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**AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON  
ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

Fifth meeting

Montreal, 8-12 October 2007

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

**COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS BY PARTIES ON EXPERIENCES IN DEVELOPING  
AND IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 15 OF THE CONVENTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL  
AND MEASURES TAKEN TO SUPPORT COMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR INFORMED  
CONSENT AND MUTUALLY AGREED TERMS**

*Addendum*

**SUBMISSION BY JAPAN**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Secretariat is circulating herewith, as an addendum to the original compilation of submissions on this subject (UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/5/INF/2 of 20 July 2007), a submission from the Government of Japan on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Bonn Guidelines in Japan.
2. The contribution has been reproduced in the form and language in which it was received.

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\* UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/5/1.

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## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD AND THE BONN GUIDELINES IN JAPAN

### - Highlights -

Genetic resources are one of the fundamental tools for research in the field of biological sciences as well as for biotechnological applications, which are expected to become a basis for development of key technologies in the twenty first century.

Japan has been actively participating in discussions on “access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (ABS)” at the meetings of COP of the CBD and Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing. Japan also wishes to build a mutually beneficial relations with countries that provide genetic resources, by facilitating access to genetic resources and implementing fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources in an appropriate manner.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), as one of the competent national authorities on ABS in Japan, has been implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Bonn Guidelines in cooperation with the Japan Bioindustry Association (JBA) and the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE). Highlights of JBA’s and NITE’s activities in recent years are given below:

### 1. Japan Bioindustry Association (JBA)

#### 1-1. Implementation of the CBD and the Bonn Guidelines by organizing public seminars for potential users (companies and researchers)

METI and JBA have been steadily implementing the Bonn Guidelines since its adoption in February 2002. For example, in 2003-04, JBA organized more than 8 public seminars in major cities throughout Japan to provide genetic resources users, e.g. companies and researchers, with up-to-date information on the CBD, particularly on the Bonn Guidelines, in order to enhance their awareness of the CBD.

#### 1.2. Development of guidelines on ABS for users in Japan ( User measure)

Through the above-mentioned experiences, METI has decided to develop user-specific guidelines for companies and researchers in accordance with the Bonn Guidelines. In the middle of 2004, METI started working on such guidelines in cooperation with JBA. In March 2005, “Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources for Users in Japan” was completed, and in April 2005, this Guidelines was officially published by METI and JBA in Japan. To promote its dissemination, JBA held 10 public seminars in 6 major cities throughout Japan, i.e., Tokyo, Sapporo, Osaka, Nagoya, Hiroshima and Fukuoka. Its English translation was completed in February 2006.

Chronology of the implementation leading to the Japan’s Guidelines for Users is given below:

2002	The Bonn Guidelines were adopted at COP6 in February. In September, Japanese translation of the Bonn Guidelines was completed.
2003 – 2004	The Bonn Guidelines were disseminated at a series of public seminars and international symposia in major cities throughout Japan. In parallel with those promotional activities of the Bonn Guidelines, Japan started developing user-specific guidelines in Japan.
2005	“Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources for Users in Japan”(“Japan’s Guidelines”) were completed in March, and published on April 1. Six public seminars were organized in major cities throughout Japan to disseminate the Japan’s Guidelines.
2006	In February, the English translation of the Japan’s Guidelines was completed for distribution. Four public seminars were organized in major cities throughout Japan to disseminate the Japan’s Guidelines.
2007	Public seminars are scheduled to take place in Japan, including the one in cooperation with the Japan Society for Bioscience, Biotechnology and

	Agro-chemistry, and the one with the Japan Institute of Intellectual Property, to disseminate the Japan's Guidelines.
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**1-3. Bilateral workshops and meetings with Asian and Oceania countries:**

METI has organized bilateral workshops and meetings, in cooperation with JBA, with the competent authorities of Australia, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam with a view to sharing information and experiences concerning the respective national policies, laws and regulatory systems regarding the CBD and ABS, and thereby deepening mutual understanding.

**1-4. Partnership with Multilateral Initiatives:**

METI has been supporting international symposia and roundtables on the subjects relating to the CBD and ABS, jointly organized by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and JBA,

JBA's experts have been cooperating with European initiatives such as EC's "MOSAICS" project and "ABS Management Tool" project of Switzerland.

**1-5. Group Training Courses in Bioindustries for Capacity Building:**

JBA has been supporting "Group Training Courses in Bioindustries" which have been implemented by JICA for capacity building in developing countries. So far, JBA has invited 180 researchers of biotechnology and officials responsible for biotechnology policy-making from 30 developing countries as follows:

Asia	Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Vietnam
Central and South America	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay
Africa	Egypt, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia
Countries in Econ. Transition	Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary

**2. National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE)**

2-1. Pursuant to the CBD and the Bonn Guidelines, NITE Biological Resource Center considers it important to advance cooperative relationships with other countries to ensure stable and smooth access to microbial genetic resources from a standpoint of microbial taxonomy and its various applications.

2-2. NITE has signed memorandums with governmental organizations in six Asian countries, i.e., China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for the conservation and sustainable use of microbial genetic resources in these countries. In these frameworks, NITE has been conducting joint projects with these countries to study microorganisms from taxonomical and ecological standpoints. Through these joint projects, conditions are created so as to provide benefits to both sides in each stage of the joint projects.

For example, the following activities have been particularly emphasized in the joint projects:

- sharing of research results (sharing of information)
- installation of equipments and delivery of supplies
- collaboration in sampling, isolation and taxonomical characterization (human resource development )
- technology transfer by holding on-site workshops
- technology transfer by inviting researchers to NITE facilities in Japan

2-4. Those activities have contributed to the promotion of smooth access to genetic resources and

benefit-sharing on the basis of mutual understanding and goodwill, consistent with the principles of CBD and the Bonn Guidelines.

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