



IF YOU CREATE CONFIDENCE, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING

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A new world needs new approaches

- Rio Earth Summit 1992: biotechnology and biosafety emerging issues
- The divide:
 - developed vs. developing countries
 - trade and environment relationship
- Rio decision to develop an international instrument



Convention on Biological Diversity

- Voluntary vs legally binding instrument (Protocol)
- 5 year process
- Feb 1999: final meeting of the working group in Cartagena collapsed: 600 square brackets.
- Crisis in the format of negotiations
- New format (Miami Group, Like-minded Group, Central and Eastern Europe, EU, Compromise Group)



The Domino Effect: Crisis as an opportunity

- Monsanto suspends the “terminator seeds”
- Japan requires GMO labeling
- Gerber goes GMO-free
- Survey shows 80% of Americans want GMOs to be labeled
- Growing movement in Europe against GMOs



The Vienna Setting: Creating the conditions for dialogue

- Jan 1999: expression of political will (Montreal)
- Sep 1999: informal consultations on key issues (Vienna)
- Miami Group visit to Ethiopia
- Nov 1999: WTO, the breaking point (Seattle)



The Vienna Setting: Changing the climate

- Jan 2000: Ministerial Conference in Montreal
Transparency in participation (NGOs, private sector, media)
- The setting:
 - 5 spokespersons
 - hexagonal table
 - teddy bears
 - joining hands
 - 30°C
- Win-win: Greenpeace, business sector and governments all happy!



Lessons learnt

- Create confidence
- Everybody counts, not friends of the Chair
- Ensure transparency and participation
- Change the setting (no business as usual, informality vs formality)
- Innovate: think out of the box
- High level participation
- Build a great team behind the Chair
- Stick to and communicate your roadmap



Arigato