

Asian Regional Workshop 2004  
Outline of the Asian Delegates' Reports and the Panel Discussion of  
the Asian Regional Workshop (15 Mar. 2004)

Characteristics of the region

Rich in the diversity of plants, animals (=> and, therefore, microorganisms).

Diversity in geography and climate from deserts to tropical forests.

Diversity in culture.

Promotion of research and development

Bilateral or multilateral joint research/collaboration for exploration and analysis of microorganisms and their applications.

Assessment of biodiversity in the member countries and development of effective methodology for their sustainable use.

R&D of bioactive compounds, biofertilizer, fermented foods, etc. and development of good bioassay systems.

Bioremediation or improvement of environment

Capacity building for ABS and development of domestic bioindustry

Human resource development

Technology transfer and information exchanges through workshops, conferences, and/or training courses on selected topics

Short/long term exchange of scientists, students, technicians and others within the member countries.

Effective educational curricula for modern biology on genetic diversity.

Domestic/international problems

Lack of a central CC, taxonomists, knowledge, techniques, etc.

Lack of public understanding and financial supports

Lack of domestic bioindustries.

Invasion of transnational giant organizations; 'bioprospecting' ⇔ 'biopiracy'

How to cope with NGO's?

Regional collaboration to solve problems of various sorts

Task forces for international collaboration; formation of a loose consortium.

Development of a technology/information center for long-term resource development.

Establishment of regional communication network.

International collaboration to solve funding problems.

Strategic collaboration with private/industrial sectors.

Appeal to the government of each member country

Problems concerning funding, facility including CC, equipments, knowledge, personnel including taxonomists, database, and bureaucratic matters

Improvement of social understanding on the importance of biological resources and their effective uses.

More support for CC and related activities.

Establishment of a framework and basic principles to solve international/domestic problems under CBD.

Support for the development of an effective resource sharing system with MTA