



**MESSAGE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

MR. BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS

on the occasion of

**ORGANIZATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE
GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP**

9-10 July 2012

As you are aware, invasive alien species are a major threat to biodiversity worldwide, and also place human health and economic opportunities at risk. For example, recent study estimated that annual invasion of emerald ash borer and other forest insects reduce residential property value 830 million US dollars in Canada and USA. The annual cost of their control reaches 17 billion US dollars for the local governments.

Through Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has explicitly recognized the need to address invasive alien species as a matter of priority. In order to prevent, eradicate, and control biological invasions, Parties require readily available, credible information. They need to be able to make strategic, often rapid, decisions that are consistent with national and international law, especially trade law.

Numerous governments, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and inter-governmental organizations have invested a substantial amount of time and other resources to develop databases that include information relevant to invasive alien species. All of these efforts are to be commended for fostering the capacity of Parties to prevent and mitigate invasive alien species.

To achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, globally, we need to make effort to build the capacity of information systems, identify and fill the gaps in the existing information, enable better collaboration among information providers, increase data accessibility for information users, find ways to make relevant analytical tools more widely available, and foster timely information exchange among information providers and users. In this background we are organizing this



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workshop. Your task over the next couple of days is to be the visionaries of such a global initiative – tentatively being called the global invasive alien species information partnership.

The term “partnership” is very important in the context of this information initiative. The CBD does not intend to create a single global database or facility under which all invasive alien species information will be collected and dispersed. Such is not practical for numerous reasons. Instead, our shared interest is to create the foundation for a long-term constructive relationship among information users and providers to address invasive alien species. This relationship will provide opportunities for catalytic, tangible outcomes – such as a web-based portal through which existing databases and analytical tools could be more readily accessed, and through which information can be actively exchanged. The Partnership might also foster projects such as the analysis of invasive alien species pathways by taxonomic group and region. This could be useful in priority setting by the Governments and communities for developing and implementing projects to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

I hope this workshop comes out with ways and means for developing global invasive alien species information partnership. We need fresh, compelling ideas and to deliver outputs in a timely manner. Please consider what the partnership might be able to deliver at least a few projects at COP 11 in Hyderabad, India in October, when we –the Secretariat-, together with you, intend to officially launch the partnership.

I wish you all the best for a productive meeting, and I am eagerly awaiting a report of the outcomes. You have my support for moving this important initiative forward.
