

Useful websites

ABS support for Academia

ABS support Team for Academia, National Institute of Genetics:
JP: <http://idenshigen.jp>
EN: http://http://nig-chizai.sakura.ne.jp/abs_tft/en/

ABS support for industry

Japan Bioindustry Association (JBA):
<https://www.mabs.jp/eng/index.html>
National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE):
<https://www.nite.go.jp/en/index.html>

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

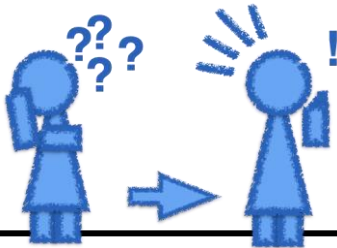
Secretariat: <https://www.cbd.int/>
Provision: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>

Nagoya Protocol (NP)

ABS Clearing-House (ABSCH): <https://absch.cbd.int>
Provision of NP:
<https://www.cbd.int/abs/doc/protocol/nagoya-protocol-en.pdf>

Introduction to ABS

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT): <http://www.lifescience.mext.go.jp/files/pdf/abs.htm>
Ministry of Environment (MOE): <http://abs.env.go.jp/english.html>
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF):
https://www.maff.go.jp/j/kanbo/kankyo/seisaku/GR/s_win_abs.html



ABS Support Team for Academia,
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Special Cautions for International Researchers in Japan:



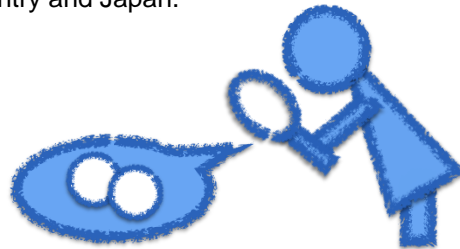
When you take GRs out from
your country, obtain **permission**
from the government of your country.



When you receive or purchase GRs from your
country, you may need a **permit** to study them.



When transferring GRs, laws and regulations other
than ABS also apply; i.e. Plant Protection Act,
Infectious Diseases Control Act, etc. in both your
country and Japan.



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Studying with samples from your home country in Japan?

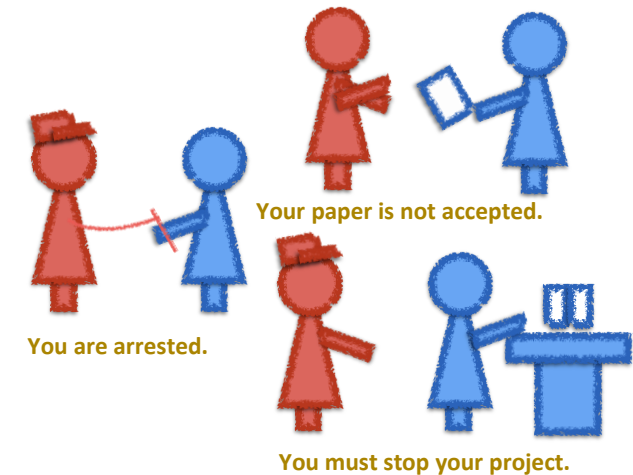
Then you must follow ABS rules!

Failure to do so may result in:

- 1) Your research suspended or interrupted.
- 2) Your results not publicly presented.
- 3) Your paper rejected by journals.
- 4) Your application for grants not accepted.
- 5) You accused of stealing your country's national property.
- 6) You and your host institute not able to access samples again.
- 7) Patent applications using the samples rejected.
- 8) Serious implications for your Ph.D. degree.

Your research and your degree may be seriously
impacted if you do not follow ABS rules.

ABS is very important, but what is it?



1

What is ABS?

When studying foreign biological samples (**Genetic Resources: GRs**) in Japan, ABS may be critical for your research - even if those GRs are from your own country!

ABS is short for "**A**ccess and **B**enefit-**S**haring" – an important principle in two international treaties: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol (NP).

The principle is described in CBD/NP in two parts:

- 1) We must obtain permission to **ACCESS** GRs abroad, in accordance with the GR-providing country's laws and procedures.
- 2) **BENEFITS** arising from use of GRs must be **SHARED** between providing and user country.

What do you have to do?

Before exporting your samples to Japan:

- 1) Discuss transfer of your samples with your **supervisors** in both your country and in Japan.
- 2) Contact us - **ABS Support Team for Academia**, National Institute of Genetics, Japan.

Phone: +81-(0)55-981-5831

URL: <http://idenshigen.jp>

E-mail: abs@nig.ac.jp

We will assist you in bringing your samples safely and legally into Japan for your research!

2

What are the CBD and NP?

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international treaty established for the following purposes:

1. the conservation of biodiversity
2. the sustainable use of biodiversity
3. the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

The Nagoya Protocol (NP) is a supplementary agreement to the CBD to implement ABS (Access and Benefit-Sharing).

According to the CBD and NP, organisms are treated as the property of the country where they originate, and both countries providing and using genetic resources (GRs) shall share the benefits arising from the use of these resources.

Even in the absence of "monetary" benefits, basic research produces "non-monetary" benefits that can be shared between providing and user countries, such as: publication of co-authored papers, transfer of technology, capacity building and offering of educational opportunities.



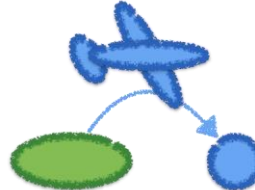
Co-authorship



Collaboration



Teaching



Invitation

3

What is a Genetic Resource?

In CBD, a Genetic Resource (GR) is defined as "any material of plant, animal, microbe or other origin containing functional units of hereditary, having actual or potential value." In other words, any **organic material with DNA is a GR.**

Samples **covered** by ABS:

Whole or partial organisms: plants, animals, and microbes (including viruses, phages, viroids, etc.) regardless of condition (i.e. dead, living, dried, frozen, powdered, etc.)

Microorganisms in **environmental samples** (i.e. soil, sediment, water)

Traditional knowledges associated with GRs (for example, recipes and applications of medicinal herbs)

NOTE:

DNA/RNA purified from organisms are subject to ABS. ABS procedures must be followed when using DNA/RNA samples obtained from overseas. Organic compounds or derivatives that do not contain functional units of heredity such as proteins and metabolites are not categorized as genetic resources by the CBD/NP. However, special care is needed as some countries do regard these as subject to ABS rules in their national laws.

Samples (usually) **NOT covered** by ABS:

• **DNA sequences**

(Some countries include sequence information in the scope of ABS, such as, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil, etc.)

• **Synthesized nucleotides** (DNAs/RNAs)

• Marine organisms from **international waters**

• **Human GRs**

(China has domestic law for utilization of human GRs.)

(Intestinal microbes, parasitic and infectious organisms are covered by ABS)

• GRs utilized for science **before the CBD came into force** (December 29, 1993)

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- 1) Print the leaflet in double-sided printing with binding on the short edge.
- 2) Face up the pages 2-4, and fold between pages 3 and 4.
- 3) Fold between pages 2 and 3

