

*Please provide to following details on the origin of this report*

Contracting Party	Singapore
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<b>Submission</b>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	Dr. Lena Chan
Date of submission:	12 Dec 2000

***Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report***

Singapore has set-up an *ad hoc* inter-agency committee to consider matters pertaining to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. A strategy document on access to genetic resources is in preparation.

The format for the preparation of a thematic report on benefit-sharing sent by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was sent to the following agencies : Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (Ministry of Law), Attorney-General's Chambers, Ministry of National Development, Agri-food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Economic Development Board, Trade Development Board and National Science and Technology Board. The report was based on the input given by these agencies.

Our views to Section I are as follows :

(a) to (f) and (h) - This is not applicable in the Singapore context as there are no indigenous tribal peoples practising a traditional life-style living in Singapore.

(g), (i) and (j) - Under consideration.

I. Please provide the views of your country on the following issues:

***Intellectual property and traditional knowledge related to genetic resources***

(a) How to define relevant terms including subject matter of traditional knowledge and scope of existing rights;
(b) Whether existing intellectual property rights regimes can be used to protect traditional knowledge;
(c) Options for the development of <u>sui generis</u> protection of traditional knowledge rights.
(d) The relationship between customary laws governing custodianship, use and transmission of traditional knowledge, on the one hand, and the formal intellectual property system, on the other;
(e) Means by which holders of traditional knowledge, including indigenous peoples, may test means of protection of traditional knowledge based on existing intellectual property rights, <u>sui generis</u> possibilities, and customary laws;
(f) How to ensure that granting intellectual property rights does not preclude continued customary use of genetic resources and related knowledge;

***Intellectual property rights and access and benefit-sharing agreements***

(g) Ways to regulate the use of resources in order to take into account ethical concerns;
(h) Ways to ensure the continued customary use of genetic resources and related knowledge;
(i) How to make provision for the exploitation and use of intellectual property rights to include joint research, obligation to work any right on inventions obtained or provide licenses;
(j) How to take into account the possibility of joint ownership of intellectual property rights.