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7th PACE Working Group meeting

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Activities

1

BRS Secretariat cooperates with UNEP on the training of Asia Pacific customs officials

The Secretariat participated in the Capacity Building Workshop for Senior Customs Officers on Controlling of Environmentally Sensitive Commodities in the Pacific Island Countries (PIC), which was held in the Kingdom of Tonga on 10-14 March 2014. It delivered a remote presentation to the Capacity Building Workshop for Senior Customs Officers on Controlling of Illegal Trade in Chemicals and Wastes for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (SEAP) countries that was held in Lao PDR on 1-4 April 2014.

The meetings were organized by UNEP Ozone Action Compliance Assistance Programme in cooperation with the Regional Enforcement Network, a project funded by Swedish SIDA and implemented by UNEP DELC. They served as an occasion to provide a comprehensive training to customs officers in PIC and SEAP countries on the trade controls and enforcement aspects of the four chemical and waste-related conventions (the Montreal Protocol, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions) and to disseminate the existing tools for customs available in the website of the Secretariat.

2

ENFORCE launches report on challenges to illegal traffic under the Basel Convention

Members of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) prepares a report entitled "Overview of the Challenges and Needs of Parties and Various Stakeholders in Preventing and Combating Illegal Traffic in Line with the Requirements of the Basel Convention," as part of a gaps analysis.

The report is the priority activity of the Roadmap for the members of ENFORCE and will serve to improve cooperation and coordination between relevant entities with a specific mandate to deliver capacity-building activities and tools on preventing and combating illegal traffic under the Basel Convention. It was prepared through the generous support of the Government of the Netherlands.

3

Rotterdam pilot projects on industrial chemicals in developing countries

One of the aims of the Rotterdam Convention is to promote shared responsibilities in hazardous chemicals' international trade. Within the convention, 14 out of the 47 chemicals are under the scope of industrial chemicals, and this is where most developing countries are experiencing challenges.

Against the backdrop of such difficulties, the Secretariat started pilot projects in Botswana and Jordan in 2010, then Mauritania and Honduras in 2012. The projects in Jordan and Botswana have been concluded. Honduras and Mauritania are busily moving onto the next phase which is utilizing their legal and national profiles to develop framework and implementation plans for the management of industrial chemicals. Countries will also determine their status and needs with respect to the resource availability, practicality and plan on how to meet their obligations regarding industrial chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention.

All the information and materials used were compiled in the form of an interactive electronic toolkit (which will also be part of the IOMC Toolbox). Through this platform, other countries will be able to assess their status in comparison and develop their own framework plans tailored to their level of development. The project is expected to end by December 2014 and all the outcomes will be available on the Convention website.

4

Endosulfan: Is it still needed?

The addition of endosulfan to the Rotterdam and the Stockholm conventions brought a number of new challenges to parties in their efforts to reduce or eliminate the use of this chemical. Some countries have already banned it completely, others are identifying main crops and related pests, and some are putting in place alternatives that can be effectively and feasibly used. There are at the moment several ongoing activities to assist countries in better understanding their national situation and identifying their continued need for endosulfan.

To read the draft methodology to facilitate parties' national assessment, please [click here](#).

News

1 CRC Orientation Workshop

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Secretariat is in the process of organizing an orientation workshop for members of the Chemical Review Committee to be held from 19 to 21 May 2014 in Rome. The main objective of the workshop is to familiarize new members with the role and mandate of the Chemical Review Committee, the scientific body of the Rotterdam Convention and its bureau, as well as its operational procedures and policy guidance. The workshop will provide a platform to exchange experience and transfer knowledge related to the Committee's work. It will also help foster efficient working relationships among members of the Committee.

2 Ban Amendment Workshop

The third Global Workshop on facilitation of the entry into force of the Ban Amendment was held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 18 to 19 February 2014. The following countries and regional centres participated in the workshop: Brazil, Guinea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, South Africa, Viet Nam, the BCRC-Egypt and BCRC/SCRC-South Africa. The participants agreed to several conclusions and recommendations, including that: the Ban Amendment is a critical issue that has often not been accorded priority; there is no fundamental opposition to the Ban Amendment, although there is a need to clarify what is its added value. Also, the Parties need to maintain the current momentum in relation to the Ban Amendment status of ratifications. Several parties developed elements of their national roadmaps towards its ratification. If you want to read more about this event, please [click here](#).

3 Chairs' Training

The Pilot training session on chairing meetings of the BRS conventions took place in Glion, Switzerland, from 3 to 5 March 2014. The training was conducted by the Institute of Advanced Studies of the United Nations University in cooperation with the Secretariat. It brought together 17 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, Poland, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, and Switzerland.

The participants benefited from experience of former

chairs who led various BRS processes, including the conferences of the parties, meetings of subsidiary bodies, contact groups, and informal consultations. Through the combination of lectures, case studies, videos and simulation exercises the participants learned firsthand how to effectively chair intergovernmental meetings and guide them toward consensual outcomes. For more information please [click here](#).

4 Regional Centre Small Grant Projects

The government of Norway provided USD 259,000 for the Regional Centres Small Grant Projects for technical assistance. Regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions were invited to submit low cost high impact project proposals. The invitation included, project selection criteria such as the project should be consistent with the expertise of the centre, be based on the needs of the parties and serve as a gateway to a larger project. By 14 February 2014, 16 proposals from 11 centres were received and the following six were selected:

- Assessing the Status of E-waste recycling in Selected Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region and Facilitating the Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste, by BCRC China
- Improving regional management of used lead-acid batteries (ULABs) in the Pacific, by BCRC-SPREP
- Developing a Waste Tyre Management System for the Caribbean Region, by BCRC Caribbean
- Supporting Green Entrepreneurs for a POPs free Mediterranean, by SCRC Spain
- Enhancing the use of the GMP (Global Monitoring Plan) electronic tool and increasing global data management and use submitted by SCRC Czech Republic
- Technical and practical training course on POPs and mercury analysis in various environmental matrices for English-speaking SIDS from the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, by SCRC Brazil.

5 Help tailor Technical Assistance activities to your needs!

In May, Focal Points and Official Contact Points of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will be invited to fill out online questionnaires on priority technical assistance needs to implement the Conventions.

This exercise will allow us to better plan our activities to meet your needs, so please take the time (approximately 20 minutes) to fill out and submit your questionnaires by 31 May 2014. Thank you!

Engage with Technical Assistance in May

1 Webinars

**6
13**

Chemicals under Review by the POPRC

This webinar takes place on 6 May, at 10 AM and 13 May at 4PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English.

For registration, please [click here](#).

13

How to enhance PCB inventories: Identifying PCBs in closed and open applications

This webinar takes place on 13 May, at 10 AM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English.

15

Another session of this webinar is available on 15 May, at 4 PM (Geneva time). This session is also conducted in English.

For registration, please [click here](#).

6

NIP Updating in view of the entry into force of the amendment listing HBCD under the Stockholm Convention (Spanish)

This webinar takes place at 4 PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in Spanish.

For registration, please [click here](#).

20

The Patent Landscape Report on e-Waste Recycling Technologies

This webinar takes place on 20 May, at 10 AM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English.

22

Another session of this webinar is also available on 22 May, at 4 PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English.

For registration, please [click here](#).

8

National reports due through the New Electronic System of the Stockholm Convention

This webinar takes place on 8 May, at 4 PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English.

For registration, please [click here](#).

2 Workshops

12-15 May

Final stakeholders National workshop for the pilot project on strengthening industrial chemicals management under the Rotterdam Convention

This workshop takes place in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

19-21 May

Orientation workshop for the Chemical Review Committee

This workshop takes place in Rome, Italy.

27-29 May

7th PACE Working Group face-to-face meeting

This meeting takes place in Jakarta, Indonesia.