the nominated experts on the basis of their relevant expertise, taking into account their participation in the online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for LMO Detection and Identification, as well as geographical representation and gender balance.

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Secretary via email at secretariat@cbd.int or by fax at +1-514-288-6588. In order to enable us to finalize arrangements for the workshop in a timely manner, it would be appreciated if your nominations reach the Secretariat as soon as possible but **no later than 11 October 2013**.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support towards the work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary