First Meeting of Medicinal Plants Focal Points of IORA RCSTT cum Exhibition will be held in Salalah, Sultanate of Oman in 23 - 25 June, 2014

Deadline for Nomination
May 10, 2014

Kindly send the registration form and CV to the IORA RCSTT Secretariat and a copy to the hosting organization no later than May 10, 2014.

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Today, the application of medicinal plants has increased because of undesirable effects of chemical drugs. Worldwide, more than 10,000 plant species (of both forest and non-forest origins) are used for medicinal purposes, mainly as traditional medicines. WHO, has estimated that 80 percent of people in developing countries rely on traditional medicines, which are mostly of plant origin, for primary health care. Use of medicinal plants is by no means restricted to developing countries; at least 25 percent of drugs in the modern pharmacopoeia are derived from plants.

Literary sources attest to the use of medicinal plants in ancient Assyria, Egypt, India, and China circa 3000 BC, in Iran, Greece, and Rome in the early years of the Common Era and in Arab countries. Middle Asia, Georgia, Armenia, and Europe during the Middle Ages. Today, developing countries in Africa, Asia and Oceania use traditional medicine for essential needs in healthcare and Information technology can help improve this area and networking in the region.

In order to extend cooperation among IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) 20 Member States and Dialogue Partners from Asia Pacific, Africa. The Middle East and six dialogue partners including China, Japan, Egypt, France, UK, and U.S.A. and other developing countries in response to medicinal plants, herbal medicines and herbal products, IORA Medicinal Plants Network (IORAMPNET) intends to gather representatives from these countries at the First Meeting of IORA herbal focal points in the Sultanate of Oman.

**TOPICS**

- Policymaking for producing, processing and commercializing medicinal plants and herbal medicine in IORA member states and dialogue partners
- Standards and standardization process for medicinal plants and herbal medicine
- Technology transfer and commercialization
- Market forecasting
- Import and export of medicinal plants and herbal medicine and relevant criteria in different countries in the region
- Role of the focal points in developing IORAMPNet and defining their tasks, duties and missions in regard to the above issues in their own countries
- Discussing the establishment of a Special Fund for Medicinal Plants and Herbal Medicine for IORA member states and dialogue partners.
- Defining IORA Regional regulation and standards for the commercialization of medicinal plants and related technology

**ENTRY VISA TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN**

An official visit visa is granted at the request of the hosting government organization. In order to organize the visit visa, OAPGRC requires the following:

- Scanned passport size (4x6cms) photograph.
- Copy of passport, information pages only. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the date of the planned visit.
- Complete the required Visa Application form (provided by OAPGRC).

For further information, please visit: [http://www.rop.gov.om/english/dg_pr_visas_officialvisit.asp](http://www.rop.gov.om/english/dg_pr_visas_officialvisit.asp)

**SUBMISSION**

Nomination should be submitted using the attached nomination form. The nominating authority is requested to nominate a maximum 2 candidates, one from public sector and the other from private sector. Up to 30 participants will be offered local hospitality (including accommodation, meals and local transport). Other expenses, including air ticket, visa fee, travel insurance etc. will be undertaken by the nominating organization or participants.

Participants are required to prepare a Country Report as described in the attached information, and submit it to Organizing Committee by email one week before the meeting begins.

During the meeting/exhibition, social and cultural activities will be arranged for your further understanding of the Omani people and their society.