



Technical Assistance Newsletter

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions



The annual joint meeting of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centres took place from 5 to 8 October, in Geneva

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Activities

1

Annual joint meeting of Basel and Stockholm Conventions regional centres

The annual joint meeting to enhance cooperation and coordination among the regional centres for the Basel and Stockholm Conventions took place at the CIGG, in Geneva, from 5 to 8 October 2015. More than 35 participants from 22 centres attended the meeting, as well as partners from UNEP Chemicals, the Minamata Secretariat, UNEP/OCHA and Keml, the Swedish Chemicals Agency.

The first two days of the meeting were dedicated to discussing the strategy for the strengthening and enhancing the sustainability of the regional centres. The focus of the discussion was on enhancing technical capacity, visibility and on resource mobilisation skills. A training session was specifically delivered on resource mobilization by an external consultant. One half-day focused on the work of Keml, which presented its cooperation programmes and work on chemicals control, highlighting the importance of legislation and existing tools such as the UNEP LIRA Guidance. The last day and a half was devoted to discussions about the Secretariat's draft strategy on the clearing house mechanism, the guidance document on the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism at the national and regional levels, as well as very active information exchanges on their IT capacity and on how the regional centres could benefit from the clearing-house mechanism.

The participants' feedback was very positive, indicating that they appreciated the interactive format of the meeting, which allowed the exchange of many ideas for both the strategy for strengthening regional centres and the clearing house mechanism. The regional centres also greatly valued the training session on resource mobilization and the involvement of external partners, which prompted a lot of interest. The meeting report is now available on the website [here](#).

2

Joint Meeting of National Authorities on the implementation of the Bamako and Basel Conventions

The Interim Secretariat of the Bamako Convention (UNEP-ROA) and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat are organizing a regional

training and awareness-raising workshop for The Bamako and Basel conventions Focal Points and Competent Authorities to promote implementation of both conventions. The workshop will be convened in Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 to 25 November 2015. The working language of the workshop will be English.

The workshop will provide an opportunity for raising awareness of the linkages between the Basel and Bamako conventions; in particular how they jointly can assist Parties to strengthen hazardous waste management at the national level. Participants will consider how the activities under the Bamako convention might be integrated with ongoing chemicals and waste management activities at the national level as well as with relevant regional and global activities, including SAICM. As one of the major outcomes, participants are expected to identify elements of a national plan or strategy for strengthening the implementation of the Bamako convention.

3

Regional workshop on enhancing capacities for the ESM of e-waste in Africa

The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in cooperation with the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region in Nigeria, The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), and the African Union Commission held the Regional workshop on enhancing capacities for the environmentally sound management of waste electrical and electronic equipment (e-waste) through regional delivery in Africa.

The workshop took place in Lagos, Nigeria, from 20 to 23 October 2015. It was attended by government participants from 30 African countries as well as Lagos governmental authorities, academia, representatives of the Regional Centres in Egypt, Senegal, South Africa and China, representatives of the original equipment manufactures (OEMs), local associations for refurbishing and recycling, journalists, civil society organizations and international organizations like UNIDO and the World Bank. The workshop provided hands-on training on challenges related to transboundary movements and the environmentally sound management of e-waste based on the technical guidelines, guidance documents developed under the Basel Convention and PACE. As a follow-up, three countries have been selected to undertake small-scale national level activities to further test technical guidelines and guidance and address specific country needs in the area of transboundary movements and the environmentally sound management of e-waste.

1

The Executive Secretary Rolph Payet's mission to China

The Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Mr Rolph Payet, travelled to China to meet with the Chinese Government, visit Tsinghua University that hosts the Basel and Stockholm regional centres in China, and to deliver a keynote address at the 10th International Conference on Waste Management (ICWMT10). ICWMT is organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific Region in China, which this year was held in Mianyang from 26th to 28th October. Initiated 9 years ago by the BCRC China, ICWMT is an important international platform for specialists and officials to discuss scientific problems, exchange experiences, and look for innovative solutions, attracting yearly more than 500 participants from governments, research institutions, universities and industries. The theme of this year's conference was "Towards Environmental Quality Improvement". After the conference, Mr Payet also opened the Regional Workshop on Chemicals, which provided an opportunity to assess the needs of countries in the Asia and Pacific Region on POPs management.

During his visit to China, Mr Payet met with the Vice Minister for Environment Protection, Mr Li Ganjie and with Prof. Yi Lui, Chairman of the Council of Tsinghua University as well as other professors from the School of Environment, and also delivered a lecture to post-graduate students at the University and a seminar session with students of the new Global Environment Masters Programme.

The Executive Secretary also visited the Chengdu Panda Research Centre to learn more about the conservation efforts and breeding programs for giant pandas and red pandas, emblematic living fossils, which are impacted by toxics such as PCB and PBDE.

2

Retirement of Mr. Nelson Sabogal

After a long and distinguished career in the UN, Mr. Nelson Sabogal retired from the UN, at the end of October.

Mr. Sabogal worked more than twenty two years in UNEP at the Secretariat for the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol in Nairobi, from 1993 to 2002, at the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) in Geneva and from 2002 to 2011, at the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

He was in charge of the coordination and the development of the 14 Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) in SBC, and he led the planning and capacity building for the implementation of the institutional and policy aspects of the Basel Convention. He played a leading role in the synergy process to enhance cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. For this work Mr. Sabogal was one of the winners of the UNEP 2009 Baobab Award.

Mr. Sabogal also worked as a researcher with the Colombian Government and as Professor at the University of La Salle, in Bogotá. After his retirement Mr. Sabogal will return to Colombia. We take the opportunity to wish him all the best for his new life.

3

Gender Mainstreaming in Chemicals and Waste Projects


Two representatives from UNEP's Headquarters, Ms. Mariama Daramy-Lewis, Chief of the Human Resources and Training Section and Mr. Victor Tsang, Programme Officer in the Gender and Social Safeguards Unit, visited the BRS Secretariat on the 9th of October to discuss gender mainstreaming issues with staff from the BRS secretariat, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and UNEP's Chemicals and Wastes Branch. They introduced UNEP's Gender policy as well as related gender aspects to project design and guided the staff through an interactive training on gender in convention implementation projects. Lively discussions during the event signaled strong interest of all colleagues in the gender issue and highlighted its relevance to the Secretariat's day-to-day work.

4

Workshop on PCB management in BCRC Tehran

A workshop on PCB management will be organized in Tehran by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Iran, the Department of Environment of Iran and the private company, Rojan Sanat Alborz, on 9 November, 2015.

The workshop will focus on transferring the latest technologies for POPs management, PCB decontamination, dehalogenation and dechlorination. The target audience will be environmental authorities and other relevant governmental authorities. Keynote speakers for the workshop include, Saeed Motesaddi Zarandi, Deputy Head of Woman Environment, and Seyrd Masoud Monavari, Director of the Basel Convention regional centre in Iran, among others.

Further information is available here: [BCRC Iran](http://BCRCIran.org). 



Engage with Technical Assistance

Webinars & Online Training

November

09 | 16h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Online training prior to the workshop on Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Mercury Waste, in Uruguay. For workshop participants

Session in English

10 | 10h00

12 | 16h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Webinar on the Technical Guidelines on transboundary movements of E-waste.

Session in English

17 | 10h00

19 | 16h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Webinar on the outcomes of POPRC11 and CRC11.

Session in English

17 | 15h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Online training prior to the workshop on the Sound Management of DDT and promotion of non-chemical vector control options, Nairobi. For workshop participants.

Session in English

24 | 10h00

26 | 16h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Webinar on the alternatives to Lindane and Exemptions under the Stockholm Convention (date tbc).

Session in English

30 | 14h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Online training prior to the workshop on updating National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention, in Panama. For workshop participants.

Session in English

Workshops & Meetings

November

5 to 8 | San Francisco, United States of America

Fourth Meeting of the Basel Convention Expert Working Group on Environmentally Sound Management

16 to 18 | Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Sub-regional consultation on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in synergy with Basel and Stockholm Conventions: An integrated approach to pesticides and chemicals management at national and regional levels

24 to 26 | Nairobi, Kenya

Regional workshop on sound life-cycle management of DDT under the Stockholm Convention

17 to 19 | Montevideo, Uruguay

Sub-regional workshop on enhancing capacities for the environmentally sound management of mercury waste

December

8 to 10 | Jakarta, Indonesia

Development, review and update of Implementation Plans and Strategies under the Stockholm Convention (including article 5 of Annex C), replacing Lindane by safer alternatives, and exemptions

* (All schedules are in Geneva local time: UTC/GMT+1)