

## Kazusa Statement

In the 7th ACM Meeting at Department of Biotechnology, National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE) in Kazusa, Chiba Prefecture in Japan, the Asian Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources (ACM) members,

Recognizing that microbes such as filamentous fungi, yeasts, mushrooms, bacteria, archaea, and microalgae play important roles in the global ecosystem either directly or indirectly; Recognizing that the diversity of microbes is as such that microbes discovered to date only account for less than 10% of the total species, which means that many novel and yet-to be-discovered microbes inhabit the earth;

Recognizing that the diversity of microbes is endangered by global climate changes, habitat changes, over exploitation, and ecosystem destruction;

Recognizing that long-term laboratory preservation of microbes is technically well attainable; and

Recognizing that microbes are crucial biological resources to academia, biotechnology and bio-industries contributing to technology, economy and social developments.

Have reached agreements as follows:

1. Prompt action of each country towards ex-situ conservation of microbes is imperative.
2. For effective ex-situ conservation of microbes, international research cooperation is essential.
3. Active international research cooperation needs to be promoted by establishing a scheme to facilitate international transfer of microbial resources, further provision of technical cooperation and capacity building in full compliance with the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
4. For clarification of endangered microbes and conservation areas, a list of domestic microbes should be created.
5. Microbial taxonomists should take an initiative on the creation of such a list with the support of international research cooperation.

6. Demand for and importance of microbial taxonomists should therefore be well recognized in each country, so that having training program in place for microbial taxonomists who can keep inter-generational continuity seems imperative.

To achieve the intention of this Kazusa Statement, the establishment of Microbial Resource Center (MRC) in each country is necessary. By establishing the MRC, the training program for microbial taxonomists, legal management of microbial resources, the creation of the list of domestic microbes through exploration, characterization, conservation and sustainable utilization of these microbial resources can be carried out. Furthermore, the MRC can make a significant contribution to the development of the bio-industry by providing scientific and technical services to various users. The MRCs in countries must endeavor to maintain close coordination with each other and dedicate to exploration and promotion of utilization of microbes.

October 15, 2010