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Report on CBD COP10 in Nagoya

The purpose of this report is to illustrate the activities and results of the investigation during two day participation in the Convention on Biodiversity COP 10 celebrated in Nagoya city, Aichi prefecture from 15 to 30 October 2010. This report is the synthesis of the results from the group observation of the booths and posters, information from conference and speech and document distributed during the CBD event. The main theme of the report deals with the investigation of the standpoints for genetic resource use between developed and developing countries with main focuses on the problems in genetic resource usage and conservation and the access and benefit sharing of genetic resources.

During the observation in CBD COP10 event in Nagoya, the poster and booths exhibition were employed to get the information on the above stated issue. The poster session in Shiratori area and booths presented by NGOs, private companies, academic institutions and governments were selected as target sites. Moreover, to understand more, our group attended the conferences and speech made by some NGOs and governments related to their activities in genetic resources usage and especially made the synthesis of the distributed document related to the above stated theme of the observation.

With the open up of new technology on biotechnology, the genetic resources have been exploited to use in many field such as medical science, environment, industry and agriculture. The considerable advance in the technology has considerably benefit human beings and the whole society. However, while the benefits are clear, there are also many problems and risks for human, environment and genetic resources themselves. Apparently, the unfair and inequitable benefit sharing and compensation between the developed and developing countries, which are the reasons behind the conflicts among the two parties, have led to the environmental, economic and social detriments.

Socio-economic differences seem to be increasing between developed countries and developing countries year by year. At the preliminary session, almost all of delegates from developing countries claimed to chairman how serious local residences especially indigenous people suffering the effect of socio-economic differences as well as the importance of conservation of biodiversity. Our group mainly focused on the current and future genetic resources used compared to the standpoint between developed and developing countries. According to International Barcode of life, state-of-the-art technologies, facilities, and workforce about genetic resources mainly distributed in developed countries. Hence, young researchers in developing countries go to study in such countries. As a result, currently there are few articles dealing with domestic species or issues in developing countries. From these situations, government or local communities in developing countries have few references to discuss socioeconomic effect of biodiversity and conservation of biodiversity. Therefore, now many genetic resources in developing countries have been highly exploited and government in developing countries has approved to continue such the biased development. Consequently, in our conclusion of early part, recent biodiversity issues, such as acceleration of species extinction or unfair benefit sharing for genetic resources use are raised.

Since both developed and developing countries have mainly worked on genetic resources use for the sake of economic growth, there are few protocols or studies to assess the long-term biodiversity issues such as conservation of biodiversity. Europe researchers at the lunch time session pointed out about the reason of this situation that: Short-sighted vision is not compatible with sustainability, biased development is likely to be common in other developing countries facing the imperative of economic growth, highly exploited resources (fisheries, agriculture) are poorly studied, but also unexploited and endangered native, studies are often uncoupled of conserving seeds they do not consider temporal monitoring of gene-level diversity, policy making is a complex problem because of lack of information and of problems to be addressed, and funding is not available for conservation studies. In the future, goal-oriented researches and stakeholders may be required to improve above issues.

The conflict among developing and developed countries over genetic usage and benefit sharing is one of the main problems that have led to the concerns over the loss of bio-genetic resources. Developed countries with high technology have ability to make use of genetic resources originated in the developing countries without acknowledgement of the country of origin, which has sparked the country of origin to claim sovereignty over their genetic resources. Developing countries' claim for sovereignty over their genetic resources is to obtain access and equitable benefit sharing over genetic resources used by developed countries. With the development of the Access and Benefit Sharing guidelines, there are some adjustments which help the developing country to receive access and benefit in term of non-monetary and

monetary forms. The access and equitable benefit sharing will play an important role in conservation of genetic resource in a sustainable way. Budget is needed for the processing in conservation of biodiversity in developing countries which is rich in biodiversity but poor in finance support in ensuring the sustainable use of genetic resources. Due to the lack of financial support, developing countries are unable to hold responsibility for the expense for the development of conservation process for genetic resources which have been exploited so heavily for the sake of economic growth and come under threatening of global climate change. Besides, the benefit sharing in the non- monetary forms ranging from capacity building and technical support to information sharing about the genetic resource that the users countries take advantages of also plays a very important role. In doing so, developing countries will be able to have enough information and data related to the genetic resources in their own sovereignty. Moreover, capacity building and technical support will help improve their ability in investigation and conservation of genetic resources in their countries. From the point of view of this prospect, it seems to suggest that access and equitable benefit sharing is very important not only to end the conflict between the user countries and the country of origin but also to ensure conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources against the overuse, climate change, and mismanagement of alien species.

Finally, it is suggested that the social-economic differences is the main problem affecting developed countries' and developing countries' behavior towards the usage and conservation of genetic resources. Developing countries, lacking of budget, have just made overuse of genetic resources without appropriate management and conservation, which has resulted in the rapid loss of the resources. But, the introduction of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) has played an important role in bridging the yawning gap of socio-economic differences between the developed and developing countries. Moreover, the ABS has contributed to the biodiversity conservation and fight against the rapid loss of genetic resources in our world. So, it is important that ABS guideline be improved and implemented to ensure the equitable sharing between the developing and developed countries and the sustainable use of genetic resources.