



Ref.: SCBD/CPU/DC/KG/MA/AB/88935

8 June 2020

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to participate in the testing of the new Biosafety Clearing-House platform

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that further to decisions CP-VIII/2 and CP-9/2 and in line with the *chronogram* (available at <http://bch.cbd.int/>), the development of the new Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) platform is ongoing and the testing of the new BCH platform has started.

I encourage all BCH users to participate actively in the testing of the new BCH platform. Your support and feedback are important in ensuring that the new BCH is a user-friendly information-sharing platform.

For those who have not yet registered to take part in the testing of the new platform, I invite you to do so by sending a message to bch@cbd.int as soon as possible and no later than **6 July 2020**.

More information on the process through which the testing of the new BCH platform is being carried out is provided in the annex below.

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

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

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Acting Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points, CBD National Focal Points (where Cartagena Protocol Focal Points have not yet been designated), BCH Focal Points, relevant organizations

Annex

Process for testing the new BCH platform

Website for testing the new BCH platform

The testing of the new BCH platform is performed through the testing site which is accessible at the following link: <https://bch.cbddev.xyz/>.

Please note that this is a development site which changes daily depending on the progress achieved by the Secretariat. The site contains real and test data records and is available in English only. Any records created and published on the development test site will not affect the current BCH platform (<http://bch.cbd.int>), which will continue to be fully operational until the migration process is complete. For publishing and managing any new or existing records, please continue to use the current BCH website.

The testing is carried out in several phases and on a step-by-step basis, meaning that records and features are being tested as they become available.

In order to assist you with the testing and to introduce the various features of the new BCH platform, the Secretariat has prepared several informal help materials (videos and PDF files) that are available at: <https://bch.cbddev.xyz/articles/5eaa095934e536000152ca10>. More materials will be added as the testing progresses.

“BCH on BCH Forum”: Test Assignments and Feedback

The testing is carried out through assignments sent via the *BCH on BCH Forum* every two weeks (approximately), depending on the status of the development of new features. Comments and feedback on the new BCH platform should also be posted on the forum.

The *BCH on BCH Forum* is accessible at the following address: http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art20/nfps/newBCHforum.shtml. It is an informal ongoing online forum dedicated mainly to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety national focal points, Biosafety Clearing-House national focal points, and National Authorized Users. The objective of this forum is to promote exchange of information and sharing of views and experiences on the current status of the BCH.

Those who express their interest in participating in the testing of the new BCH platform will be registered for the forum, which will enable them to post messages and receive all forum notifications automatically.

For more information, please contact the Secretariat at: bch@cbd.int.