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RSB Bulletin March 2011

Dear RSB Members and friends,

Welcome to the latest RSB Bulletin!

At the time of writing this bulletin, the RSB staff is working hard to prepare for the public launch of the RSB certification system (23rd of March 2011 at the World Biofuels Market conference in Rotterdam). This milestone is the culmination of the tremendous work accomplished by RSB members over the last four years.

We also are pleased to make another important announcement: The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels has received provisional recognition from the German government. This means RSB certified biofuels have been approved as qualifying for the German biofuel sustainability requirements, established to transpose the European Union's Renewable Energy Directive into German law.

As part of the rollout of the certification system, we are pleased to announce the first training session for auditors and the latest decision of the Steering Board regarding the 2-tiered system.

Best regards,

Alwin

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Hot News: RSB Certification System is now provisionally recognized by Germany!

On March 18, 2011, the RSB received notification from the German authorities that the

RSB Standard and Certification System (See below) are now provisionally recognized under the national regulatory schemes of Germany, as qualifying under the German "Regulation on the requirements for sustainable production of biofuels" (Biokraftstoff-Nachhaltigkeitsverordnung - Biokraft-NachV).

Roll-out of the RSB Certification System

After releasing Version 2 of the RSB sustainability standard, we will open our global certification system for business during the World Biofuels Market 2011 conference. This important event will give us the opportunity to reach out to major actors in the biofuel arena and present the main components of the RSB standard and certification system. The announcement will take place during two identical sessions (14.00 and 16.15) on March 23rd and will include supporting speeches from Airbus, Boeing, British Airways, the Inter-American Development Bank, IUCN, the Jatropha Alliance, SG Biofuels, Sun Biofuels, Sky NRG and UNEP.

Please join us on **March 23 at the WBM 2011** for this kickoff event of the RSB global certification system! No RSVP necessary.

Venue: Tokyo Room - World Biofuels Markets (Beurs-WTC Congress Center).

Time: Session 1 - 14.00 | Session 2 - 16.15 (same content).

First Training Course for Auditors

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels will offer a 4-day interim auditor training course from April 4 to April 8 at its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland for a number of invited certification bodies. During the training course all relevant parts of the certification standards will be covered, including the certification protocols and the standards content (ie. the Principles & Criteria). The objective of the training course is to provide auditors with sufficient knowledge of the RSB Sustainability Standard to conduct audits for companies seeking RSB certification. Upon successful completion of a competency exam following the training course, auditors will be qualified to conduct certification audits against the RSB standards. The course will be co-taught by Leading Standards and the RSB Secretariat.

2-Tiered System: Way Forward

After weeks of intensive discussion by RSB members, the Steering Board agreed to move forward with a two-tiered system with a deadline and an obligation to move from Tier 1 to Tier 2. A dedicated Working Group will be established with 2 representatives from each chamber in it (Note that Steering Board members cannot participate). The aim will be to achieve consensus on the transition mechanism from Tier 1 to Tier 2 and make a proposal to the Steering Board.

The following path forward on the two-tiered system was agreed:

1. Steering Board members will individually provide the Secretariat input on incurables and other crucial issues that are recommended to be included in the Tier 1 Standard by March 15.
2. The Secretariat will develop a Tier 1 draft, based on Board members' input and provide it to the Steering Board by mid-April.
3. After communication of candidates for the Working Group by RSB chambers, the WG will focus on a transition mechanism and report back to the Steering Board by mid-April.
4. At its next meeting, the Steering Board will review inputs from both the Secretariat and from the WG and make a decision on the process forward, which might include the following options, among others:

- a. Direct chamber consultations on the content of tier one and the transition mechanism;
- b. Mandating the WG to discuss the transition mechanism and the content of tier one;
- c. Sending the Secretariat's draft back to the Secretariat for improvements;
- d. Asking the WG to improve its recommendations.

The RSB Secretariat will keep you informed about the progress of the discussion.

Composition of the Working Group:

Mr. Agustin Bianchini, from the Argentine No Till Farmers Association, Aapresid (Chamber 1); Mr. Abhilash Puljal, from Nandan Biomatrix (Chamber 1); Mr. Ian Thomson, from the Canadian Renewable Fuels Agency (Chamber 2); Mr. John Cummings, from Wilmar Oleo North America (Chamber 2); Mr. Evan Smith, from Verno Systems (Chamber 3); Mr. Alex Nevill, from Shell (Chamber 3); Mr. Arturo Barrit, from the Philippine Trade Union Congress, ALU-TUPC (Chamber 4); Mr. Salvador Feranil, from Philnet-RDI (Chamber 5); Ms. Debbie Hammel, from NRDC (Chamber 6); Ms. Melinda Kimble, from the UN Foundation (Chamber 6); Ms. Helena Chum, from the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory (Chamber 7) and Ms. Jody Endres, from the Energy Biosciences Institute (Chamber 7).

Review of RSB Terms of Reference - Establishment of the Governance Committee

As described in the RSB Terms of Reference, a regular review of the TORs must be undertaken in 2011. To coordinate the review and suggest edits to the Steering Board, a dedicated Governance Committee composed of SB members is established. Its members are:

- Mr. Khoo Hock Aun (Co-Chair, Chamber 1)
- Ms. Damiana Serafini (Co-Chair, Chamber 2)
- Mr. Leonardo Rosario (Co-Chair, Chamber 5)
- Mr. Hafeez Rehman (Co-Chair, Chamber 6)
- Pr. Hans B. Püttgen (EPFL)

Should any significant change in the Terms of Reference be proposed, such changes will undergo the customary rounds of consultation among RSB members. Updated TORs should be finalized by the Steering Board during its June 2011 in-person meeting at the latest.

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