



Issue. 13

September

2015

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- Environmentally sound management of e-wastes through the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative Regional training on e-waste for the African countries
- Development, review and update of implementation plans and strategies under the Stockholm Convention
- National Stakeholder consultation meeting and training on the Ban Amendment

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# Activities

1

## Preparation for annual joint meeting of regional centres under Basel and Stockholm Conventions

The annual joint meeting of the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions is being convened from 5 to 8 October 2015 in Geneva. The meeting, among others, aims at enhancing cooperation and coordination between the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and also to promote and enhance synergies in the delivery of technical assistance under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Further, the meeting will provide an opportunity for the regional centres to exchange experiences and discuss amongst themselves, as well as with the Secretariat and other relevant partners including GEF secretariat, on issues such as the requests made by the relevant meetings of the conferences of the parties to Basel & Stockholm Conventions. During this meeting, the directors of the centres will have opportunity to interact with the Swedish Chemicals Agency and discuss on how to forge collaboration on the management of chemicals and waste in their respective region as well as on the role of regional centres in the Clearing House Mechanism under the three conventions.

Several preparatory works regarding the meeting have been taken place. The meeting agenda has been finalized in consultation with the relevant partners. The directors of the centres, the GEF, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the Swedish Chemical Agency, and the Permanent Missions of the countries hosting the regional centres have been invited to participate in the meeting. On 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August, online consultations with Regional Centres were held as a part of the preparation of the meeting. Following 12 centres were present in these meetings: BCRC/SCRC Iran, BCRC/SCRC Senegal, BCRC/SCRC China, BCRC Slovakia, BCCC/SCRC Uruguay, BCRC Egypt, and BCRC CAM, BCRC/SCRC Indonesia, SCRC India, SCRC Spain, SCRC Czech Republic, and BCCC Nigeria. For further information please click on the [link](#).

2

## Regional workshop on enhancing the capacity of customs and ports personnel in the Arab counties

The workshop was organized by the BCRC Egypt and took place in Alexandria, Egypt, from the 12-15 August 2015. Participants in the workshop were focal points from Egypt, Libya, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Mauritania, Algeria,

Sudan, and Jordan. The Secretariat participated remotely and delivered opening remarks via a video recorded message as well as two presentations on practical aspects on enforcement and available training tools for customs officers and enforcement authorities. For more information, please click on the [link](#).

3

## Follow up Seminars on industrial chemicals for the Caribbean

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago organized 2 National Follow-up Seminars for Trinidad and Tobago and for Belize on 22 and 30 of July. These were part of the deliverables for the project that was started in the Caribbean sub-region last year and whose main objectives were:

- To raise awareness on the Rotterdam convention; provide tools and approaches to use to apply precaution in industrial chemicals management (such as GHS, information collection, risk assessment/management guidance, Industrial Chemicals management Toolkit, IOMC Toolbox, WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit) and specifically pilot test the industrial chemicals interactive electronic toolkit developed by the Rotterdam convention.
- To raise awareness on the mechanisms for cooperation and coordination relevant for decision-making and information sharing processes necessary for implementing obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

The opening remarks were delivered by the Secretariat via Skype. The stakeholders were encouraged to develop strategies for dealing with the gaps revealed in the National Chemicals Profile updates. The secretariat reinforced the necessity to have legal documents that clearly stated who does what among the stakeholders (e.g. provision of risk assessment information by industry). It was also important for the stakeholders to own the programme so as to sustain the activities.

4

## 3rd Teleconference of ENFORCE

The third Teleconference of the Environment Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) took place on the 1st July 2015 at 14h00 Geneva time. Members of the network had the opportunity to welcome the new members that were elected at COP12 of the Basel Convention, discuss the online tool to share information and to prepare for the second face to face meeting. In addition, representatives from GRID and OSCE had an opportunity to disseminate the latest information on the activities that have been carried out by their organizations.



1

## COP decisions follow-up: requests for information

As a follow-up to the decisions taken at the 2015 Conferences of the Parties, the Secretariat's Executive Secretary sent out several letters to Parties during the summer, requesting them to submit information by a specific deadline. We would like to highlight the invitation to provide information related to technical assistance needs and the invitation to provide comments on guidance related to National Implementation Plans.

Developing country parties and parties with economies in transition are requested to submit information on their technical assistance needs, as well as any difficulties they face in implementing the Conventions. Developed parties and parties with the capacity to do so are requested to submit information on technical assistance available to be transferred. Information will need to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016. An online questionnaire will be made available on the Secretariat's website for information submission.

Under the decision on National Implementation Plans, , parties are requested to provide comments based on their experience in using the most up-to date versions of specific draft guidance documents. Parties are also requested to provide comments on other guidance documents. Comments need to be sent to [Cherryl Andre de la Porte](#) by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

2

## Study tour by the Government Chemist Laboratory Agency of the United Republic of Tanzania

A request was received for a train-the-trainer programme from the Chief Executive Officer of the Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (GCLA) in the United Republic of Tanzania, which is also the Designated National Authority (DNA) for industrial chemicals, to visit the BRS Secretariat for specific training on the Rotterdam convention on 24-28 August.

The delegation consisted of Professor Samuel Manyele (Head, GCLA) and Dr. Sabanito Mtega. They made a presentation of the current situation on chemicals management in Tanzania and the challenges being met. Their programme contained the following elements:

- Presentations of the Rotterdam PIC procedure and simulation exercises on Import Responses; notifications of Final Regulatory Actions; and Export notifications. Use of the e-learning tool on the operation of the Rotterdam Convention (ITORC). Website navigation, DNA guidance and access to the on-line forms for IRs, FRAs and Export notifications.
- Presentations on the synergies between Basel,

Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; POPRC and CRC operations; SAICM and the Special Programme; Mercury and the Minamata Convention; UNITAR and the GHS; and SDGs.

- A visit was made to WHO, where they received information on the Chemical risk assessment network and on Poison Centres.

After the training they expressed their appreciation to the BRS Secretariat and all the other International IGOs (UNITAR, WHO, UNEP Chemicals, SAICM secretariat, Minamata Convention secretariat).

3


## ITU Connect 2020 Agenda tackles E-waste

In 2014 the ITU Member States at their Plenipotentiary Conference adopted the "Connect 2020 Agenda for global ICT development". Under goal 3 on Sustainability, the Agenda includes the target 3.2: "Volume of redundant e-waste to be reduced by 50% by 2020". The target 3.2 describes the expected final achievement in e-waste reduction, which can only be reached by a combination of activities addressing the different stages of the ICT product life cycle, i.e. telecommunication and licensing issues, trade and tax, health, production, recycling and disposal. Together with ITU, Salt, Ericsson, UNIDO and UNU, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention is member of the contact group that develops a roadmap for the implementation of this e-waste target. The roadmap is to be finalized in September for submission to the ITU Study Group on Environment in October 2015.

4

## Household waste in the Focus

One of the key problems related to waste faced by national governments and municipalities, particularly in developing countries, is the handling, storage and disposal of the increasing quantities and changing characteristics of household waste. Household waste includes nearly always hazardous substances and objects. Therefore, waste collected from households requires special consideration (Basel Convention, Annex II, Y46).

COP 12 adopted decision BC-12/13 on creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste. An Informal Group was established and tasked with the development of a work plan for consideration by OEWG 10. In addition to several countries and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, also 11 Regional Centres already joined the group. Further Parties, Regional Centres and other stakeholders from industry and NGOs are encouraged to join the informal group which will start its work in October this year. 



# Engage with Technical Assistance

## Webinars

### September

01 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

03 | 16h00

Chemicals under review by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC)

Session in English

08 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

09 | 16h00

Alternatives to Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)

Session in English

16 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

SAICM: the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM 4) briefing

Session in English

29 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Briefing on the 11th meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants review Committee (POPRC11) and the 11th CRC 11th meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC11)

Session in English

### October

01 | 15h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Briefing on the 11th meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants review Committee (POPRC11) and the 11th CRC 11th meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC11)

Session in English

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

## Workshops & Meetings

### September

6 to 8 | Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Inception Workshop on Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations Monitoring under the Rotterdam Convention

### October

7 to 9 | 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

5 to 8 | Geneva, Switzerland

Annual joint meetings to enhance cooperation and coordination between regional centers under Basel and Stockholm Conventions

5 to 8 | Geneva, Switzerland

Meeting of the global coordination group for the global monitoring plan

13 to 15 | Kyrgyzstan

Enhancing Parties capacities for the environmentally sound management of e-wastes through the enhanced regional delivery in support of the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative in CEE and Central Asia

20 to 23 | Lagos, Nigeria

Regional training on e-waste for the African countries

27 to 29 | Panama

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

28 to 30 | Malawi

National Stakeholder Consultation meeting and training on the Ban Amendment