

# **AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY NETWORK**

The SIGNATORIES party to this Agreement,  
RECOGNIZING the potential of research and development in molecular biology and genetic engineering to contribute to improvements in human well-being through advances in the biomedical, life and agricultural sciences;  
CONSIDERING the benefits of cooperation and collaboration amongst scientists and research institutions working in molecular biology and genetic engineering;  
CONSCIOUS of the need for more effective mechanisms for the promotion of such cooperation and collaboration in Asia and the Pacific Rim,  
TAKING NOTE of the desire and commitment of scientists and their supporting institutions in Asia and the Pacific Rim for such mechanisms,  
NOW, THEREFORE, agree as follows:

## **Article I ESTABLISHMENT**

There shall be established an independent international organization entitled the "Asia-Pacific International Molecular Biology Network (IMBN)" (hereinafter referred to as "The Network") which will operate in accordance with the Constitution appended hereto as an integral part.

## **Article II DEPOSITARY**

UNESCO shall serve as the depositary of this agreement.

## **Article III SIGNATURE**

This Agreement shall be open for signature by APEC economies, member states of the United Nations, and intergovernmental organizations at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. It shall remain open for signature for a period of two years from January 1, 1999, unless such period is extended prior to its expiry by the Depositary at the request of the Governing Council of the Asia-Pacific IMBN.

## **Article IV CONSENT TO BE BOUND**

This Agreement shall be subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval by the signatory economies, states and intergovernmental organizations referred to in Article III. It shall come into force on the first day of the month immediately following receipt by the depositary of official confirmation of ratification of the Agreement by the third signatory economy.

## **Article V ACCESSION**

After the expiration of the period specified in Article III, the present Agreement shall remain open for accession by any economy, state or intergovernmental organization, contingent upon approval by the Governing Council of IMBN by simple majority.

**Article VI**  
**SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

Any dispute between two or more signatories concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement which is not settled through the good offices of the Network shall be submitted, at the request of any party to the dispute, to the International Court of Justice, unless the signatories concerned agree within a reasonable lapse of time on another mode of settlement.

**Article VIII**  
**DENUNCIATION**

Any Party to this Agreement may, by written instrument to the Depositary, denounce this Agreement. Such denunciation of the consent to be bound shall become effective three months after the date on which such instrument is received.

**Article IX**  
**TERMINATION**

This Agreement shall be terminated three months after IMBN is dissolved under the Article XXIII of the Constitution.

**Article X**  
**AUTHENTIC TEXT**

The authentic text of the present Agreement, including the Constitution appended thereto, shall be in the English language. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of states and intergovernmental organizations have signed this Agreement in a single original in the English language.