

Workshop to implement Nagoya Protocol commences

June 26, 2013 [Leave a Comment](#)



A three-day regional workshop focused on drafting legislation for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing commenced at the Fort Young Hotel, in Dominica on Wednesday.

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity seeks to create greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources.

Over thirty representatives from Caribbean countries are participating in this workshop organized by the CARICOM Secretariat.

The overall objective of the project, according to CARICOM Secretariat's representative Dr Theresa Yarde, is to improve capacity in the Caribbean, to effectively implement multi-lateral environmental agreements also known as MEA's.

Multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEA's) are important international mechanisms for improving environmental management, environmental quality and environmental justice at the global level.

"The CARICOM Secretariat is seeking to improve the skills of both environmental officers and legal officers to draft legislation for the implementation of MEA's; legislation that will be extension support sound, environmental management and sustainable development in Caribbean countries.

Under the Nagoya Protocol, if a company or researcher wanted to come to Dominica and investigate the healing properties of a certain plant or animal species, they would first have to get permission to do so.

There would also be provisions for the persons or institution to share the benefits of their investigations with the source country, whether it is monetary benefits, advances in knowledge, capacity development, technology transfer or intellectual property rights.

In addition, the protocol requires all parties to recognize and respect the knowledge, customs and practices of indigenous and traditional communities.

Minister for the Environment, Dr Kenneth Darroux noted that Dominica has a rich, natural and cultural heritage, and resource base including 1226 species of plants, 175 species of birds, said the workshop



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(L-R): Dr Eisenhower Douglas, Environment Minister Dr Kenneth Darroux, CARICOM Secretariat representative Dr Theresa Yarde, Solicitor General Joelle Harris and facilitator Glenroy English

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is timely.

According to ABS Capacity Development co-manager, Suhel al-Janabi, 18 countries have ratified and adopted the protocol and 19 have signed it worldwide.

However, he indicated that "there is a need to have 50 signatories before the entry into force of the protocol so that all the mechanisms of the protocol becomes legally binding".

The workshop is an activity of the sustainable development program of the CARICOM Secretariat under a project that is funded by the European Union and supported by the United Nations Environment Program.

It is being delivered with the support of the Access and Benefit Sharing Capacity Development Initiative and the German Agency for International Cooperation and facilitated by Gilroy English and Marcus Gothe.

Dominica is hosting the second of three of these legislative review exercises and training and awareness raising exercises. The first workshop was held in Guyana and the third will take place in Trinidad and Tobago next month.

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ABS Capacity Development Co-Manager, Suhel al-Janabi

Flu Prevention Tips

Personal hygiene practices are the main methods of prevention

Practice good hygiene

Seasonal Flu spreads easily
If you have the Flu stay away
from crowds
Avoid hand shakes



When sneezing or coughing
cover your nose and mouth
with a tissue or sneeze in
your elbow.

Practice good hygiene

If you have the Flu avoid
touching children's face.
Cold and Flu virus enter the
body through nose and mouth.



Practice good hygiene

Carry a small bottle of
gel sanitizer with you
put about a teaspoon
on your hands and rub
until hands are dry.

Wash hands with
soap and water
for at least 20 seconds



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