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CLEAN PACIFIC

The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 4/2/13/1

DATE: 27 June 2013

CIRCULAR: 13/38

TO: SPREP National Focal Points

SUBJECT: Training on ABS and IPRs for ABS National Focal Points, Nadi, Fiji 12-16 August, 2013

SPREP in partnership with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative wishes to invite ABS National Focal Points to the above-captioned meeting.

Background

The training will clarify the use of intellectual property rights, mainly patents, as a legal tool to secure exclusive rights over genetic resources or biochemicals. Patents are typically applied for prior to any research being undertaken.

Traditional knowledge associated with plant based cures or therapies often provides the lead for the development of a commercial product. This knowledge is usually not recognised or compensated for.

The interests of both providers of genetic resources and users need to be protected in ABS agreements while realising that the application of IPR by the user side may trigger benefit-sharing obligations in favour of providers.

IPR protection is also available to traditional farmers and local plant breeders in relation to their plant varieties.

This training is to build capacity in regulators and policy makers in preparation for the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

Objective of the workshop

The training is expected to familiarize participants with intellectual property rights, their role in research, how they can be used by both providers and users and consequently how they feature in negotiating ABS agreements between the two.

Logistical arrangements

Funding will be provided for the attendance of one representative per country.

Countries are kindly requested to fill in the attached nomination form with official letter and send to Theresa Fruean-Afa (theresaf@sprep.org) no later than 12 July 2012 in order for travel to be arranged. Please ensure nominations are firm and that travel dates are carefully selected as changes or ticket cancellations can incur significant costs.

For enquiries please contact Clark Peteru (clarkp@sprep.org).

Yours sincerely



Kosi Latu
Acting Director General

Attach: Agenda
Nomination form