

**MEMORANDUM FOR COOPERATION**  
**between**  
**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**  
**and**  
**THE BIODIVERSITY CENTER, MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF JAPAN**  
**on**  
**THE EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION INITIATIVE**

*The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as “the Secretariat”) and the Biodiversity Center, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (hereinafter referred to as “BC-MoEJ”),*

*Recalling* the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as “CBD”), namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

*Recalling* also the target to significantly reduce the current rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting in The Hague in 2002 and reiterated by the 154 Heads of State and Government attending the 2005 World Review Summit of the United Nations General Assembly;

*Recognizing* that accurate and timely monitoring of the status of biodiversity and accumulation of the data in a database form accessible to the world are necessary to evaluate the achievement of the target to significantly reduce the current rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010;

*Aware* that the lack of taxonomic capacity was recognized in decision II/8, paragraph 7, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting, as an obstacle to the implementation of the CBD and that, at its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties recognized, in decision IV/1D, paragraph 4, that the implementation of a Global Taxonomy Initiative should occur on the basis of country-driven projects at the national, regional and subregional levels;

*Recalling* that the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (hereinafter referred to as “GTI”) was adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision VI/8, annex);

*Recalling further* output 2.5.2. for planned activity 5 of the outcome-oriented deliverables for each of the planned activities of the programme of work of the GTI adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in the annex to the decision IX/22, states, *inter alia*, the all Parties should develop national and regional action plans for taxonomic capacity-building by 2012;

*Recalling* that the Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity adopted by the Environment Ministers of the G8 in Kobe in May 2008 calls upon strengthening scientific capabilities for monitoring of biodiversity;

*Recognizing* the experts from East and South-East Asian countries and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity drafted the regional strategy and the necessary works identified for biodiversity information initiative at the Expert Meeting for Developing “East and South-East Asian Biodiversity

Information Initiative” in Tokyo in January, 2009 and deeply concerned about taxonomic capacity building for implementation of the CBD at the regional level;

*Recognizing* further that national and regional actions need to be facilitated with the national governments and experts in the region in close collaboration with the Secretariat;

***Have reached the common recognition:***

**1. Objective**

(1) The objective of this Memorandum is to promote the East and South-east Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (hereinafter referred to as “ESABII”), established in January 2009, as a contribution to the regional implementation of the GTI programme of work.

(2) ESABII sets its goals on developing biodiversity information resources and taxonomic capacity building in the region, to contribute to decision making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in East and South-East Asia in order to support achieving 2010 target and beyond.

**2. Areas and output of ESABII**

(1) ESABII has participants from the following countries in the East and South-East Asian region: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

(2) ESABII welcomes collaborations with other participants from countries not listed in paragraph (1) above for scientific purposes, and for the well-intentioned use of biodiversity information.

(3) ESABII will determine the priorities and action plans for taxonomic capacity-building by 2012 based on the taxonomic needs assessment at national and regional level.

(4) The output of ESABII will include outcome-oriented deliverables for each of the planned activities of the programme of work of the GTI in the annex to decision IX/22 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in order to facilitate the implantation of the programme of work for the GTI as described in the section 3 below and the annex to this Memorandum.

**3. Roles of the Secretariat and the BC-MoEJ**

The roles of the Secretariat and BC-MoEJ are listed in the annex to this Memorandum. The contents of the annex can be renewed upon the progress of the implementation of the programme of work for the GTI in the countries listed in the section 2 of the Memorandum, as appropriate.

**4. Focal points**

The Secretariat and BC-MoEJ will identify their respective focal points for the implementation of this Memorandum.

**5. Financial aspects**


The cooperation under this Memorandum is subject to the availability of funding.

## 6. Settlement of problems

Any problems between the Secretariat and the BC-MoEJ concerning the implementation of this Memorandum will be settled by either negotiation or other means decided by the Secretariat and BC-MoEJ.

## 7. Other aspects

- (1) The cooperation under this Memorandum will commence on the date of signature.
- (2) The work areas listed in the annex to this Memorandum will be renewed at an appropriate period based on the progress of the implementation of the GTI programme in the countries listed in section 2, paragraph 1, above.
- (3) This Memorandum may be modified upon mutual consultation between the Secretariat and BC-MoEJ.
- (4) The cooperation under this Memorandum may be terminated by either the Secretariat or BC-MoEJ giving six months written notice.



Dr. AHMED DJOGLAF  
Executive Secretary  
The Secretariat of the Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Mr. TOMOO MIZUTANI  
Director, Biodiversity Center,  
Ministry of the Environment of Japan

Date 22/9/2010

Date 13/9/2010

## ROLES OF BOTH SIDES

### **The Biodiversity Center, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (BC-MoEJ) will:**

- (1) Establish a framework for ESABII and develop a basic strategy and its work plan through the regional expert meetings and workshops;
- (2) Develop some pilot information resources of the biodiversity to facilitate the activities listed in this annex;
- (3) Support pilot programmes for taxonomy capacity building relevant to the activities listed in this annex;
- (4) Support the international meetings or workshops and cover the travel expenses of the participants from developing countries and from the Secretariat, as appropriate;
- (5) Broadly disseminates information on the progress of ESABII project through web or by other possible means to promote taxonomy for the implementation of the CBD;.
- (6) Report on the progress of the ESABII to the Secretariat at every end of the financial year of Japan; and
- (7) Contribute to the planned activities of the GTI programme of work (decision IX/22, annex)
  - *Planned activity 1: Country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities*
  - *Planned activity 2: Regional taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities*
  - *Planned activity 5: Global and regional capacity-building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information*
  - *Planned activity 6: Strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy*
  - *Planned activity 7: Develop a coordinated taxonomy information system*
  - *Planned activity 16: Invasive alien species (IAS)*

### **The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will:**

- (1) Advise the ESABII participants, other relevant international organizations and scientific institutions in their efforts to achieve the goals of ESABII, implementation of the programme of work for the GTI and other programmes of the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues of the CBD, as appropriate;
- (2) Send appropriate staff member to the meetings and workshops of the ESABII upon the request from BC-MoEJ at the cost of the BC-MoEJ; and
- (3) Broadly disseminate the information on the progress of the ESABII to the Parties of CBD, other Governments and relevant international organizations by website of the Secretariat or other possible media, as appropriate.

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