

Thailand's Views and Information on Awareness-raising

Views on proposed elements of an awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol in Access and Benefit-sharing

An awareness-raising strategy should also focus on long term activities, such as how to integrate and mainstream awareness-raising into future works of all stakeholders. These include incorporating access and benefit-sharing issues into formal education and influencing change at policy level.

Information on awareness-raising activities

Awareness-raising activities had been done through a series of workshop in 5 regions of the country. During April to August 2011, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, as Thailand's National Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity, in cooperation with several universities in different regions of Thailand organized a series of workshops to build awareness and brainstorm on the Nagoya Protocol and ABS Regulation, which was approved by the Cabinet on 11 January 2011 to be implemented by government agencies/organizations from 5 March 2011 onward. The workshops were attended by representatives from local governmental administrations, academic institutions, NGOs and local communities. At this stage, works on building awareness and understanding has been focused on regulating agencies, funding agencies and universities. Public awareness has been conducted in cooperating with capacity building activities. Networks have been built to increase researchers and regulators awareness on ABS issues, status and regulations, as well as to strengthen their capacity in developing their own ABS regulations and mechanisms.

Several regulating agencies initiated activities to support public awareness and increase understanding on access and benefit-sharing issues within their agencies, through workshops and meetings, such as Department of Livestock Development, Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Department of Fisheries and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Information on adoption of Nagoya Protocol and Thailand's ABS Regulation has also been given out to all relevant agencies and organizations in Thailand for their information, suggestion and input for potential implementation.

More public-awareness activities are expected to be done during public hearings for the Nagoya Protocol, which are scheduled to be conducted in early 2012.
