

Improvement of Quality Management System of Biological Resources at KCTC through Accreditation with ISO 20387

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Korean Collection for Type Cultures (KCTC) was established in the Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology (KRIBB) in 1985. KCTC joined the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC) in 1985 and the World Data Center for Microorganisms (WDCM) in 1986. It has also gained the status of an International Depositary Authority (IDA) from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 1990 under the Budapest Treaty. KCTC has obtained and maintained the certification of ISO 9001 : 2015 for its quality management system since 2019.

To improve the quality management system to an international standard, KCTC has been accredited in accordance with the recognized International Standard ISO 20387:2018. KCTC staff has completed the required training courses. The procedures of the detailed steps of accession, cultivation, preservation, and distribution of biological resources have been documented. During the application of ISO 20387 accreditation, a group of auditors visited KCTC for three days and carefully checked all documents, equipment, facilities, and procedures. The auditors checked the competency of KCTC staff by in person interviews. The auditors made a list of nonconformities that required corrective action. KCTC submitted the corrections in documents and the documents were finally accepted. This accreditation of ISO 20387:2018 demonstrates technical competence for a defined scope and the operation of the KCTC quality management system.