



## 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

*“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining  
livelihoods”*

**Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005**

**Ramsar COP9 DOC. 27**  
[English only]

### Agenda item XXI

## **Date and venue of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP10)**

### **Explanatory note by the Secretariat**

1. The determination of the date and venue of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties will come up for discussion at the last Plenary Session of COP9, Tuesday 15 November, though it could be the subject of informal consultations during regional meetings previous to that. The Conference needs to take a decision on the venue of COP10 to be held in 2008 on the basis of official invitations to host the meeting that may have been received from Contracting Parties by that time.

1. The Rules of Procedure contained in document Ramsar COP9 DOC. 2 include the following section concerning the place of the meetings of the COP:

### **PLACE OF MEETINGS**

#### ***Rule 3***

1. The meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall take place in the country chosen by the previous Conference of the Parties on the basis of a formal invitation that should have been issued to this effect by the Head of State or Government or the Cabinet or the Minister of Foreign Affairs of that country. If more than one Party issue an invitation to host the next meeting, and two or more invitations are maintained after informal consultations, the meeting shall decide on the venue of the next meeting by secret ballot.
2. If no invitation has been received, the meeting shall be held in the country where the Bureau has its seat, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Bureau and accepted by the Standing Committee.

**For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are requested to bring their copies to the meeting and not to request additional copies.**

2. In accordance with Rule 3.1, an invitation has been received by the Secretariat following a presentation by the Republic of Korea at the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee, June 2005. The text of the letter of invitation is attached.
3. The Ramsar Secretariat believes the invitation to be broadly in accord with the requirements for holding a COP, as outlined in the document *General requirements for and indicative costs of holding an Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention* ([http://ramsar.org/key\\_cop\\_costs.htm](http://ramsar.org/key_cop_costs.htm)), and has already had informal information exchanges with the Republic of Korea.
4. No other formal invitations have been received as of September 15, 2005, although some informal soundings from other Parties have been made to the Secretariat.
5. The Asia region last hosted a COP in 1993, in Kushiro, Japan. From the standpoint of regional distribution, therefore, it is not out of order for the offer from the Republic of Korea to be given serious consideration by the Parties. The Secretariat believes a COP in South Korea would be feasible and effective in advancing the Convention's aims and objectives.

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT -- REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

1 Jungang-dong, Gwacheon-si, Gyeonggi-do, 427-729 Republic of Korea /  
<http://eng.me.go.kr>

July 20, 2005

Dr. Peter Bridgewater  
Secretary General  
Ramsar Convention Secretariat  
Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Bridgewater,

This is the response to your letter dated June 22, 2005 regarding Republic of Korea (RoK)'s proposal to host Ramsar COP 10 in 2008. It is my pleasure and honor to reiterate RoK's intent to host the Ramsar COP 10 with this letter and I am hereby respectfully requesting your secretariat and you to include RoK's proposal to host COP 10 as an agenda of Ramsar COP9, 2005 along with the general support expressed at the Ramsar Regional Meeting (May 13-16 2005, Beijing) and the Standing Committee Meeting (June 6-10 2005, Gland).

As a candidate host nation, RoK will provide the following:

- Provision of standard UN Conference facility to accommodate at least 1500 international delegates, and 2000 local participants, with conference rooms, facilities and interpretation;
- Organizing side events, exhibitions, seminars and media events related to the COP 10 theme;
- Provision of logistics support with full consideration of the convenience of international participants.

The estimated local cost for the above-mentioned conference service amounts to 2.5 million USD which will be borne by RoK. In addition, about 0.347 million USD to cover the cost of Ramsar Secretariat personnel's mission travel and interpretation for COP 10 will be provided to the Ramsar secretariat as briefed to you by my staff at the Beijing meeting this May. Please refer to Attachment 1 for details of RoK's contribution.

I am very confident that the spirit of cooperation between your secretariat, the host city and RoK Ministry of Environment will make the COP 10 the most successful Conference of Parties ever.

Before I close, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the quality work that your secretariat has shown at the Asia Regional Meeting and the Standing Committee Meeting where RoK's proposal was discussed.

This letter will be delivered to your secretariat by the RoK permanent mission at Geneva channel to serve your request and the RoK Ministry of Environment avails itself of

this opportunity to renew to the Ramsar convention secretariat the assurance of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jaeyong LEE, Minister  
Ministry of Environment  
Republic of Korea

Attachment: RoK Contribution to Ramsar Secretariat for COP 10 [not included]