



Dear GNDRI member,

1 September, 2009

**Founding
Institutions**

Arid Land Research Center
Tottori, Japan

Centro de Investigaciones
sobre Desertificación
Valencia, Spain

Cold and Arid Regions
Environmental & Engineering
Research Institute
Lanzhou, China

Desert Research Center
Cairo, Egypt

Desert Research
Foundation of Namibia
Windhoek, Namibia

Desert Research Institute
Reno, NV, USA

Dryland Research Centre
Hamburg, Germany

Gujarat Institute for
Desert Ecology
Bhuj, Gujarat, India

Instituto Argentino de
Investigaciones de las
Zonas Áridas
Mendoza, Argentina

International Center for Arid
and Semiarid Land Studies
Lubbock, TX, USA

Jacob Blaustein Institutes
for Desert Research
Ben-Gurion University
of the Negev
Sede Boqer, Israel

**International
Organizations**

International Crop Research
Institute for Semi-Arid
Tropics (ICRISAT)

Re: Launching GNDRI in COP9 of UNCCD – an update

GNDRI will be presented to the delegates attending the 9th Conference of the Parties (COP9) of the UNCCD and to the participants of the Scientific Conference linked to the COP, in a “side event” during the lunch break (i.e. starting at 1pm and ending 3 pm) of **Thursday, 24th September, 2009**.

COP9 opens on Monday 21st September and terminates on 2nd October 2009, and the Scientific Conference (open to the public, following registration) starts on the afternoon of 24th September and ends in the afternoon of 24th September. Thus, the “side event” in which GNDRI is to be launched will take place in the lunch break between the morning and the afternoon (last) session of the “Scientific Conference”.

In this “Launching GNDRI” side event GNDRI coordinator will describe what GNDRI is and how it functions. Following this presentation (which includes describing GNDRI website), representatives of GNDRI member institutes will make presentations of their institutes, **focusing on activities that support the implementation of the UNCCD**.

So far representatives of DRFN (Namibia), ICRISAT (international, in India), ALRC (Japan), IADIZA (Argentina), ICASALS (Texas, USA), and BIDR (Israel) agreed to present the work of their institutes in this side event. This message is also an invitation to other member institutes of GNDRI to be included in the program, for presenting their respective institutes in the “side event”

We hope to see all GNDRI members represented in **Room 3 of COP9 venue in the Buenos Aires Hilton Hotel, on Thursday, 24th September 2009, at 1 pm**.

Finally, member institutes have been requested to appoint one or two of their staff that will be provided with the permission to post on GNDRI website new scientific publications of their respective institutes. Those members that have not done this are requested to send the coordinates of their appointees to BIDR@bgu.huji.ac.il

Sincerely yours,

Uriel Safriel
Coordinator of GNDRI, on behalf of the BIDR