

NOTIFICATION
Workshop on the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House
27 October 2024 – Cali, Colombia

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am pleased to announce that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will convene a workshop on “The Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing House)”, on the margins of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) and concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena (CP-MOP12) and Nagoya Protocols (NP-MOP5). This half-day workshop, which will be held in Cali, Colombia on Sunday, 27 October 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Government of Japan.

The ABS Clearing-House is a platform for exchanging information on access and benefit-sharing and a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by enhancing legal certainty and transparency on procedures for access, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources. National users of the ABS Clearing-House play a crucial role in ensuring that the national information made available through the ABS Clearing-House is reliable, accurate and complete.

The workshop’s objective is to provide an update on the operations of the ABS Clearing House and to present recent changes and planned developments. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for participants to share information and experiences related to the ABS Clearing and the information-sharing obligation under the Protocol. Therefore, to make the most of the workshop, participants are encouraged to reflect on their challenges and solutions prior to the workshop and prepare accordingly for such a discussion.

Those who wish to participate must be accredited to attend COP 16 or NP-MOP5 and must complete the registration form accessible at: <https://forms.office.com/r/pE4CdM62NA> as soon as possible and not later than **15 October 2024**. Space is limited and priority will be given to those who confirm their participation in advance. Please note that the workshop will be conducted in English only and will take place at Centro de Eventos Valle del Pacifico.

For any additional questions, please contact the ABS Clearing-House team at absch@cbd.int.

Thank you for your continued support to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing.

Please accept, Sir, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Astrid Schomaker
Executive Secretary

To: ABS national focal points (CBD national focal points where ABS national focal points have not yet been designated), TK focal points, indigenous peoples and local community organizations, and other relevant organizations