

CHANDIGARH STATEMENT

The Asian Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources (ACM) held its 13th meeting from Nov 8 to Nov 10 2016 at Chandigarh, India. Having recognized the sovereign rights of the microbial resources of the States, during this ACM meeting, the members reaffirmed the following:

Microbial resources are crucial for academic research, biotechnology and bio-industry and their applications contribute to technological, economic and social development.

Furthermore, capacity building to effectively implement the CBD, legitimate access to microbial resources and fair and equitable benefit-sharing based on the CBD principles are essential for conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.

Recognizing the importance of conservation and sustainable use of microbial resources, ACM was established in 2004 and Consortium members have been working mainly in the Asian region while focusing on the following activities:

1. Establishment of a mechanism to exchange microbial resources through member culture collections
2. Strengthening the relationships among member culture collections
3. Promotion of research on microbes and their industrial applications with equitable benefit sharing
4. Capacity building, especially on expertise in microbiology

Based on the above efforts and experience, we, the members of ACM, declare the following:

To attain further advancement of technology and socioeconomic development, we shall advance our activities while strengthening relationships among member culture collections. We shall make continuous efforts to promote research on microbes and their industrial applications and shall nurture the expertise in microbiology.

We recognize that culture collections play a vital role as nodes for international transfer and access to microbial resources. We shall make further efforts to enhance the capabilities of member culture collections. In order to facilitate the transfer of microorganisms as per Nagoya Protocol, we recognize the significance of developing an effective mechanism in the field of microbiology, which serves as a best practice pursuant to Article 20 of the Nagoya Protocol. We shall work closely with relevant authorities and stakeholders to establish the effective mechanisms.