



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة · 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT · PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) holds its first training in Nairobi on how to access and use the Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE)

Nairobi, 5 June 2007 – Access to high quality research articles is one of the major challenges facing developing countries. As part of this year's World Environment Day (WED) celebrations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will hold its first training session on how to access and use Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE). Bearing in mind that the theme of this year's WED is climate change, and that the countries most affected by climate change are in the developing world, the training will give particular emphasis to information resources about climate change, enabling participating institutions to strengthen their research capacity in this area.

OARE is a public-private partnership project led by UNEP and Yale University, with the technical support of the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Cornell University and more than 120 scientific publishers. OARE was launched in October 2006, thanks to the contribution of world leading publishers such as STM, Blackwell, Taylor & Francis, Springer, Elsevier which have made available free of charge or at nominal cost their journal's collection. OARE aims to contribute to the development of expert professional and academic communities and an informed public, encourage scientific creativity and productivity, and facilitate the development of progressive science-based national policies. It will help enable countries to build their own higher education programs in the environmental sciences, educate their own leaders, conduct their own research, publish their own scientific findings, and disseminate information to policy makers and the public.

According to Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, "OARE is a new and inspiring example of international cooperation that can contribute to the reduction of the North-South scientific gap and digital divide, objectives that are both at the top of the UN agenda and the UN Millennium Development Goals". OARE is UNEP's important new initiative to empower policy makers and researchers in developing countries to put the full force of the world's finest scientific achievements behind their efforts to stop climate change.

Institutions eligible to enroll in OARE include universities and colleges, research institutes, ministries of the environment and other government agencies, libraries, and national NGOs. To this end, about 300 institutions have so far registered world wide, thus demonstrating the high expectations from developing countries to access scientific and relevant information. In Kenya, about 50 institutions have been invited to participate in this training.

The training aims to give the researchers and OARE users the confidence to use independent and critical research approach while using OARE and discovering new knowledge. "OARE is a partnership project reflecting the true spirit of giving, knowledge sharing and access to information in the context of the North-South solidarity. At the time

when environment is becoming more and more a global concern, when issues such as climate change are at the top of the world agenda and when developing countries are involved in key environmental negotiations, OARE is the indispensable tool for decision making needed by negotiators, scientists and researchers from the developing world” said Serge Bounda, the Chief of the UN Library in Nairobi.

The training programme contains a general presentation of OARE followed by a practical training session on the use of the resources available at <http://www.oaresciences.org>. The training will also give participants the opportunity to exchange knowledge and expertise with others on how to access information on environment.

For more information, please contact: Nick Nuttall, UNEP Spokesperson, on Tel: +254 20 7623084, Mobile: +254 733 632755, E-mail: nick.nuttall@unep.org or Mohamed Atani, OARE Training Officer, Tel: (254 20) 7 62 4235 Mobile: +254 736106580 Email: mohamed.atani@unep.org.