



(bio) diversity vs. (bio) technology

kuala lumpur, malaysia 9 to 20 february 2004

7th meeting of the conference of the parties (cop-7) to the convention on biological diversity

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movementsplatform

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cbd introduction cbd@movementsmedia.org

From the 9th to the 27th of February in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the conservation of our planets biodiversity and the future regulation of the movement of genetically modified organisms will be negotiated. Governments, international institutions, transnational corporations, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs and activists will converge to discuss the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. While the safeguarding of our planet is supposed to be a common aim of these talks, not much is agreed upon.

Contentious issues are discussed within the CBD, particularly the aim of reaching an international agreement on the access and benefit sharing of genetic resources. Who owns the planets genetic resources? How shall they be shared? Should our natural environment be copy righted and sold for a profit as certain stakeholders would have it? Other potential issues that will be discussed at the meeting will be the role of protected areas in the preservation of biological diversity as well as the transfer of technology and technology cooperation. The meeting will also discuss the biological diversity of mountain ecosystems.

The meeting for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety promises to be just as confrontational. The protocol was developed as an international agreement to govern the transboundary movement of genetically (living) modified organisms. Initiated because of the concerns about the possible consequences of the introduction of genetically modified organisms into food and agriculture, it has been bitterly negotiated between the proponents for and against the free spread of biotechnology. The protocol has recently come into force as a result of it having been ratified by over 50 nations, the 50th being the tiny island state of Palau. The meeting in Malaysia will be the first since the Protocol's ratification and signifies a crucial time for the future of biosafety and may determine the regulation of genetically modified organisms on a global scale for many years to come. The meeting will discuss a biosafety clearing house mechanism, biosafety capacity-building, liability and redress, protocol compliance, and the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms.

Receive video, photo and written updates from the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (www.biodiv.org) via Friends of the Earth (www.foei.org/cbd) and the Biotechnology Independent Media Centre (www.biotechimc.org).

If you are press, an organisation, or just an interested individual and would like to personally receive updates, articles, press releases and links to video clips and photos send an email to cbd@movementsmedia.org

If you would like to cooperate, contribute, give an interview or opinion, or if your organisation/institution would like the compiled and edited footage of the conference please contact cbd@movementsmedia.org or call us in Malaysia on +60 (0) 193951436



This project is a collaboration between the Movements Platform, Friends of the Earth International and the Biotechnology Independent Media Centre, supported by Hivos (www.hivos.nl).