

Announcement

Sixth Asian Biotechnology and Development Conference

Bagor, Indonesia, 1-2 July 2012

The Sixth Asian Biotechnology and Development Conference (ABDC) will be held in Bagor, Indonesia on 1-2 July 2012. ABDC is a biennial event that brings together scientists, academics, policy makers and other stakeholders to discuss about biotechnology and development issues in Asia. The Fifth ABDC was held at Kandy, Sri Lanka in December 2010. The previous conferences had been held in New Delhi, Manila, and Katmandu.

The First Asian Conference on Biotechnology and Development was initiated by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in 2002 at New Delhi to discuss how Asian countries could help each other to advance in biotechnology through sharing of experiences, resources and by working together. This conference was organised with initial support from the Indian Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and UNESCO. This meeting felt the need of a continuous dialogue among academicians and policy makers from the region, which led to the launching of *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review* (ABDR). The Second Asian Conference was also organised in Delhi while the Third meeting was hosted at Manila, The Philippines. During the Third Asian Conference on Biotechnology and Development at Manila on 9-10 November 2006, it was realised that Asian countries should launch an initiative to evolve an analytical framework for policy makers in the area of biotechnology. This eventually led to the launching of Asian Biotechnology, Innovation and Development Initiative (ABIDI), which was also supported by DBT and OECD. This work was further expanded at the Fourth Asian Biotechnology Conference held at Kathmandu, Nepal on 12-13 February 2009. This meeting was unique in terms of expanding linkages with other parts of developing world as NEPAD Secretariat from Africa along with national experts from South Africa, Senegal, Nigeria among others. The Fifth ABDC was held at Kandy, Sri Lanka on 15-18 December 2010 with the theme: "How small countries can

benefit from biotechnology.” About 100 participants, including participants from Africa, the USA and Canada attended this Conference with Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP) hosting the Conference in association with the government departments and agencies in Sri Lanka. Several international institutions have been part of this Conference series from the very beginning. They include UNESCO, OECD, IRRI, ICRISAT, IDRC, Michigan State University (MSU) and ICGEB. UNU-IAS was the special invitee in the last conference.

The forthcoming Conference will be held at Bagor, Indonesia and Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (SEAMEO BIOTROP) is the host institution at Indonesia. This conference is being organised by SEAMEO BIOTROP and RIS in association with other institutions, agencies/ departments of governments and UN agencies. To know more about the Fifth ABDC and previous ABDCs, please visit link at RIS website: www.ris.org.in.

Details about the Sixth ABDC will be made available in the RIS website soon.

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