

Sample letter of invitation to the Ministerial Conference signed by the Indonesian Minister of Agriculture

Deadline extended to 15 February

Jakarta, 30 November 2010
Ref: 578/TU.210/M/11/2010

**Letter of Invitation to the Ministerial Conference, Bali, 11th March 2011
On the Occasion of the Fourth Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA**

Excellency,

Within the framework of the United Nations, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia has the honor to host the Fourth Session of the Governing Body (GB4) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). The 4th Session of the Governing Body will be held from 14th to 18th March 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, as you have been informed already by the letter of invitation from the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) dated 15th September 2010.

In this context, the Government of Indonesia decided to host a Ministerial Conference in the auspicious of the Fourth Session of the GB, on 11th March 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. His Excellency, Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia is scheduled to open the Conference.

It is my great honor to invite Excellencies to participate in the Ministerial Conference scheduled for 11th March 2011. Almost seven years after the entry into force of the ITPGRFA and after the negotiations of the first three sessions of the Governing Body, we have come to a crucial moment with the upcoming the Fourth Session of the Governing Body. It is my belief that we should collectively deliver a clear political signal about the role and contribution of the ITPGRFA in achieving global food security in an era of climate change through sustainable agriculture and development. It would be a perfect occasion for Ministers to share future common objectives and goals.

It is foreseen that the Ministerial Conference will produce a Ministerial Declaration on the role of PGRFA in addressing the dual challenges of food security and climate change. To facilitate the coordination on the elements of the Ministerial Declaration, the participation of your Permanent Representative to the FAO in the drafting process would be highly appreciated.

I believe that the participation of Ministers would underscore the importance of the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to tackle with the current global

challenges. A draft programme of the Ministerial Conference is attached for your consideration.

It is my sincere hope that you will decide to accept my invitation and attend to this important meeting in Bali on the due date. I would be most grateful if the invited Ministers confirmed their participation by 1st January 2011 to me and the Secretariat of the Treaty.

I myself (gb4bali@litbang.deptan.go.id), and Secretary of the Treaty, Dr. Shakeel Bhatti (shakeel.bhatti@fao.org), will remain at your disposal for any further information and follow-up arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

SUSWONO

Annex 1
Information on Logistics

Accommodation for two nights will be covered by the Government of Indonesia for all Ministers.

Additionally, travel expenses will be provided for Ministers from the developing countries which are listed in the Annex of this letter. Travel grants would be available on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Contact Point

Secretariat GB 4-Bali

Email : gb4bali@litbang.deptan.go.id

Phone : +62-21-78831114

Fax : +62-21-78831114, +62-21-7800644

1. Dr. M. Sabran, Cell Phone (+628125131958)
2. Seta R. Agustina, MSc., Cell Phone (+6281218400904)

Annex 2

List of Countries Eligible for Travel Grant

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Benin
4. Burkina Faso
5. Burundi
6. Cambodia
7. Central African Republic
8. Chad
9. Congo Dem. Rep
10. Eritrea
11. Ethiopia
12. Ghana
13. Guinea
14. Guinea-Bissau
15. Kenya
16. Korea, Dem. Rep
17. Kyrgyz Republic
18. Lao PDR
19. Liberia
20. Madagascar
21. Malawi
22. Myanmar
23. Nepal
24. Niger
25. Mali
26. Mauritania
27. Sierra Leone
28. Tanzania
29. Togo
30. Uganda
31. Zambia
32. Zimbabwe

Annex 3

“Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Climate Change”

on the occasion of

The Fourth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Bali, Indonesia, 11 March 2011

Provisional Programme

Item 1: Opening of the Conference

Welcome Remarks by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia

Opening of the Conference by the President of the Republic of Indonesia*

Statement by the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United
Nations

Statement by the Secretary of the ITPGRFA

Statement by the Governor of Bali

Tea and coffee break

Item 2: Organization of Work

- (a) adoption of the Agenda
- (b) organization of work

Item 3: Scene Setting: Policy Issues before the ITPGRFA

Report by the Minister of Agriculture of Italy on the results of the
High-level Round Table on the ITPGRFA, held in Rome, Italy in December 2010

Ministerial Dialogue 1:

*New Tools for Agro-biodiversity and Food Security in an Era of Climate Change: The
ITPGRFA Benefit-sharing Fund and Genepool*

Ministerial Dialogue 2:

Capitalizing the ITPGRFA Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF): achievements and next steps

Lunch Hosted By the President of the Republic of Indonesia**

Lunch Hosted by the President for Ministers and Heads of Delegation

In parallel:

Interagency Roundtable for Heads of Agencies: Multilateralism in an age of food insecurity and climate change

High-level Policy Forum on Biodiversity and Food Security

The ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as constituent elements of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing

Chaired jointly by the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia

Statement of the Secretary of the ITPGRFA

Statement of the Executive Secretary of the CBD

Report by the Ministers of Agriculture of Norway and Indonesia on the result of the Bogor Consultation on Benefit Sharing under the ITPGRFA

Ministerial Dialogue of Ministers of Agriculture and Environment

Tea and coffee break

Plenary Conclusions

Reports of the Sessions

*The way forward in a time of climate change and food insecurity -
Extending the ITPGRFA Fund and Gene-pool?*

**Adoption of the Bali Declaration on the Role of the ITPGRFA
in Biodiversity, Climate Change and Food Security**

Closing

Closing Press Conference

(Ceremony: Contributions to the Treaty's Global Gene-pool and Benefit-sharing Fund)

Gala Dinner

hosted by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia

Note:

Ministers are requested, when accepting the invitation, to select the Dialogue Theme under which they wish to make their Ministerial Statement.

* to be confirmed

+ possible venue: President's *Tampak Siring* Palace in Bali