



LAUNCHING GNDRI – THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF DRYLAND RESEARCH INSTITUTES COP9 SIDE EVENT, 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

The Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR), the current Chair of the Global Network of Dryland Research Institutes (GNDRI), is pleased to announce a side event in which GNDRI will be officially launched at the 9th Conference of Parties (COP9) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This network, now comprising a dozen institutes committed by their mandate and dedicated to dryland scientific research, has been “under construction” during the last couple of years and is now ready to initiate its activities in full swing.

The rationale for creating the network, its governance structure, internet platform and plan of work will be presented. Activities of GNDRI member institutes, especially those relevant to the implementation of the UNCCD will be briefly described*. Options for advanced desert studies and training will also be discussed.

Date: Thursday, 24 September 2009
Time: 13.00 – 15.00
Location: **Meeting Room 3, UNCCD COP9**, Hilton Hotel, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Food and beverages will be provided

For further information visit <http://www.gndir.net> and/or contact BIDR@bgu.ac.il

* GNDRI member institute to be presented in the side event (listed in alphabetical order):

ALRC (Arid Land Research Center, **Japan**) – presented by Prof. **Atsushi Tsunekawa**
BIDR (Blaustien Institutes for Desert Research, **Israel**) – presented by Prof. **Pedro Berliner**
CIDE (Centro De Investigaciones sobre Desertificación, **Spain**) – prepared by Prof. **Jose L. Rubio**
CSIRO (CSIRO Centre for Arid Zone Research, **Australia**) - presented by Dr. **Gary Bastin**
DRCH (Dryland Research Center, Hamburg, **Germany**) – prepared by Prof. **Norbert Jürgens**
DRFN (Desert Research Foundation of Namibia, **Namibia**) – presented by Dr. **Mary Seely**
DRI (Desert Research Institute, **USA, Nevada**) – prepared by Prof. **Nicholas Lancaster** and Prof. **David Mouat**
GUIDE (Gujarat Institute for Desert Ecology, **India**) – prepared by Dr. Vijay Kumar
IADIZA (Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de las Zonas Áridas, **Argentina**) – presented by Prof. **Elena María Abraham**
ICASALS (International Center for Arid and Semiarid Land Studies, **USA, Texas**) – presented by Dr. **Aderbal C. Correa**
ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, **India**) – presented by Dr. **Suhas Wani**



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