



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

5 April 2013

1. **Project Code** 13-AG-12-GE-CON-B
2. **Title** Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference 2013: Biotechnology and Global Competitiveness
3. **Duration** 15–18 July 2013 (four days)
4. **Venue** Taipei, Republic of China
5. **Implementing Organizations**
 - 1) Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan (COA)
37 Nanhai Road, Taipei 10014, Republic of China
Phone: (886-2) 2381-2991
Website: <http://eng.coa.gov.tw/.index.php>
 - 2) China Productivity Center (CPC)
2F, No. 79, Sec. 1, Xintai 5th Rd., Xizhi District
New Taipei City 221, Taiwan, Republic of China
Phone: (886-2) 2698-5886
Fax: (886-2) 2698-2976
Website: www.cpc.org.tw
6. **Number of Overseas Participants** Up to 36 qualified participants from India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam
(See 12. Qualifications of Participants)

Other member countries with particular interest in this project may nominate candidates upon consultation with the Secretariat.
7. **Number of Local Participants** 40 or more qualified participants
(See 12. Qualifications of Participants)
8. **Closing Date for Nominations** 31 May 2013
9. **Objectives**

The Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference is a new initiative of the APO to provide a unique forum for leaders from the public and private sectors, NGOs, scientists, consultants, and entrepreneurs to discuss current and emerging topics that have great importance to the advancement of agriculture, agribusiness, and food industries in Asia. The 2013 conference will focus on the theme Biotechnology and Global Competitiveness. The conference aims to:

- 1) Provide a platform for presenting and discussing the latest scientific advances and

future directions of agricultural biotechnology;

- 2) Assess the niche areas in agriculture biotechnology where Asian SMEs in food and agribusiness can be competitive; and
- 3) Formulate recommendations for the development of appropriate policy and regulatory environments, establishment of partnerships, cooperative projects, and networking among key stakeholders within and among APO member countries.

10. Background

Biotechnology has wide applications in agriculture and offers tremendous potential for increasing productivity and the development of niche products. Several multinational companies in developed countries have been engaged in the commercialization and production of agricultural biotechnology products and are reaping great benefits.

Applications of biotechnology on a commercial scale in many Asian countries, however, face the challenges of inadequate policy measures and regulatory mechanisms, insufficient investment in R&D especially by the private sector, ecosystem and food safety concerns, and lack of intellectual property protection. There is also a paucity of knowledge on the part of entrepreneurs of the tremendous business potential for biotechnology in the production of more valuable horticultural crops, as well as forest and fishery products. Another challenge worth considering is how to enable resource-poor small-scale producers, who constitute the overwhelming majority of the farming community in Asia and the Pacific, to benefit from biotechnological interventions.

This conference will provide participants with an opportunity not only to learn about the latest applications of biotechnology in agriculture and the food industry, but also to observe the latest biotechnology products and interact with the representatives of biotechnology businesses during a visit to Bio Taiwan 2013, an exhibition organized by the Taiwan Bio Industry Organization (<http://www.bioclub.com.tw/en/#>).

11. Scope and Methodology

The four-day conference will consist of plenary thematic sessions with experts' presentations, country case studies, and panel discussion sessions, and a visit to the Bio Taiwan 2013 exhibition.

The proposed themes for different sessions are:

- Session 1: Biotechnology applications in agriculture and the food industry in Asia and the Pacific: recent developments, challenges, and opportunities
- Session 2: Financing biotechnology R&D in the agriculture and food sectors;
- Session 3: Policy, institutional, and regulatory frameworks for upscaling/commercialization of biotechnology applications in the agriculture and food sectors;
- Session 4: Managing risks in applications of biotechnology in agriculture and the food industry
- Session 5: Addressing ecosystem and food safety concerns; and
- Session 6: Successful cases of biotechnology applications in agriculture, forestry, fisheries,

and the food industry.

12. Qualifications of Participants

The participants in this workshop are expected to possess the following qualifications:

- (a) Age: Preferably between 30 and 55 years.
- (b) Education: University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.
- (c) Present Position: CEOs and managers of agribusinesses and agricultural financing institutions; officials of government, regulatory agencies, and agricultural/food industry associations; and scientists and academics in charge of promoting the application of biotechnology in agriculture, agribusiness development, and the food industry.
- (d) Experience: At least three years of experience in the position described in (c) above.
- (e) Language: All proceedings of the conference are conducted in English, and participants are frequently required to make oral and written presentations. They must therefore be proficient in spoken and written English. Those who are not proficient in English need not apply.
- (f) Health: Physically and mentally fit to attend an intensive program entailing strenuous travel.
- (g) Attendance: Participants must attend all four days of the conference to qualify for the certificate of attendance.

13. Financial Arrangements

a) To be borne by the APO:

- i) All assignment costs of overseas resource persons.
- ii) Round-trip economy-class international airfare by the most direct route between the international airport nearest to the participant's place of work and Taipei. As far as practicable, all participants should purchase discount tickets. Please note that the arrangements for the purchase of air tickets should be in accordance with the "Guide on Purchases of Air Tickets for APO Participants," which will be sent to the selected participants and is available on the APO website and from APO Liaison Officers in member countries.

b) To be borne by participants or participating countries:

For all participants

- 1) *Participants' insurance premiums:* All participants should be fully insured against accident and illness (including hospitalization and death) for a principal sum

equivalent to US\$10,000.00 for the entire duration of the project and travel, and must submit to the APO Secretariat a copy of the comprehensive travel insurance certificate before participation.

Such insurance should be valid in the Republic of China. This insurance requirement is **in addition to** existing government insurance coverage in some member countries. If any participant is unable to insure himself/herself as stipulated above, he/she should secure this insurance in the host country at the commencement of the project and pay the premium himself/herself, if necessary, from the per diem allowance provided. Neither the APO nor the implementing organizations will be responsible for any eventuality arising from accident or illness.

- 2) All expenses related to visa fees and airport taxes.
 - 3) Any expenses incurred by participants for stopovers on the way to and from the project venue as well as for extra stay at the project venue before and/or after the official project period on account of early arrival or late departure, for example, due to either limited available flights or any other reason whatsoever.
- c) **To be borne by the host country (Republic of China):**
- i) Per diem allowances and hotel accommodation for up to 36 overseas participants for up to five days at the rate to be specified later.
 - ii) All local implementation costs.

14. Actions by Member Countries

Nominations

- (a) Each selected country is requested to nominate **four or more candidates in the order of preference**. Please ensure that candidates nominated meet the qualifications specified under section 12 above.
- (b) No form of self-nomination will be accepted. All nominations must be endorsed and submitted by an APO Director, Alternative Director, Liaison Officer, or their designated officer.
- (c) Please note that nomination of a candidate does not necessarily guarantee that he/she will be selected. Selection is at the discretion of the APO Secretariat. A basic criterion for selection is the homogeneity of the participants in terms of qualifications and work experience. Nonselection therefore does not mean that the candidates concerned are not competent enough. Sometimes candidates are not selected because they are overqualified for the given project.

Required Documents

- (d) Each nomination should be accompanied by the documents listed below. A nomination lacking any of these documents may not be considered:
 - i) Two copies of the candidate's biodata on the **APO biodata form** together with passport-sized photograph. The biodata form can be downloaded from the APO website. Downloading information is also available from www.apo-tokyo.org. We encourage submitting the biodata form to the APO Secretariat in electronic form as an attachment to a cover e-mail message from the APO Director, Alternate Director, or Liaison Officer. The nomination documents should be sent to the **Agriculture**

Department, APO Secretariat (e-mail: agr@apo-tokyo.org, fax: 81-3-5840-5324).

- ii) **The APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form.** Every candidate must complete and submit a copy of the APO Medical and Insurance Declaration/Certification Form with his/her biodata at the time of nomination. Please note that self-declaration is sufficient for candidates without any of health conditions or illnesses enumerated on the reverse side of the medical form. However, for all others, medical certification by a recognized physician on the reverse side of the medical form is required.
- (e) Member countries are encouraged to submit the necessary documents electronically as mentioned in d)-i). In that case, there is no need to send a hard copy by postal mail. However, if the documents are submitted by fax, member countries are requested to mail the originals of the documents to the APO Secretariat as well. If a digital photograph of a nominee is not attached to the electronic biodata form, a hard-copy photograph should be sent to the APO Secretariat by postal mail. Please specify the candidate's name and the project code on the reverse side of the photograph.

Nomination Deadline

- (f) Member countries are requested to abide by the ***nomination deadline of 31 May 2013***. The APO Secretariat may not consider late nominations as they have in the past resulted in considerable difficulties to the implementing organization in its preparatory work for the project.
- (g) For member countries where nominations are required to be approved by higher government authorities and hence require a longer time, the APO Liaison Officers/NPOs are urged to send the names of nominees on or before the deadline, indicating that government approval will follow.

Others

- (h) Under normal circumstances, candidates who are selected will be informed of their acceptance at least four weeks prior to the commencement of project.
- (i) Should some candidates fail to qualify or be unable to participate after selection, or should some member countries fail to nominate any candidate, their slots may be filled by alternates from the same or another member country on a merit basis.
- (j) If a selected participant becomes unable to attend, he/she should inform the APO Liaison Officer/NPO in his/her country immediately of his/her inability to participate and the reason for withdrawal. The NPO concerned is requested to transmit that information to the APO Secretariat and the host country promptly.
- (k) NPOs are requested to inform the selected participants that they are not to bring family members or to engage in any private business activities during the entire duration of the project.
- (l) Each selected candidate is required to arrive at the venue one day before the start of the official project. Also, he/she is expected to return home upon completion of the official project because he/she is visiting the host country for the specific purpose of attending this APO conference.

15. Country Paper Preparation

The participants are required to prepare a paper on the subject keeping in view the project objectives (item 9 above) and scope (item 11 above). In preparing the paper, they are expected to follow the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Papers" to be sent later.

16. Guide for Participants

Other conditions for participation are given in the *APO Guide for Participants*, which is available from APO Liaison Officers/NPOs in member countries and on the APO homepage (URL: www.apo-tokyo.org).



Ryuichiro Yamazaki
Secretary-General