**CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPER AND POSTER ABSTRACTS**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH POSTER AND PAPER SYMPOSIUM**

**Date: 25th November, 2010**

**Venue:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad

**Deadlines for receipt of Abstracts, Posters and Full papers at Symposium Secretariat:**

**Abstracts (Poster and Paper)** - 12th November 2010

**Final Poster (hard copy & electronic)** - 25th November 2010

**INTRODUCTION:**

The United Nations has proclaimed 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The aim of the IYB is to raise public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the consequences of its loss. The year 2010 is also of significance to the international community because it is the target-year for achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss, (the 2010 Biodiversity Target). In this regard, IYB provides a unique opportunity to increase understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth by:

1. Enhancing public awareness on the importance of biodiversity and on the underlying threats to biodiversity, including climate change;
2. Raising awareness of the accomplishments to date that communities and governments have achieved in efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and its components and to promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources as well as to raise awareness on shortcomings in these efforts;
3. Promoting innovative solutions to reduce these threats; and
4. Initiating dialogue among stakeholders for steps to be taken in post-2010 period.

In an effort to highlight scientific research being conducted in Trinidad and Tobago related to biological diversity, The University of the West Indies (UWI), in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and the Environment, is convening a Research Poster and Paper Symposium on Biodiversity in the commemoration of the 2010 IYB, on November 25, 2010 at the Crowne, Plaza, Port of Spain.

**ELIGIBILITY**

For research to be eligible for consideration for this Symposium, the work must meet the following criteria:

1. Scientific research must be based on and/or be conducted on biological resources of Trinidad and Tobago;
2. Research must be a **completed** body of independent or joint research;
3. Researchers must submit electronically an abstract of the research to the Symposium Secretariat by 12th November 2010. Only documents in MS Word, sent by email will be accepted. All presentations should be in a PowerPoint format.
4. Entry is limited to one poster and a 15-minute oral presentation, per Primary Investigator.

**POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS GUIDELINES**

Potential presenters/speakers wishing to be considered for participation in this Symposium are required to observe the following guidelines in the preparation of their posters and presentations:

Abstract

An abstract (limited to 300 words) should include the title of presentation, name of presenters, study problem, objectives, methods, results and conclusion. It should be typed in Times New Roman font 12 with double spacing. Abstract should reach the Symposium Secretariat by 8th November 2010.

Title

All boldface, Capitalize the first word of the abstract and names, only (i.e., please do not capitalize each word or all of the title). Please make your title brief and descriptive.

Authors & Institutions

List each author by first name or initials and last name. Please provide full contact details of the principle investigator.

Presentation

This should be limited to 15 minute Power Point presentations. Presenter’s name and full contact information to be provided upon submission of presentation abstracts.

Poster

Posters must be no larger than 6 ft high by 42 inches wide. They must display the 2010 IYBD Logo at the bottom left corner.

After an initial screening, abstracts will be evaluated and the author(s) will be informed by November 19th 2010, whether their poster/oral presentation has been accepted to participate in the Symposium.

**CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS**

The Ministry of Housing and the Environment in association with the Department of Life Sciences of The UWI, St Augustine, will publish an edited document of the conference proceedings, consisting of full papers based on the abstracts of the best conference papers and posters submitted to the Symposium. Authors will be advised whether they are to be included in this Conference Proceedings publication. Such authors are required to adopt the format of the Journal Biological Conservation (see instructions to authors at <http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/405853/authorinstructions> ).

**SYMPOSIUM SECRETARIAT**

Kindly address any inquiry on the Symposium to aabio.edulink@sta.uwi.edu. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

For registration or more information about attending or participating in the Symposium, please contact:

Symposium Secretariat

Edulink Biodiversity Project

Department of Life Sciences

The University of the West Indies

St. Augustine

Telephone: 868 662 2002 ext 3739

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