

World NGO Conference on Wetlands

NGOs for Healthy and Sustainable Wetlands

26 - 27 October 2008
Republic of Korea

Co-organized by: Korea NGO Network for Ramsar COP10
Japan NGO Network for Ramsar COP10

Invitation

We are very pleased to invite you to attend the World NGO Conference on Wetlands to be held in Republic of Korea from 26 – 27 October 2008, immediately prior to the 10th Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands came into existence in 1971, to provide a framework for national actions and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) is the policy-making organ of the Convention, where government representatives from each of the Contracting Parties meet every 3 years to discuss and decide important matters on wetlands.

The World NGO Conference on Wetlands is organized by the Korea NGO Network for Ramsar COP10 (KNNRC10) in collaboration with the Japan NGO Network for Ramsar COP10 (JNNRC10). It will be an opportunity for NGOs around the world to examine issues related to conservation and wise use of wetlands and to come up with policy proposals which reflect the perspectives of NGOs. It will also provide an important opportunity for NGOs to discuss how to strengthen our own networks around the world.

In this regard, we would like to kindly invite your organization to be represented at the World NGO Conference on Wetlands and share your views on conservation and wise use of wetlands and possible ways to build NGO networks.

Attached herewith is the provisional agenda and other relevant information on the Conference. In order to ensure timely arrangements, it is highly appreciated if you could return the attached registration form by e-mail to Mr. Ma Yong-un, International Contact Point, KNNRC10 <koreawetlands@gmail.com> and copy to <ecoguide@hanmail.net> by 31 August 2008.

With best regards,

Kim Deok-seong, Kim Jae-seung, Baek Yong-hae, Seo Ju-dal, Lee In-sik, Lee Jeong-ju, and Lee Pyeong-ju
Co-Representatives
Korea NGO Network for Ramsar COP10

Relevant Information

Time and Venue

The World NGO Conference on Wetlands will be held in Republic of Korea from 26 – 27 October 2008.

The venue for the conference is being discussed at the moment and will be announced as soon as it is fixed by early July.

Objectives of the World NGO Conference on Wetlands

- i. To share information on Ramsar Convention such as conservation and wise use of wetlands, etc., aiming for an exchange of world NGOs, citizens, researchers, politicians, administrative personnel, etc., engaged in wetland issues,
- ii. To examine issues on wetlands and to work out policy proposal with 'NGO Views' as a key word.
- iii. To adopt an NGO statement on wetlands at the World Wetland NGO Conference to be presented by a Korean NGO representative at the plenary of the Ramsar COP10, so that it would be reflected to resolutions of the COP.
- iv. To discuss and endorse the establishment of an International Wetland NGO Committee (provisional name) at the conference.

Provisional Agenda

| Date | Time | Program |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| 26 October | 09:45-10:00 | Opening Remarks |
| | 10:00-10:30 | Keynote Speech: Role of NGOs |
| | 10:30-11:00 | Wetlands in Korea |
| | 11:00-12:30 | Wise Use: Rice Fields of the World |
| | 12:30-14:00 | Lunch |
| | 14:00-16:00 | NGO's View Point; Wise Use and Non-wise Use |
| | 16:00-16:30 | Break |
| | 16:30-18:30 | NGO's View Point; Wise Use and Non-wise Use |
| | 18:30-20:30 | Welcome Party |
| 27 October | 10:00-12:00 | NGO's View Point CEPA |
| | 12:00-13:30 | Lunch |
| | 13:30-15:30 | Session for "International Wetland NGO Committee" |
| | 15:30-16:00 | Break |
| | 16:00-18:00 | Reports from Sessions, Discussion and Adoption of NGO Statement |
| | 18:10-18:30 | Closing Remarks |

Who should attend?

Everyone is welcome! National and International NGOs, community-based organizations, grass-root support groups and any organization whose work involves any aspect of wetland conservation, wise use of wetlands and people depending upon wetlands should attend.