

## **Workshop on “Consolidating CEBPOL - Sharing of experience on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)” held on 3-4 February 2015 in Chennai**

### **Press Release**

The Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL), a joint initiative between Governments of India and Norway, organised a two-day workshop on "Consolidating CEBPOL-Sharing of Experience on Access and Benefit Sharing" on February 3 and 4 at Hotel Aloft, Sholinganallur in Chennai. Housed at the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in Chennai, CEBPOL serves the need for special focus on law and policy in relation to biodiversity and development. It is the outcome of a joint institutional and technical assistance programme in the biodiversity sector between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), GoI, the Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Government of India.

The workshop was attended by Mr. Lars Andreas Lunde, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway. Mr. Eivind Homme, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi and Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC and Chairman, NBA.

The deliberations spread over the two days included presentations by subject experts and thematic discussions related to aspects such as legislative framework for access and benefit sharing in India and Norway, implementation of the Nagoya Protocol with a special focus on user country measures in the two countries, and sharing of experiences from both countries vis-a-vis implementation of the Convention for Biological Diversity, country-specific National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and the cross cutting theme of capacity building.

Representatives from the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, a Norwegian partner in the CEBPOL collaboration, made presentations related to their work undertaken in this connection and facilitated interactive sessions. The workshop deliberations are expected to contribute to the work plan of CEBPOL. Works on Invasive Alien Species, the Nature Index, Biosafety and the Implementation Process for Access and Benefit Sharing, in particular, are expected to receive a fillip.

CEBPOL was officially launched on 24th April 2013 in Chennai. The goal of CEBPOL is to establish a centre of excellence within the National Biodiversity Authority specializing on biodiversity law and policy that caters to the needs of national and international rule-making and subsequent implementation on issues related to biodiversity.

The objectives of CEBPOL are to develop professional expertise in the complex and evolving policy and legal space relating to biodiversity, including on access and benefit sharing and country response to multilateral environmental agreements related to the same, inter-alia through research, development and training; and to provide advice and expertise to the Government on these matters. The Centre aims at contributing to strengthening the implementation of India's Biological Diversity Act.

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