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Launch of New Service “HiABS+” and Conclusion of an Advisory Agreement to Strengthen Compliance with International Rules

HIRATA Corporation (“HIRATA”) is engaged in a new business initiative utilizing biological genetic resources as part of its commitment to contributing to the realization of a sustainable society.

HIRATA is pleased to announce that it will launch a new service, HiABS+ (Hirata international Access to Biodiversity Services Plus), in February 2026. This service supports the appropriate utilization of living genetic resources (GRs)^{※1} overseas.

In addition, HIRATA has concluded an advisory agreement with Professor Emeritus Hiroji Isozaki, Iwate University, a leading expert in the fields of international law and environmental law. Through this partnership, HIRATA will further strengthen its compliance with international rules and promote the establishment of a highly transparent business operation system.

^{※1} Living genetic resources (GRs): it refers here to breeding materials, cultured cell materials, small invertebrates, bacteria, and viruses.

I. Overview

HiABS+ is a comprehensive support service that assists companies, universities, and other organizations with the procedures required to use living GRs from overseas in research and development.

This newly launched service, primarily consulting-based, enables the lawful use of living GRs from overseas by ensuring that Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)^{※2} procedures under the Convention on Biological Diversity^{※3} are properly followed, procedures that have previously been difficult for individual companies or universities to manage on their own.

<Service Name>

- Official Name: Hirata international Access to Biodiversity Services Plus
- Abbreviation: HiABS+

<Main Services>

1. Research of ABS-related laws and regulations in each country
2. Preparation and organization of required documentation
3. Coordination and negotiation with government agencies in the provider countries
4. Support for proper utilization in accordance with international rules, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol^{※4}

Through this service, HIRATA aims to streamline customers' research and development activities while expanding its biological genetic resources business and enhancing international credibility.

In addition, HIRATA has newly concluded minutes of the meeting regarding the use of living GRs with the Badan Perakitan dan Modernisasi Pertanian (BRMP) in Indonesia, with which it has previously entered into joint development agreements.

Please refer to the appendix for an overview and categories of this service.



Minutes of the meeting concluded with BRMP on the use of living biological resources on December 17, 2025

(From left: Professor Fadjry Djufry, Director General of BRMP; Mr. Shigeharu Nishimura, Executive Officer, Division Director, Research and Development Division, HIRATA)

^{※2} ABS (Access and Benefit-Sharing): An international framework refers to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, which must be globally complied with under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

^{※3} Convention on Biological Diversity: An international treaty that entered into force on December 29, 1993, representing a global agreement covering all aspects of biodiversity and calling for worldwide efforts to protect biological resources that transcend national borders.

^{※4} Nagoya Protocol: An international agreement adopted at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in October 2010, establishing international rules on the utilization of genetic resources under Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

II. Background

- National laws and procedures under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Nagoya Protocol, and related frameworks have become increasingly complex, making it difficult for companies and universities to respond independently.
- To address these issues, HIRATA has previously provided ABS support services (HiABS) mainly targeting plant genetic resources. In recent years, however, demand has grown for research and development utilizing living biological resources themselves, extending beyond plant resources alone.

III. Strengthening the Compliance Framework for International Rules

By concluding an advisory agreement with Professor Hiroji Isozaki, a leading authority in international law and environmental law, HIRATA will receive guidance and advice in the following areas, aiming to further enhance compliance and reliability in international rules:

1. Strengthening compliance frameworks: Establishment of appropriate procedures based on the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol
2. Promotion of sustainable R&D: Ensuring transparency and fairness in the use of genetic resources
3. Expansion of global partnerships: Enhancing international trust through collaboration with research institutions and companies in Japan and abroad

Profile of Professor Hiroji Isozaki

Career and Areas of Expertise

- Professor Emeritus, Iwate University
(Professor at Iwate University; Visiting Professor at United Nations University; Professor at Meiji Gakuin University and Sophia University's graduate school)
- Specializes in international law, law of the sea, and environmental law, with extensive expertise in international rules on biodiversity and ABS.

Engagement in Policy Formulation and Administrative Advisory Support

- Served on numerous councils and committees of central government ministries, including the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Provides policy advice to conservation organizations and local governments, contributing broadly to environmental and biological resource policies domestically and internationally

Major Positions in the ABS Field

- Co-Chair, Legal and Technical Expert Group on Compliance under the Convention on Biological Diversity (2009)
- Legal Expert on Compliance under the Nagoya Protocol (2012)
- Chair, Study Group (established by the Ministry of the Environment) on Domestic Measures for the Nagoya Protocol (2012)
- Standing Legal and Technical Expert, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2016–2019)
- Chair, ABS Guidelines Follow-up Study Group (established by the Ministry of the Environment) (2021)

IV. Impact on Financial Performance

At present, the impact of this initiative on our financial performance is undisclosed.

End

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Appendix

① ----- Extract from the Minutes between BRMP and HIRATA Corporation

4. BRMP acknowledged the potential collaboration of HiABS+ (Annex 1 of Proposal)
5. BRMP agreed to support further discussion with related Ministry (the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia, and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia) for the **Category 1**.
6. BRMP agreed to support the research and development collaboration for **Category 2** with some exception (example: Vanilla) under regulations applied in Indonesia. The topic of the research and development will be discussed under a technical agreement.
7. BRMP agreed to support the research and development collaboration for **Category 3** for example rubber tree or other fiber crops. The topic of the research and development will be discussed under a technical agreement.

② ----- Extract from Proposal Annex 1(Overview and Categories of HiABS+)

