



The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia & The Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
Would like to cordially invite you to a presentation:

***Cutting Edge Biopolymer Projects in Medicine, Agriculture and Waste
Management: Transformational Power of Biopolymers for Sustainable
Development in Kenya and COMESA Region***

Date: Wednesday, April 24 2013

Time: 3:00 p.m. to– 6:00 p.m.

*Venue: Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
2410 California Street NW,
Washington, D.C. 20008*

PROGRAM

*3 p.m. Welcome Addresses by H.E. Roman Kirn, Ambassador of Slovenia and
H.E. Elkanah Odembo, Ambassador of Kenya*

3:20 Presentation by Ms Mateja Dermastia, CEO of PoliMaT, Center of Excellence

*3:40 Remarks by Dr Calestous Juma, Professor at the Belfer Center for Science and In-
ternational Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School*

*3:50 Remarks by Dr Frank L. Douglas, President and CEO of the Austen BioInnovation
Institute in Akron, Ohio*

4:00 Open Discussion

Reception and Networking

Please RSVP by April 19 to: andreja.skerl@gov.si or call (202)386 6610



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE, CULTURE AND SPORT



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BACKGROUND

Biopolymers are gaining increased utilization in industry that promises to boost productivity, especially in the agricultural and health sectors. They can be sustainable, carbon neutral and are renewable because they are made from plant materials.

In January 2013 the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology hosted the first International Biopolymer Workshop in Africa, a result of an unique international cooperation led by the Slovenian Centre of Excellence PoliMaT and Austen BioInnovation Institute of Akron, Ohio. The workshop produced a list of concrete projects of biopolymers application in the fields of medicine and health, agriculture and waste management.

Building upon the success of the Nairobi workshop the event in Washington DC aims to engage with potential investors, especially from the US-based impact investors' community. The discussion will focus on the ways of cooperation to develop environmentally friendly products and sustainable technologies for a low-carbon society of the future.

FEATURED PROJECTS

- 1. Medical Biopolymers: use of bio-polymers in prevention and control of malaria parasites, protective and low cost wound dressing, improving cereal storage and personal water decontamination for households.**
- 2. Biopolymers for Fertilizers and Pesticides: utilization of biopolymers for development of environment-friendly fertilizers and pesticides.**
- 3. Value-driven Solutions in Health: innovative use of biopolymers in orthopedics, wounds, burns and tissue engineering.**
- 4. Improved Utilization of Bioresources: improving the utilization of waste and other problematic bioresources.**
- 5. Waste Management: improving plastic waste management, including organization of recycling of the waste fishing nets.**

LEADING PARTNERS

Austen BioInnovation Institute, Akron, Ohio, USA: Focused on patient-centered innovation and commercialization at the intersection of biomaterials and medicine, the ABIA is working to pioneer the next generation of life-enhancing and life-saving innovation.

Center of Excellence PoliMaT, Ljubljana, Slovenia: A prime example of public-private partnership integrating leading Slovenian businesses and top level R&D institutions in the field of biopolymers. The Centre opened an Information Office in Akron, Ohio in November 2012 and has recently signed an innovation collaboration contract with the ABIA.

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya: A leading University of Global Excellence in Training, Research and Innovation for Development has recently hosted the first International Biopolymer Workshop in Africa and is planning to establish first Biopolymer Centre in Africa to serve as a regional research hub.



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