



BASEL CONVENTION

the world environmental agreement on wastes

BASEL CONVENTION bulletin

April 2006

Editorial-Basel Convention Bulletin April 2006

Dear Readers,

The April issue of the Basel Convention Bulletin coincides with our fifth Open-ended Working Group meeting (OEWG5). OEWG5 is the most significant step in the preparations of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, which will take place from 27 November to 1 December in Nairobi, Kenya.

On the agenda of OEWG5 is the implementation of the Basel Convention Strategic Plan, in particular, the streamli-

ning of activities according to focus areas, which are based on the priority waste streams established at COP7. A new budget structure is proposed, organized according to the activities performed by the Secretariat. The new structure is divided into two main sections, namely Policy Direction and Operational Support, and Strategic Plan Focus Areas'. The proposed budget would be presented in two parts; firstly, the services and resources required for the Basel Convention Trust Fund for the years 2007 and 2008; and, secondly, the services, resources and voluntary contributions that would be needed under the Basel Convention

¹ These are: 1. **Global programmes:** E-waste (Mobile Phones, E-waste global partnership), Illegal traffic, Ship dismantling, Liability and 2. **Regional programmes:** E-waste (Asia and Pacific, Latin America), POPs (West Africa, Central America), Illegal traffic (Central and Eastern Europe), Biomedical and healthcare waste (Africa), Used lead acid batteries (Caribbean, Mediterranean), National legislation (SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs), Used oil (Africa, Caribbean, Mediterranean), Municipalities (Latin America, Mediterranean, SIDS), Obsolete pesticides (Caribbean, Central Asia).

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Senior Officials Meeting on the 3R Initiative, Tokyo, Japan

The Senior Officials Meeting on the 3R Initiative (SOM) was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 6-8 March 2006 and was hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Japan. Representatives from twenty countries participated in the meeting including the European Commission, eight international organizations and networks, including the Basel Convention Secretariat. The SOM was a follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on the 3R Initiative held in Tokyo in April 2005, which formally launched the Initiative by G8 leaders at the Sea Island Summit (please consult the Basel Convention Bulletin of July 2005 <http://www.basel.int/press/bulleting0705.pdf>)

Presentations were made by countries and international organizations on the progress, problems encountered with and activities undertaken to implement the 3Rs. The meeting was also held to enable the sharing of knowledge on the advancement of activities from participating countries, to communicate future directions in the implementation of the 3Rs and to consider issues related to the transboundary movements of 3R related goods, materials and products.

In her presentation, Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, emphasized that different waste management options should be considered, taking into account the waste hierarchy. The environmentally sound management of waste should be applied to all wastes, whether hazardous or non-hazardous. She also proposed that ESM should be promoted at 3 levels: (i) nationally, the environmental performance of recycling markets should be improved through regulations and voluntary measures, (ii) regionally, there should be a level playing field ensuring that the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes is predictable, transparent and traceable, which could be achieved by fully implementing the Basel Convention, and (iii) globally, the Basel Convention promotes public-private partnerships to develop guidelines, including on end-of-life products such as e-wastes and mobile phones. In parallel, two Working Groups considered the following issues: the promotion of international cooperation, the cooperation among stakeholders and the promotion of science and technology.



H.E. Mrs. Koike, Minister of the Environment, Japan, showing Mottainai Furoshiki wrapping cloths made from recycled material - Photo SBC

The SOM facilitated the exchange of information and experiences for the promotion of 3Rs and recognized the different levels in development and needs of countries in the implementation of the concept. The delegates supported the continuation of the dialogue and process and welcomed the proposal by Japan to organize regional activities in Asia while international organizations announced various activities to jointly promote 3Rs including sub-regional policy dialogues, the creation of knowledge hubs on 3Rs and support to several countries in Asia to develop national 3R strategies.

In conjunction with the SOM, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Ministry of Environment of Japan organized a lunch seminar highlighting the implementation of the Basel Convention Partnership on the Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste for the Asia-Pacific Region, as a concrete contribution to the 3R Initiative. Consultations are being held with industry and financial institutions regarding their participation in support of the Partnership.

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One World, Don't Waste It



Dr. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto

Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to execute proposed activities and finance participation at meetings of the Parties.

For discussion is also the matter of sustainable financing. As part of the Secretariat's study on the examination of Article 14 and the Resource Mobilization Strategy, options for short-term, mid-term and long-term action to enhance sustainability and predictability of adequate resources for the Convention's implementation, with a special emphasis on the role of the Global Environment Facility, will be presented. The aim is the most effective mechanisms for securing necessary resources for the Basel Convention through

a review of available options.

The strengthening of the administrative and institutional capacity of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCs) as well as their streamlining into an operational network will also be placed at the forefront of our discussions. Against the backdrop of the BCRCs' role in both the implementation of the Basel Convention and the creation of synergies at the regional level, their activities can be streamlined into two areas; the focal areas of the Strategic Plan and the assessment of regional needs for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.

In light of the Synergies Study being prepared pursuant to decision I/18 adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Supplementary Analysis of Financial and Administrative Arrangements to be prepared pursuant to the decision adopted by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, the examination of cooperation and synergies has been placed on the agenda for consideration at OEWG5 in order to make a recommendation at COP8.

In this issue of the Basel Convention Bulletin, you will also find articles on the next steps of the 3R

Initiative launched at the G8 Summit in Japan in April 2005, updates on key projects run by BCRCs and news on the Joint Working Group on Ship Scrapping with substantive discussions for consideration in the development of a new legal instrument on ship recycling.

The issues linked to the transboundary movements and management of hazardous and other wastes evolve continuously and rapidly. New waste streams need our sustained attention, such as used electrical and electronic equipment or the dismantling of obsolete ships, which are now high on the agenda of international environmental diplomacy.

In order to support the Basel Convention as it adapts to a rapidly changing world where new and emergent waste issues are compounding the growing problems of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes across national boundaries, and to ensure its sound implementation, one of the overarching issues needing to be addressed by Parties remains the securing of adequate resources for the next biennium and beyond. I wish you fruitful and proactive discussions.

*By Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto
Executive Secretary
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APFED Expert Meeting on the 3R Initiative in Asia, Tokyo, Japan

For background information on the 3R Initiative: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" please consult the July 2005 copy of the Basel Convention Bulletin <http://www.basel.int/press/bulleting0705.pdf>

The Asia Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Japan, convened an expert meeting on the 3R Initiative in Asia on 6 March 2006 at the United Nations University in Tokyo, at which the Secretariat of the Basel Convention participated. The meeting was attended by technical experts and representatives from national governments, research institutes, industry, non-governmental and international organizations.

The meeting discussed the implementation, promotion and international cooperation around the 3R Initiative in Asia and the Pacific. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention made a presentation in which the Basel Convention's contributions to the promotion of the 3Rs through the application of the principle of the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other

wastes was highlighted. Further, the Secretariat informed the meeting that international cooperation to promote the 3R Initiative in Asia under the Basel Convention is implemented through partnership programmes which focus on integrated waste management and the life-cycle approach. A number of initiatives have been undertaken to promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in Asia which include (1) 2005-2006 Global Partnership Programme on e-Waste, (2) Partnership Programme on Environmentally Sound Management of Electronic and Electrical Wastes in the Asia Pacific Region, and (3) Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative.

The outcome and recommendations of the meeting formed the basis for the Senior Officials Meeting on the 3R Initiative that was held on 6-8 March 2006 in Tokyo (please see relevant article).

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Photo Still Pictures



International Conference on Chemicals Management- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

SAICM's purpose is to achieve increased efficiency and coherence in international chemicals management, and to fill existing gaps in chemicals management at the national, regional and global levels, covering all aspects of chemical safety.

UNEP Governing Council, at its seventh Special Session in February 2002, adopted Decision SS.VII/3 on a "Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management" (SAICM). The Governing Council decided that there was a need to further develop a strategic approach and endorsed as a foundation for such an approach, the IFCS Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action Beyond 2000. The initiative was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002. In February 2003 a progress report was considered by UNEP Governing Council. The Council adopted decision 22/4 IV endorsing the concept of an international conference to be held around the end of 2005.

A first preparatory meeting, SAICM PrepCom1, was held in Bangkok on 9-13 November 2003, following on from the IFCS Forum IV meeting. SAICM PrepCom2 was held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 4-8 October 2004. SAICM PrepCom3 took place in Vienna, Austria, on 19-24 September 2005. An "International Conference on Chemicals Management" (ICCM) to adopt the completed SAICM took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 4-6 February 2006.

The ICCM adopted the Dubai Declaration, an Overarching Policy and Strategy, a Global Plan of Actions and ICCM Resolutions.

The overall objective of SAICM is the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. Its scope includes (1) the environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemical safety and (2) agricultural and industrial chemicals, with a view to promoting sustainable development and covering chemicals at all stages of their life-cycle, including in products and wastes. SAICM does not cover chemical products to the extent that their health and environmental safety aspects are regulated by a domestic food or pharmaceutical authority or arrangement.

The Dubai Declaration on International

Chemicals Management affirms that the sound management of chemicals is essential for the achievement of sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease and the improvement of human health and the environment. It recognizes that significant but insufficient progress has been achieved in international chemicals management through various treaties and agreements, and the efforts of the private sector and civil society. Fundamental changes are mentioned as being needed in the way societies manage chemicals in order to achieve chemical safety, combat poverty, protect vulnerable groups, and advance public health and human security from chemicals by 2020. Capacity building and gaps in chemical management have to be strengthened in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes at all levels, and to continue mobilizing national and international financing from public and private sources.

ICCM AND THE BASEL CONVENTION

For the Basel Convention, the inclusion of the life cycle approach as one of the main principles of SAICM is a welcome achievement. The Dubai Declaration also puts emphasis on the promotion of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes as a priority. The implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and their synergies and coherence, and the prevention of illegal traffic in toxic, hazardous chemical products and wastes are also underlined in the Declaration. In the Global Plan of Action, the role of the Basel Convention Secretariat and of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) are well entrenched in relation to appropriate work areas and activities. The BCRCs are uniquely positioned to steer regional efforts in the wider context of the sound management of wastes and chemicals. Therefore, their active participation in the implementation of the Global Plan of Actions could make a significant contribution to achieving the 2020 goal.

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BCRC for the Arab States-Meetings of the Steering Committee (SCC) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC) held in Cairo on 15 March 2006.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Centre (SCC-1) was held in Cairo on 14 March 2006 to evaluate the Centre's activities. The members of the SCC are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates, nominated by the Parties served by the Centre, the Director of the Centre, and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, ex officio. The members of the Steering Committee elected by consensus are Mr. Adel El Shafee of Egypt as the Chairperson and Dr. Mohammed ElKhashasna of Jordan as the Vice-Chairperson. Representatives of the Governments of Libya and Finland and of two NGOs also attended. The meeting established the SCC as the governing body of the Centre.

It also provided the Project Steering Committee (PSC) with the mandate to manage the project "Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Basel Convention" funded by Finland. The PCS is composed of nine members, the same members as the SCC and representatives of the Governments of Bahrain and Finland. The first meeting of the PSC reviewed and approved the work programme of the project for 2006, and set a budget of US\$390,415 for 2006.

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Call for Submissions of National Legislation on Basel Convention

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention maintains a collection of national legislation and measures of the Parties to the Convention to implement the Basel Convention, both in hard copy and in electronic form. These can be found on the SBC website at the following URL: <http://www.basel.int/legalmatters/natleg/frset-main.html>. (some texts are only available in the national language of the country concerned).

The Secretariat notes that, the Convention requires that Parties introduce appropriate national/domestic legislation to prevent and punish illegal traffic and, under the Convention, the Parties consider that illegal traffic is criminal. The Secretariat would particularly welcome receiving texts of legislation or other measures establishing criminal penalties for illegal traffic.

Please send national legislation texts to:
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New Impetus for Co-ordinated Approach to Ship Recycling

The Joint Working Group on Ship Scrapping established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Parties to the Basel Convention convened in Geneva on 12-14 December 2005. The meeting was hosted by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on behalf of the three Organizations at the UN Headquarters in Geneva.

Since the first meeting of the Joint Working Group in February 2005, the IMO's Assembly adopted a resolution seeking the development of a legally binding instrument on ship recycling. The resolution noted the role of the Basel Convention and the ILO on this issue. This instrument would provide global regulations on the design, construction, operation and preparation of ships so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling. It would also encompass the operation of environmentally sound ship recycling and the establishment of an appropriate enforcement mechanism for ship recycling.

The Joint Working Group made recommendations for consideration in the development of the new instrument and substantive discussions took place on;

- ◆ The experience of prior informed consent for ship recycling between States;
- ◆ Requirements of a reporting system for ships destined for scrapping;
- ◆ Basic principles of an applicable control mechanism;
- ◆ Pre-cleaning and preparation of ships;
- ◆ Practical approaches that promote occupational health and safety and environmentally sound management of ship scrapping;
- ◆ Possible roles of concerned States, such as flag States, port States and recycling States in the context of occupational health and safety and the

environmentally sound management of ship scrapping and the potential benefits of a mandatory ship recycling plan.

In parallel to the development of a new instrument on ship recycling, an International Ship Recycling Fund may be established in the near future in its support.

The Joint Working Group also discussed progress made in ongoing activities such as the promotion of the implementation of guidelines on ship recycling, the examination of relevant ILO, IMO and Basel Convention Guidelines on Ship Recycling, as well as joint technical co-operation activities. An IMO workshop on technical aspects of ship recycling earlier this year in Izmir, Turkey, was noted as a useful precedent for the participation of the three organizations in each other's activities.

The Joint Working Group recommended that each Organization invite the other two Organizations to participate in the workshops or seminars organized by the Organization and that each Organization include in the programme of its activities a section providing information on the Guidelines of the other two Organizations. Governments and other stakeholders are also invited to provide information to the three Organizations on any technical co-operation activities or other relevant initiatives already launched or planned so that these activities could be taken into

account in the future technical co-operation programmes of the Organizations.

The Joint Working Group was set up by the three Organizations to act as a platform for consultation, co-ordination and co-operation in relation to their



Photo Still Pictures

work programmes and activities with regard to issues related to ship scrapping. The Group aims to promote a co-ordinated approach to the relevant aspects of ship scrapping in order to avoid duplication of work and overlapping of roles, responsibilities and competencies between the three Organizations. It also aims at identifying further needs relating to ship scrapping globally.

The full report of the meeting is on:
<http://www.basel.int/legalmatters/ilo-imo-sbc-ug/frsetmain.html>

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Status of Ratifications

The Basel Convention has 168 Parties. Since our last Bulletin, Sudan and the Central African Republic acceded to the Convention on 9 January 2006 and 24 February 2006, respectively. Both Indonesia and Albania became a Party to the Ban Amendment, on 24 October 2005 and on 27 October 2005 respectively, bringing the total of Parties to 61. There were no further accessions to the Protocol, leaving its number of Contracting Parties to 7.

The following United Nations Members are not yet a Party to the Basel Convention:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 7. Grenada | 13. San Marino | 20. Timor-Leste |
| 2. Angola | 8. Haïti | 14. Sao Tomé & Príncipe | 21. Tonga |
| 3. Congo (Republic of the -) | 9. Iraq | 15. Sierra Leone | 22. Tuvalu |
| 4. Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 10. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 16. Solomon Islands | 23. United States |
| 5. Fiji | 11. Myanmar | 17. Somalia | 24. Vanuatu |
| 6. Gabon | 12. Palau | 18. Suriname | 25. Zimbabwe |
| | | 19. Tajikistan | |

Outcomes of 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of Used Lead Acid Batteries Project in Latin America

The Second Steering Committee of the project entitled 'Regional Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB Project)' was organised jointly by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in El Salvador (BCRC-El Salvador) and the Caribbean Centre of Trinidad and Tobago (BCRC-Trinidad and Tobago) on 24-26 January 2006 with the support of the Basel Convention Secretariat. The following countries participated; Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago as well as the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), Environment West Indies (EWI, Martinique), University of West Indies (UWI), International Lead Management Center (ILMC), and from El Salvador the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources, Finances, Health, Baterías El Salvador, Baterías Laser-El Salvador, University of El Salvador, Fire Department, National Policy.

The discussions were conducted by three Working Groups: Technical matters, Legal matters, and Economic and Financial Strategy and Political Support. The meeting reviewed the draft regional strategy developed in collaboration with governmental, industrial, academic and international organizations to achieve the environmentally sound management of ULAB.

The presentations focused on the status of implementation of the project, on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of ULAB in the participating countries, on the ULAB Training Manual and on the principles of the environmentally sound management of ULAB and the Green Lead Initiative. The national presentations allowed for exchanges of experiences between countries. The discussion of the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee

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Call for Information on Article 11 Agreements and Arrangements

By Article 11, paragraph 2 of the Convention, Parties are required to inform the Secretariat of any bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements regarding movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes. Parties are requested to transmit all such agreements and arrangements that they have entered into. Texts should be transmitted in one of the United Nations languages. The Secretariat would like to place the texts of such agreements on the Basel Convention website, to provide an information resource for all those engaged in the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

Please send national legislation texts to:
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Regional Workshop Aimed at Addressing Aspects and Obstacles to the Process of Ratification of or Accession to the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation

The Basel Convention Secretariat organized a regional workshop aimed at promoting the ratification of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (the Liability Protocol) in Warsaw, on 18-20 January 2006. The workshop was jointly organized by the Chief Inspector for Environmental Protection in Poland and the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Bratislava and was supported by the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the European Union (TAIEX).

The workshop is the latest in a series of workshops on the Liability Protocol, organized to identify the problems faced by countries in the region in order to facilitate and to promote its ratification, as well as to share the experiences and solutions to the problems faced when implementing the Protocol into domestic legislation.

The workshop was attended by experts currently involved in the implementation of the Basel Convention at the national level and in the process of ratification of international treaties, as well as by experts who would be involved in the practical imple-

mentation of the Liability Protocol at the national level once that instrument is ratified. The countries represented were: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYR of Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and the Slovak Republic.

The meeting was also a platform to discuss the current status of the European Union legislation on transboundary movements of wastes, in particular, the Waste Shipment Regulation and the Directive on Environmental Liability, and the changes foreseen to the waste shipment regulation, and to analyse the potential discrepancies between the Liability Protocol and the EU legislation. The participant countries suggested that SBC should start a dialogue with the European Union with the aim of finding possible solutions for the ratification of the Liability Protocol by Member States.

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Project on the Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB Containing Equipment in Central America

The implementation of the project on national inventories and national action plans for the environmentally sound management of PCBs and PCB containing equipment in Central America has reached its final phase. In January and February 2006, countries of the region carried out their second national workshops and presented their preliminary inventories of PCB containing equipment. They also presented their draft national action plans for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCBs by 2025, which is the deadline set by the Stockholm Convention for phasing out PCB containing equipment.

The results presented at the national meetings show that countries will be able to prepare PCB inventories of all large transformers and the facilities used for electricity production and transmission. Based on the

assessment of existing national legislation in the participating countries, one expected outcome of the project will be a harmonized draft national legislation which implements the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The final regional meeting of the project will take place on 26-28 April 2006 in El Salvador. Final reports are expected end of May 2006. The project will be the basis for follow up regional activities aiming at the final disposal of PCBs in the Central American region.

For more information and to obtain a summary of the meeting, please contact:
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International Seminar on New Trends in Hazardous and Medical Waste Management - International Workshop on Reasons and Remedies for Sustainable Health Care Waste Management-Japan

The Basel Convention Secretariat participated in an International Seminar on New Trends in Hazardous and Medical Waste Management at Okayama University on 24 February 2006 and in an International Workshop on Reasons and Remedies for Sustainable Health Care Waste Management on 27 February 2006 at the United Nations University in Tokyo. Both events dealt with biomedical and healthcare wastes, a priority waste stream identified by the Strategic Plan and the Ministerial Statement of the Basel Convention. These workshops provided a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of the development and implementation of sustainable waste

management strategies for healthcare facilities. The Basel Convention presented the "Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Biomedical and Healthcare Wastes" as well as the "Guidance Manual on the Preparation of National Health-Care Waste Management Plans in Sub-Saharan Countries". The activities of the Basel Convention Regional Centres in health-care waste management were also presented.

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Public-Private Partnerships: an Update on the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative

The Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, initiated by the Basel Convention under the leadership of the Swiss Government, is a unique public-private partnership composed of experts from Parties and Signatories to the Basel Convention, Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres, representatives of mobile phone manufacturers, telecom operators, refurbishers, recyclers, environmental and industrial NGOs and representatives of the Basel Convention Secretariat.



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The goal of the MPPI is to promote, worldwide, the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones.

Marco Buletti (Switzerland, chair of the Mobile Phone Working Group) mentioned: "The MPPI is a successful example of a Public Private Partnership within the framework of the Basel Convention. With the experience gained, it should help conducting further international Partnerships of the Convention".

The MPPI work programme, in its first phase, focused on developing five individual Guidelines, dealing with the refurbishment of used mobile phones, collection, transboundary movements, material recovery and recycling of end-of-life mobile phones, and awareness raising on design considerations.

As of today four Guidelines (collection, refurbishment, material recovery and recycling, and awareness raising on design considerations) have been approved by the Mobile Phone Working Group (MPWG) under the OEWG and will soon be made available in printed form for implementation and training through the countries and the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centers. It will also be of help to the industry involved.

The recommendations and executive summaries of the Guidelines have been incorporated into an overall Guidance Document on Environmentally Sound Management of Used and End-of-Life Mobile Phones, which will be submitted to the eighth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention (COP 8) for consideration and approval.

The project group dealing with transboundary movement issues made good progress. Nevertheless, discussions in this working group are still ongoing. It is foreseen that these last Guidelines should be finalized within the next few months.

In the second phase, the MPPI working group will focus on preparing and initiating concrete pilot projects in the field on collection and treatment schemes for used and end-of-life mobile phones in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as agreed by the work programme. The objective is to test the effectiveness of the recommendations on collection and treatment schemes and to test the Guidelines that have been developed by the various project groups. The aim is also to raise awareness on the importance and potential of local action and planning of successful take back schemes for used and end-of-life mobile phones. In parallel to the pilot projects, a similar project will be undertaken by France Telecom Orange in Senegal. The information and data collected will be shared between all pilot projects as part of the MPPI.

"The concrete pilot projects of the MPPI will be an important and measurable result of the Initiative, which should also increase awareness concerning the worldwide issue of electrical and electronic waste" said Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention.

In addition to pilot projects on collection systems, two pilot projects were initiated in February to test the Guidelines on the Refurbishment of Used Mobile Phones. Two refurbishment companies, Fonebak (UK) and ReCellular (USA), agreed to test these Guidelines for six months, and to prepare recommendations for the MPWG's consideration, identifying areas that need improvements or changes.

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Consultative Meeting on Obsolete Pesticides Management in the Caribbean

In order to prepare for the launching of the project for the final disposal of existing obsolete pesticides and selected Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the prevention of future accumulation in the Caribbean, the Basel Convention Secretariat, UNEP Chemicals and the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Trinidad and Tobago organised a meeting on 23-24 March 2006 in Macoya, Tunapuna. This meeting set up of a road map for the project, based on a document which had been previously sent to all the countries of the region. In the short-term, the project aims to remove all stockpiles of obsolete pesticides from the countries participating in the project in an efficient and cost-effective manner. In the long-term, the objective is to enhance the collective capacity of the participating countries in planning and implementing their national policies for the environmentally sound management of pesticides in compliance with the Stockholm and the Basel Conventions, taking into consideration the entire life-cycle of pesticides. The participating countries are Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname.

For more information and to obtain a summary of the meeting, please contact:
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Informal Consultation Meeting on the Environmentally Sound Management of Used Oils in the Caribbean

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Trinidad and Tobago organised an informal consultation meeting on 21-22 March 2006 on the regional project for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of used oils in the Caribbean. The meeting was held in Macoya, Tunapuna, Trinidad and Tobago, as a follow up to the 2004 workshop on the management of used oils in the Caribbean. The meeting mapped out the next steps of the project which include country desk studies, a legal review of national and regional legislation and recommendations in order to develop a regional strategy for the ESM of used oils in the Caribbean region. Focal points of the Basel and MARPOL Conventions in the region, as well as representatives from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the University of the West Indies, local non-governmental organisations and industry, attended the meeting.

The project's over-arching aim is the creation of a public-private partnership to prevent soil and groundwater contamination from spills of used mineral oil. The examined management methods cover systems for collection, storage, transport, recycling and final disposal of used oils at the end of their life-cycle.

For more information and to obtain a summary of the meeting, please contact:
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Meeting of the Representatives of Permanent Missions in Geneva of Host Countries of Basel Convention Regional Centres

On 3 February 2006, the Ambassador of Uruguay in Geneva convened, as Presidency of the Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a high-level meeting of representatives, in Geneva, of host countries of Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres.

The aim was to exchange views on issues such as the activities of the Centers and possible common approaches to strengthen their operations and sustainability.

The meeting agreed that priority should be given to raising the profile of the work of the Centers and that promotional activities could be undertaken at the national level for this purpose, involving the private sector where appropriate. When discussing the issue of synergies between the waste and chemicals conventions, the meeting acknowledged, in particular, the importance of cooperation between the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, while noting that other institutions may also play a part in enhancing such cooperation.

The meeting indicated that the principle of synergies should be supported but that an in-depth analysis on the *modus operandi* should be carried out, and that a step-by-step approach should be adopted.

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High-Level Meeting on Envisioning the Next Steps for Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs

The High-Level Meeting on Envisioning the Next Steps for Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs was organized by UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions and convened in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in January 2006. Participants discussed the technical aspects of compliance and enforcement and searched for potential legal, structural and institutional innovations that could enhance the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The Basel Convention was represented by Mr. Roy Watkinson in his capacity of Chair of the Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention. The issues requiring more work, research, capacity building and resources in the future are listed in a Chair's Summary under the following headings; "Institutional Structures", "Interlinkages" and "Instruments to Improve Implementation".

The full report of the meeting can be downloaded from:
<http://www.iisd.ca/download/asc/sd/ymbvol121num1e.txt>

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Southeast Asia--First Steering Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for Southeast Asia was held on 27 February 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, representatives from the

Secretariat of Basel Convention and the ASEAN Secretariat. Mr. Yanuardi Rasudin, the Deputy Minister for Toxic and Hazardous Substances and Waste Management, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Indonesia, opened the meeting. In his address, Mr. Rasudin stated his wish for the meeting to meet the capacity building needs of Parties in the region in the implementation of the Basel Convention implementation.

The Steering Committee was established in line with the requirements of the Framework Agreement which established the BCRC for Southeast Asia that was signed in October 2004. The Meeting elected the Mr. Tjandra Setiadi from Indonesia as Chairperson and Mr. Joseph Hui from Singapore as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Ken Choviran from Cambodia, Mr. Tengku Bakry Shah bin Tengku Johan from Malaysia, and Mrs. Sunee Piyapanpong from Thailand were elected members of the Steering Committee.

A key agenda item for the Steering Committee was the endorsement of the Business Plan for 2006-2010, as developed by the Director, Mr. Aboejoewono Aboeprajitno. The Steering Committee also discussed procedural issues. It identified the training of customs officers as one of the most important priorities, together with the integration of industry in future activities (see box).

Speaking on behalf of the Secretariat of Basel Convention, Mr. Ibrahim Shafii expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders and said that the issue of synergies in the chemicals and waste domains had recently become prominent among governments, UNEP and other intergovernmental organizations –such as the



Photo SBC

Intergovernmental Environmental Governance (IEG) discussion and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). In this connection, Basel Convention Regional Centres need to assess how they can contribute to synergies by identifying areas where similar goals are shared between the waste and chemicals conventions.

Selected activities to be implemented by the BCRC-SEA, subject to available funding:

- ◆ *Regional Workshop Aimed at Promoting the Ratification of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal*
- ◆ *National Inventories of Hazardous Waste (NIHW)*
- ◆ *Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste in South East Asia*
- ◆ *Training for Policy Makers, Customs and Law Enforcement Officials in the area of Hazardous Waste Management & Basel Convention Implementation*
- ◆ *Training on HW Minimization & Technology Assessment*
- ◆ *Developed and Up-to-dated Website of BCRC-SEA*
- ◆ *Study on Obsolete POPs and Destruction Technology*
- ◆ *Study on a waste exchange system development among ASEAN countries for recycling*

For more information, please contact:

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List of Upcoming Basel Convention Meetings and Meetings of Relevance to the Basel Convention

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| 30 March 2006 | Geneva, UK | Meeting of the Mobile Phone Working Group |
| 3-7 April 2006 | Geneva, Switzerland | Fifth Session of the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group |
| 5 April 2006 | Geneva, Switzerland | Meeting of the Mobile Phone Working Group |
| 8-9 April 2006 | Geneva, Switzerland | Basel Convention Compliance Committee Meeting (fourth session) |
| 28-29 April 2006 | Geneva, Switzerland | Open-ended Ad hoc Working Group on Non-Compliance-Stockholm Convention |
| 1-5 May 2006 | Geneva, Switzerland | Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention |
| 1-12 May 2006 | New York, USA | 14 th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) |
| 10-12 May 2006 | New York, USA | High-level Session of CSD 14 |
| 2-5 May 2006 | London, UK | IMO/UNEP Forum on Regional Cooperation in Combating Marine Pollution |
| 8-10 May 2006 | Geneva, Switzerland | Second Consultation Meeting on PCB Management and Disposal under the Stockholm Convention |
| 5-9 June 2006 | Washington DC, USA | Consultations and GEF Council Meeting |
| 26-28 June 2006 | Rome, Italy | 9th Meeting of OECD WGWR (Waste Prevention and Recycling) |
| 6-7 October 2006 | Geneva, Switzerland | Third Meeting of the Basel Convention Expanded Bureau of COP7 |
| 9-13 October 2006 | Geneva, Switzerland | Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention |
| 27 Nov.-1 Dec. 2006 | Nairobi, Kenya | Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention/ Governing body of Basel Convention with High-level Segment |
| 4-8 December 2006 | Washington DC, USA | Consultations and Global Environmental Facility Council Meeting |

List of Upcoming Meetings of Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| 14-15 March 2006 | Cairo, Egypt BCRC-Egypt | Meetings of the Steering Committee of the Centre (SCC) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC) |
| 23-24 March 2006 | Macoya, Tunapuna in Trinidad and Tobago BCRC-Trinidad and Tobago | Consultative meeting on obsolete pesticides management in the Caribbean |
| 19-21 April 2006 | Trinidad and Tobago BCRC-Trinidad and Tobago | 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Project "Preparation of a regional strategy for the environmentally sound management of used lead-acid batteries in Latin America and the Caribbean" |
| 24-26 April 2006 | Bratislava, Slovak Republic BCRC-Slovakia | Workshop on ESM of Used Oils |
| 26-28 April 2006 | San Salvador, El Salvador BCRC El Salvador | Regional workshop on the preparation of National Inventories and national action plans for PCB and PCB containing equipment in Central America" |
| 21-23 June 2006 | Bratislava, Slovak Republic BCRC-Slovakia | Workshop on Safe and Effective Detection, Investigation, Prosecution of Illegal Traffic of Hazardous and Other Wastes |
| August 2006 | Uruguay BCRC-Uruguay | Workshop to disseminate the results of the "Pilot program for the minimization of impacts generated by hazardous waste" |
| September 2006 | Cairo, Egypt BCRC-Egypt | Workshop aimed at promoting Ratification of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation |
| October 2006 | Bahrein BCRC Egypt | Workshop on the recycling of used oils |
| To be determined | LAC Countries BCRC-Uruguay | Internet Modality Courses within the Framework of Environmental Management of Hazardous Wastes |
| To be determined | To be determined | Workshop for the Southeast Asian region on Liability Protocol Meeting |

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BASEL CONVENTION

the world environmental agreement on wastes



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