



A pilot programme was started in Peru to eliminate PCBs from equipment in the mining industry, using dechlorination.

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<http://www.basel.int>

<http://www.pic.int>

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# Activities

1

## **Pilot Plan "Decontamination of PCB containing transformers"**

The Basel Regional Centre for South America and the Ministry of Environment of Peru in cooperation with private companies are developing a Pilot Plan named "Decontamination of PCB containing transformers" which will be initiated in October 2014. The pilot is part of the project "Best Practices for PCB Management in Mining Sector South-America", which aims to protect human health and environment by developing sound PCB management plans and pilot testing decreasing the risks associated with contamination of PCBs. The aim of the pilot is to eliminate PCBs from roughly 48 tons of equipment that were detected in the mining industry in Peru, using the process of dechlorination. The local facilities for treatment of PCBs will set an example for future action, and reduce the transborder movement of PCB wastes, and also reducing the risk the environmental contamination. The dechlorination plant will be installed in Andes in Peru, in cooperation with the Milpo SA Company and will represent a special effort and cooperation between the Government and the Private Sector.

2

## **Regional workshop on revising and updating national implementation plans (NIPs) and reporting under the Stockholm Convention**

The regional workshop on NIPs and reporting under the Stockholm Convention took place from 5 to 8 August 2014 in Montevideo, Uruguay in close cooperation with the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Montevideo. The workshop was attended by 24 participants from 10 Latin American Spanish speaking countries. Participants enhanced their understanding of their obligations to review and update NIPs and how the work undertaken in this regard can facilitate their reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention. Participants also benefited from a field visit to a

state of the art cement kiln and exchanged important information regarding standards, technical options and legislation in place. For further information please visit: <http://www.pops.int>

3

## **Synergy capacity building workshop in Belarus**

A regional workshop was held in Minsk, Belarus on 30 June 2014 in relation to the project activity aimed at building national capacity for the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in a synergistic manner, in Belarus, Moldova and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The workshop was attended by 33 participants representing various relevant Ministries, research institutions, NGOs, and media from Belarus, FYR of Macedonia and Moldova. The objective of the workshop was to share the experience on how these countries are implementing the Conventions, what gaps have they identified and what should be the step forward from the experience of other countries. In addition to these they also discussed on the perspective for the Republic of Belarus to become a party of the Rotterdam Convention.

4

## **Have you provided your country's input to the Technical assistance needs assessments?**

The Secretariat has received a number of responses to the questionnaires on technical assistance needs and would like to thank the following Parties for having successfully completed all the relevant questionnaires: Albania, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, China, Colombia, Iraq, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Serbia and Yemen. The responses received will be compiled by the Secretariat and will contribute to the development of the technical assistance activities for the biennium 2016-2017. In the meantime, Parties that have not yet completed the questionnaire are invited to do so, until the 19 September 2014. The questionnaires can be accessed through the following links: [Basel](#), [Rotterdam](#), [Stockholm](#). For further questions, please contact: [ta@brsmeas.org](mailto:ta@brsmeas.org).



# News

1

## Agreement on used tyres in Argentina

An agreement on collaboration and cooperation for the implementation and development of environmentally sound management (ESM) of tyres throughout their life cycle in Argentina was signed in July 2014 between the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Federation of Municipalities of Argentina and the National Institute of Industrial Technology, (INTI) that hosts the BCRC-Argentina.

This agreement will promote the ESM systems on used tyres and is seeking a transfer of scientific, technical and professional information, training and assistance and training in development and management of programs and projects on tires throughout their life cycle and particularly waste tires.

During the event Ms. Beatriz Domingorena, Undersecretary of Environmental Control and Pollution Prevention remarked that "beyond the legal bodies that are already (which is Resolution SADS 523/2013 and a Manual on tyres) and practice guidelines, be able to form a second stage where all municipalities to adhere to have an appreciation of this waste. She added "that the objective sought in the accession is working hard on the reuse of this waste and reducing especially its source and effect of contamination of the community."

2

## Technical Assistance at the OEWG 9

Delegates to the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group Meeting in September are invited to visit the exhibition area of the Secretariat's technical assistance programme. The exhibition will illustrate the technical assistance approach taken based on the needs assessment, showcase tools developed, trainings and cooperation projects with the BCRCS and other partners, etc.

Further, there will be several side events on waste related topics, for example the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

(PACE) will report on progress made with pilot projects; two country representatives together with WIPO will discuss the use of patent information on e-waste recycling technologies, and the World Resource Forum and EMPA will provide details about their global sustainable recycling industries programme.

3

## PACE photo contest

As one of the agenda items of the PACE side event, a photo contest is launched on the theme "The challenge of sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment", in order to show challenges and solutions on this matter.

Parties and Signatories to the Basel Convention, Regional Centres, IGOs, NGOs, academia and PACE members are invited to explore among others the many ways used and end-of-life computing equipment affects the environment and health, and how people can protect themselves and nature from these harmful goods.

A jury will select the best 20 entries, which will be displayed at the PACE side event while the 3 final winners will be awarded. Finally, the entries will feature on a dedicated section of the webpage of the Basel Convention.

4

## Call for submissions for the publication entitled "Gender Heroes"

In preparation for the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in May 2015, the Secretariat is developing a publication entitled "Gender Heroes".

The publication will consist of a collection of stories on how gender issues are considered in and impacted by hazardous chemicals and wastes management at the local, national and regional levels. The Secretariat has made a call for short stories on activities related to gender and chemicals and wastes. The deadline for submissions is 1 October 2014.

For more information please contact Tatiana Terekhova ([tatiana.terekhova@brsmeas.org](mailto:tatiana.terekhova@brsmeas.org)) and Susan Wingfield ([susan.wingfield@brsmeas.org](mailto:susan.wingfield@brsmeas.org)).

# Engage with Technical Assistance

1

## Webinars

*\*(All schedules are in Geneva local time: UTC/GMT+2)*

**2**

**September**

**4**

Updating National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention: priority setting for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs

This webinar takes place on 2 September, at 10 AM and 4 September at 4PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English. [Schedule and registration](#)

**9**

**September**

**23**

Environmentally Sound Management of Asbestos: the experience of South-East Asia during the post Disaster Reconstruction

This webinar takes place on 9 September, at 10 AM and 23 September at 4PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English. [Schedule and registration](#)

**23**

**September**

**25**

Draft guidance to assist parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the CRC in their work when a chemical under consideration is a POP listed under the Stockholm Convention

This webinar takes place on 23 September, at 10 AM and 25 September at 4PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English. [Schedule and registration](#)

**30**

**September  
October**

**2**

Webinar on the intersessional work of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention

This webinar takes place on 30 September, at 10 AM and 2 October at 4PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English. [Schedule and registration](#)

2

## Workshops

**14 September**

National workshop on SHPF

**Muscat, Oman**

**29 September -  
1 October**

Workshop on Asbestos for the Asia-Pacific region

**Jakarta, Indonesia**

**29 September -  
3 October**

Subregional workshop on RC Training and NAPs

**Guatemala City, Guatemala**

**8-10 October**

Sub-Regional Workshop on Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**

**22-24 October**

Sub-Regional Workshop on Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention

**Pretoria, South Africa**

**27-31 October**

Technical and practical training on POPs and Mercury

For more details, contact CETESB at São Paulo, Brazil.

**São Paulo, Brazil**