

EDITORIAL

As we reach the end of a busy year, we have taken stock and concluded that next year will be no less busy. We are eager to report on the results of all this activity, and to convey to our readers how new legal developments are giving rise to environmental improvements and many other associated benefits. In Nagoya, we were happy to see that real results were produced – one much more quickly than expected.

The CBD has finally taken a concrete step forward on Access and Benefit Sharing (see p. 288). While it may not be the best possible outcome, the new Nagoya Protocol provides diplomats with a “foot in the door”. It is hoped that ABS can provide a better basis for development assistance and AID. Instead of just “free contributions”, future environmental aid packages can be approached as payment for what we receive from natural goods and resources whose value has been unrecognised in the past.

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We call Environmental Policy and Law “The journal for decision-makers”, although we recognise that the broad scope of our coverage presents challenges for us. Sometimes we find it difficult to cover everything or to make the choices about what should be emphasised. Up till now, we have received very few criticisms about our choices and omissions. Our year-end wish, then, is that our readers should be tough enough to tell us when they feel we have made the wrong choices. We are here for you. Please tell us what you prefer.

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In this connection, we have “run out of space” for the year, and must carry over our coverage of MOP-22 of the Montreal Protocol to the first issue of 2011.

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Best year-end wishes to all of our readers.

29 November 2010

- Wolfgang R. Steury -