



सत्यमेव जयते

MEGADIVERSE MTG

भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

Desh Deepak Verma
Joint Secretary & Head, Secretariat of LMMC

D.O. No. 14/53/2004-CSC

December 20, 2004

Dear Dr. McNeill,

As you are aware, the Group of Like Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC) has been successfully negotiating in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other international fora on issues which are important to these countries. The LMMC Group, which holds nearly 60-70% of all global biodiversity, is now well recognized as an important negotiating block in the UN and other international fora. Now 17 countries namely Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, and Venezuela are its distinguished members.

As you are also aware that India has taken over the Presidency of the Group in February 2004. The LMMC Group during this period has prepared for itself the Rules of Procedure and the Action Plan. Also terms of reference for the Megadiverse Cooperation Fund, to be managed by UNDP, have been finalized. These funds are to be utilized to finance various activities of the Group, develop capacities, and to promote cooperation on agreed projects. Further, the project on Knowledge and Policy Network on biodiversity and sustainable development is also being finalized with the support of UNDP.

In continuation of these efforts, India is hosting the following meetings from 17-21 January 2005 back to back in New Delhi:

- (i) Expert Meeting of Like Minded Megadiverse Countries on issues relating to ABS to be organized by IUCN on 17th and 18th January 2005.
- (ii) Expert Meeting to discuss the GEF project on Megadiverse Knowledge and Policy Network for Biodiversity Sustainable Development, to be coordinated by UNDP on 19th January 2005.
- (iii) Expert and Ministerial level Meeting of Like Minded Megadiverse Countries on 20th and 21st January 2005.

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you a cordial invitation to participate in the Expert Meeting of LMMCs to discuss the GEF project on Megadiverse Knowledge and Policy Network for Biodiversity Sustainable Development to be held on 19th January 2005. I am sure that your presence, participation and guidance will lead to successfully finalizing this PDF-A project during this meeting.

I shall appreciate receiving a positive confirmation from you, and I look forward to meeting you in New Delhi in January 2005.

with regards, Yours sincerely,

(Desh Deepak Verma)

Dr. Charles Ian McNeill
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जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहाँ है खुशहाली।।

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