



ETC Group
News Release
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www.etcgroup.org

First Round of Nano-Hazard Symbol Contest Ends; ETC Group Takes Finalists to the World Social Forum, Nairobi, Kenya, 20-25 January

Hundreds of people from all over the globe participated in ETC Group's competition to design a Nano-Hazard Symbol that warns of the presence of engineered nanomaterials. The winning design will be submitted to international standard-setting bodies responsible for hazard characterisation and could be used as a label on product-packaging or workroom walls. After three full months of activity, the first round of the contest ended January 8. (More information on the competition, along with the list of judges, can be found here: <http://www.etcgroup.org/nanohazard>)

"The response to the Nano-Hazard Symbol competition has been overwhelming, and we're grateful for the participation of scientists, graphic designers, students, artists and many others who submitted 482 designs from 24 countries," said Kathy Jo Wetter of ETC Group. "The judges are going to have a tough time narrowing down the field," she added.

From Philippines to France, Chile to China, Portugal to Peru, creative minds conjured images that would somehow make what is invisible visible (1 nanometer = 1 billionth of a meter), and hint at the unknown health and environmental impacts of these novel materials. (Because of their extremely small size and large surface area, nano-scale particles may be more reactive and more toxic than larger particles of the same substance.)

An independent panel of six judges is now grappling with the hundreds of unique designs posted in the virtual-gallery to winnow the field to a dozen or so finalists. ETC Group staff will take those designs and a boatload of ballots to Nairobi so the 150,000 attendees of the 2007 World Social Forum can select the big winner. All 482 design submissions can be viewed at <http://www.etcgroup.org/gallery2/v/nanohazard/> On January 15, 2007, we'll post the finalists for the Nairobi-phase of the contest here: <http://www.etcgroup.org/gallery2/v/finalists/>

When we're not at the voting booth in Nairobi, ETC Group will host three workshops and participate in several other events. All events will take place at the Moi International Sports Center (Kasarani suburb). Here's the schedule of ETC Group's workshops along with some other events we'll participate in. Watch our web site for updates:

www.etcgroup.org

January 21

What Next? *Hosted by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation*

January 22

Ban Terminator! The Global Campaign to Ban Terminator: from Brazil (2006) to Bonn (2008) *ETC Group workshop*

Regaining control of our natural resources *Hosted by Friends of the Earth International*

New technologies – implications for health, environment & democracy *Hosted by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation*

January 23

From Biotech to Nanotech and back again – Synthetic Biology and Nano Foods: New technologies that will challenge human society and Food Sovereignty *ETC Group workshop*

The New Politics of Food in Africa: Gates Foundation, the Second Green Revolution and the role of international institutions *ETC Group workshop*

ETC contact information:

Pat Mooney and Kathy Jo Wetter of ETC Group are attending the World Social Forum. We have a booth at the WSF venue and / or can be reached by email and the following mobile phone number:

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