



BASEL CONVENTION

the world environmental agreement on wastes

BASEL CONVENTION *bulletin*

December 2004

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

As 2004 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy festive season and a very fruitful and engaging 2005. We look forward to working with you in the new year.

2004 was a very busy year for the Basel Convention with many legal and technical workshops, much progress made with Strategic Plan projects, the legal establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centres and the development of partnerships with the private sector and civil society. 2004 also saw the Third Open-ended Working Group meeting in April and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) in October, which marked the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention. At COP7, the policy direction for the next biennium was set. A summary of the discussions is enclosed in this newsletter. Additionally, the full report of COP7 will be available early in the new year on our website.

COP7 was both a challenging and interesting meeting at which important decisions for the future of the Convention were adopted. These centred around Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs), the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, institutional arrangements, the Ban Amendment, and the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation. COP7 also adopted decisions on definitions of hazardous wastes, hazardous waste characteristics, and a number of technical guidelines. Delegates adopted decisions on guidance elements for bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements, and follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The issue of financial matters, on the other hand, proved to be more challenging, this is all the more important given the increasingly heavy workload the sound implementation of the Convention requires. A significant amount of effort and time will be required for fundraising activities in the next biennium with the support and assistance from Parties and other stakeholders.

The theme of COP7 was "Partnership for Meeting the Global Waste Challenge", which was also the theme of the interactive discussion which took place during the meeting's high-level segment. Coupled with the theme of the meeting was the issue of resource mobilisation in order to meet



Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary, Basel Convention

the global waste challenge, as one cannot go without the other if they are to be tackled effectively. As a result, COP7 adopted a Ministerial Statement on "Partnerships for Meeting the Global Waste Challenge", a crucial outcome of COP7 for several reasons;

-It acknowledges the unprecedented growth in the generation of hazardous wastes and the challenge posed to countries and regions in managing these wastes in an environmentally sound manner.

-It emphasises the benefits of the sound implementation of the Basel Convention on the poor, human health and the environment. It chooses waste minimization as the focus for the years 2005-2006, focusing on action at source as the most effective means of protecting human health and environment from the generation of wastes and their mismanagement. It therefore promotes a shift from remedial measures to preventive measures such as the reduction at source, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste.

- It emphasises building of partnerships as a means to meet the "Global Waste Challenge" and effectively implement the Convention.
- It reiterates the commitment of Parties towards reducing the production of hazardous wastes.
- It encourages Parties to set their own targets for waste minimization.



■ It encourages Parties and other stakeholders, particularly multilateral financial institutions, to mobilize additional financial resources that are predictable and sustainable for the implementation of the Ministerial Statement.

The COP7 Ministerial Declaration is rich in material to think about, act on and report on at the next Conference of the

Parties. It explicitly embraces the interlinkages between the transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes, wider issues of waste generation and management and sustainable development in order to protect human health and the environment in the best possible way. The next biennium will be challenging and busy but it will also offer new opportunities

which, if grabbed in time and used to the full, will help the Basel Convention flourish and serve people around the world and the environment, in the most sustainable and beneficial of ways.

Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto,
Executive Secretary,
Basel Convention Secretariat

COP7 Summary

Courtesy of Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB-www.iisd.ca)

The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was held from 25-29 October 2004, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was attended by over 450 officials representing more than 114 Parties, four observer States, eight UN bodies and agencies, and over 24 intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. COP7 opened with a preparatory segment, from 25-27 October, followed by a high-level segment for ministers and heads of delegations, which took place from 28-29 October. Participants in the high-level segment engaged in an interactive discussion on "Partnerships for Meeting the Global Waste Challenge" – the theme of COP7.

Delegates elected Uruguay's Minister of the Environment, Saul Irueta, as President of COP7. Abdul Hameed (Pakistan), Krystyna Panek-Gondek (Poland) and Arcadio Ntagazwa (Tanzania) were elected

Vice Presidents, with Mark Hyman (Australia) as Rapporteur. Delegates also elected Ratemo Michieka (Kenya), Jürg Bally (Switzerland), Abdul Hameed (Pakistan), Ilze Donina (Latvia), and Yocasta Valenzuela (Dominican Republic) as members of the Compliance Committee. Guillermo Valles, Uruguay's Ambassador to Switzerland, acted as President on Tuesday, Wednesday and part of Friday.

In conducting their work, participants convened in plenary sessions, working groups, contact groups, and informal consultations to consider and adopt decisions on agenda items relating to the implementation of the Convention, technical guidance documents and papers, financial matters, ship dismantling, and partnerships for meeting the global waste challenge.

High-level Segment

The high-level segment took place from 28-29 October. Ministers and high-level



H.E. Mr Irueta, President of COP7

government representatives participated in an interactive dialogue on partnerships for the global waste challenge and on mobilizing resources for a cleaner future.

On behalf of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, urged Parties to minimize hazardous waste generation at source, to adopt the life-cycle approach, to provide resources for capacity building, to strengthen BCRCs and to enhance cooperation at all levels. President Irueta called for strengthening BCRCs, increasing available resources, and minimizing hazardous waste generation at source. He called for the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.

Klaus Töpfer, UNEP Executive Director, said the Basel Convention faces important challenges, in particular the need to: reduce waste generation at source; decouple economic development from waste generation; and change consump-



COP7 Plenary Meeting

tion and production patterns from a "waste" to a "recycling" culture. He called for increased cooperation among all stakeholders, as well as coordination with the SAICM process.

Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto urged delegates to work with existing and new partners, including the secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Arcado Ntagazwa, Tanzania's Minister of State, was appointed Chair of the high-level segment. He urged delegates to develop a plan of action for resource mobilization and to establish meaningful partnerships. Drawing attention to economic growth in Asia, Takashi Kosugi (Japan) stressed the need to promote application of the "3Rs" (reduce, reuse, recycle) in order to minimize waste generation.

COP-6 President, Ioan Jelev, Romania's Secretary of State for the Environment, introduced a document on partnership for meeting the global waste challenge. He noted that the goals of promoting the reduction, reuse and recycling of wastes are linked with the issue of resource mobilization. He urged delegates to adopt the ministerial declaration and/or draft decision on partnerships, to send a clear political message and to set the future direction of the Basel Convention.

Peter Hinchcliffe (UK) presented on the link between hazardous waste minimization and the life-cycle approach to chemicals and waste management. He identified an upward trend in global hazardous waste generation linked to economic growth, and stressed that the decoupling of waste production from economic growth is feasible.

Delegates then engaged in an interactive discussion on hazardous waste minimization and the life-cycle approach. Several developing countries stressed the need for sustainable financing and for capacity building. A number of countries stressed the need to address the problem of hazardous waste generation at source in developed countries, and called on developed countries to lead by example on this issue, through the adoption of legally binding targets. Belarus called for the transfer of low-waste and clean technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and Japan and Sweden stressed industry's responsibility to minimize waste generation. Burkina Faso, Uganda, Sweden and Egypt called for strengthening the BCRCs and a number of countries highlighted synergies with the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Switzerland called for partnerships to address waste management, and Uganda and Egypt called for responsibility, transparency, and accountability in partnerships.

Ashok Khosla (India) presented on in-

tegrated waste management and a regional approach, and urged focusing on cleaner production and consumption patterns. Tom Conway, Resources Future International, presented on the Basel Convention Resource Mobilization Strategy's objectives and components, namely capacity building, synergies with other MEAs, and cooperation with major funding agencies.

Steve Gorman, World Bank, urged countries seeking funding for implementation of Basel Convention activities to integrate them into national development assistance strategies.

A number of developing countries emphasized the importance of managing e-waste. Several countries called for the development of synergies between chemicals-related MEAs. The African Group called for a financial mechanism to support the implementation of the Basel Convention. A number of countries expressed support for the development of regional and global partnerships to manage hazardous wastes. Several countries called for the active participation of industry in waste management, while others called for the diffusion of cleaner technologies and waste

minimization at source. On Friday morning, the high-level segment adopted the Ministerial Statement on Partnerships for Meeting the Global Waste Challenge (please see page 4 for the Ministerial Statement).

Closing Plenary

The closing plenary session ran to early Saturday morning, with protracted discussions interrupted by consultations in informal contact groups on financial matters and on the African Group's proposal on the establishment of a financial mechanism. After proceeding through a paragraph-by-paragraph reading of the report of the meeting and making a number of technical and editorial amendments, the COP7's more resilient delegates adopted the report. Noting the late hour, Acting President Valles thanked delegates for their endurance and spirit of compromise in reaching a decision on financial matters, and formally gavelled COP7 to a close at 2:25 am on Saturday, 30 October.

The full report of COP7 will be available on the Basel Convention website early in 2005.

Update of SBC Strategic Plan Projects

The following projects have been completed.

- (1) Database and website integration (BCRC- South Africa);
- (2) International Training on Implementation of Waste Minimisation – Cleaner Production Project (BCRC-Slovakia);
- (3) Strengthening of Co-operation amongst the Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes Conventions (BCRC-Slovakia);
- (4) Regional Workshop for the development of a regional approach for the environmentally sound management of POPs as wastes in Selected CEE Countries (BCRC-Slovakia);
- (5) Implementation of the control, detection and prevention of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes (BCRC-Argentina);
- (6) Scoping Paper on transfer of national experiences with waste prevention and minimization to a transregional or an international level (Germany).

The final reports of the projects are available at the web site of the Secretariat (<http://www.basel.int/stratplan/owwg1/index.html>).

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Ministerial Statement on Partnerships for Meeting the Global Waste Challenge

We, the Ministers and heads of delegations from the Parties to the Basel Convention and other States present, on the occasion of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, share concerns and a sense of urgency regarding the unprecedented growth in the generation of hazardous wastes and the challenge posed to countries and regions in managing these wastes in an environmentally sound manner. Bearing this in mind, we have discussed and exchanged views on the issue of building partnerships for meeting the global waste challenge.

Experience with the Basel Convention suggests that today's global waste challenge is shaped in large part by several interrelated issues, namely: (a) the rapid accumulation of hazardous wastes and other wastes and lack of environmentally sound management in urban settlements, which represent growing concerns for human health and the environment; (b) the particular vulnerability of the poor, including children; (c) the sheer volume of wastes and the lack of segregation of hazardous from non hazardous wastes, which is overwhelming national capacities to cope; (d) the siting of new facilities for hazardous waste and other waste disposal, which is

becoming difficult and expensive; (e) the rise of end-of-life equipment as the fastest growing waste stream worldwide.

The achievement of the goals set forth in the Basel Convention and the enhancement of its role will help to deliver significant benefits with global reach:

- (a) The reduction of detrimental impacts on human health, in particular on the poor;
- (b) A lower risk of diseases, injuries and work-related accidents;
- (c) A direct positive impact on reducing levels of land and air pollution, as well as of water contamination;
- (d) A direct effect on the reduction or prevention of the degradation of fisheries in rivers and oceans, resulting from the discharge of pesticides, industrial pollution or leachate of hazardous substances;
- (e) A lower risk of food contamination by persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals;
- (f) In the case of the sound management of biomedical or healthcare wastes, an important contribution to the fight against infectious diseases;
- (g) A general improvement in the quality of life of vulnerable sectors of the popu-

lation, especially in developing countries.

Action at source is the most effective means of protecting our environment from the generation of wastes and their mismanagement, eliminating costly waste disposal, reducing transboundary movements and promoting sustainable development. That is why we choose waste minimization as the focus for the years 2005–2006.

The challenge is to promote a fundamental shift in emphasis from remedial measures to preventive measures such as reduction at source, reuse, recycling and recovery. This new emphasis not only supports demands for a changing world, it is the most promising way forward to deal with hazardous and other wastes in an environmentally sound manner. It is also good for business.

We recognize the need to actively promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production, including through corporate responsibility and accountability, based on the Rio Principles and in accordance with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

We also recognize the need for close cooperation with other relevant international organizations and conventions in the field of chemicals and waste, in particular the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, bearing in mind the importance of the life-cycle approach.

We renew our commitment to enhance and strengthen our efforts to further reduce the amount of transboundary movements of hazardous and other waste.

We must not lose the momentum gained during 2000–2004 in implementing the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention.

We agree that Parties and other States present, working in close cooperation with their existing and new partners, need to take the following course of action:

1. To endeavour to reduce the generation of hazardous waste, including to reduce the quantity of hazardous and other waste going to final disposal.

Latest SBC Publications and Information Material

Vital Waste Graphics—a joint production between the Basel Convention Secretariat and UNEP-Grid/Arendal in the Vital Graphics series (please see separate paragraph about the publication).

Technical Guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and for their disposal in English, French and Spanish.

Training Manual for the preparation of national used lead acid batteries environmentally sound management plans in the context of the implementation of the Basel Convention in English.

Minimizing Hazardous Wastes-A Simplified Guide to the Basel Convention in English, French and Spanish

Basel Convention poster with general text on the Convention in English

Basel Convention Regional Centres' poster with explanatory text in English

For questions on and requests for publications and information material, please contact Nicole Dawe, Information Officer, email: Nicole.Dawe@unep.ch, tel. +41 (0) 22 917 82 20

2. To consider setting their own targets for waste minimization, individually or in collaboration with others within a specific region, and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties through the Basel Convention Secretariat.

3. To adopt a partnership approach when dealing with priority waste streams such as persistent organic pollutant wastes, electrical and electronic wastes, household wastes mixed with hazardous wastes, biomedical and healthcare wastes and lead acid batteries.

4. To encourage North-South cooperation, based on the Rio Principles, and South-South and private-public coalition as key elements of partnership for meeting the global waste challenge.

5. To review waste streams of concern in their countries and region and identify priority waste streams for reduction initiatives in the context of the Basel Convention, in partnership with stakeholders and Basel Convention regional centres.

6. More efforts will be devoted to:

- Building sustainable partnerships between Parties and all stakeholders;
- Networking amongst Parties and Basel Convention regional centres for information exchange/information clearing house;
- Strengthening and promoting active involvement of the Basel Convention regional centres;
- Strengthening national capacities to segregate hazardous from non-hazardous wastes;
- Identifying cleaner production methods that reduce or eliminate the generation of hazardous wastes;
- Promoting the development of environmentally sound technologies and their transfer to developing countries;
- Mobilizing new and additional financial resources including by using existing multilateral financial institutions and mechanisms.

We believe that building partnerships for meeting the global waste challenge will contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Partnerships will bring benefits for all. We reaffirm our commitment to engage in them. We, therefore, encourage Parties and other stakeholders, particularly multilateral financial institutions, to mobilize additional financial resources that are predictable and sustainable for the implementation of this statement.

Basel Parties Adopt Technical Guidelines on POPs

One of the most significant achievements of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP7) in October 2004, was the adoption of two sets of technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants, namely:

- The General Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing or Contaminated With Persistent Organic Pollutants; and
- The Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing or Contaminated with Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Polychlorinated Terphenyls or Polybrominated Biphenyls.

These guidelines cover the full range of issues arising in the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants as waste, including the matters highlighted in article 6 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Among the major hurdles that were overcome in the development of the above documents were the issues referred to in paragraph 1 (d) of article 6 are further addressed in paragraph 2, which stipulates that "the Conference of the Parties (of Stockholm Convention) shall cooperate closely with the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to, *inter alia*:

- Establish levels of destruction and irreversible transformation necessary to ensure that the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants as specified

- Determine what they consider to be the methods that constitute environmentally sound disposal referred to above; and,

- Work to establish, as appropriate, the concentration levels of the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and C in order to define the low persistent organic pollutant content referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii).

The COP also mandated the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) to continue its work in finalizing the development of the specific technical guidelines on polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin/polychlorinated dibenzo-furan (PCDD/PCDF), 1,1, 1-trichloro-2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl) ethane (DDT), hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and the eight pesticides (aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, HCB, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene). The intersessional working group was again requested to assist the Basel Convention secretariat in finalizing the guidelines prepared by the lead countries Australia and Mexico.

In addition to the adoption of the technical guidelines on POPs, COP7 also adopted the Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Recycling/Reclamation of Metals and Metals Compounds (R4); and three guidance papers on hazard characteristics H6.2 (infectious substances), H11 (toxic – delayed or chronic) and H13 (capable after disposal of yielding another hazardous material).

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Joining the Party

The Basel Convention has 163 States and the European Community as Parties. Since our last Bulletin of August 2004, Liberia ratified the Convention on 22 September 2004. The Syrian Arab Republic recently ratified the Protocol on Liability and Compensation, which now has four States as Parties. Mauritius, Morocco, Slovenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Syrian Arab Republic recently ratified the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention, which now has 54 States and the European Community as Parties. Please see our ratification tables which include a glossary of frequently used terms at www.basel.int

To receive the SBC Bulletin, for any questions about it or news items for it, please contact Nicole Dawe, Information Officer, Basel Convention Secretariat, email: Nicole.Dawe@unep.ch tel. +41 (0) 22 917 82 20

Second Expert Group Meeting on Hazardous Waste Landfills in Hyper-dry Areas

The second expert group meeting of 22-25 November 2004, Cairo, Egypt, on the SBC/ UNEP financed project "The preparation of a set of tools for the selection, design and operation of hazardous waste landfills in hyper-dry areas" followed the first meeting held in July 2004. It was co-organized by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), the Cairo Basel Convention Regional Centre for Arab States (BCRC Cairo) and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC). The meeting had about 30 participants from Arab countries, local universities and institutes, the Arab League and the SBC.

The meeting discussed and adopted the previously revised Guidelines on "Site Selection and Environmental Impact Assessment" with amendments to the original document prepared by BCRC Cairo. It settled on the draft contents for the Guidelines' minimum requirements, which are to be developed and presented to the third and final expert group meeting in March 2005 by BCRC Cairo.

Participants were also presented with progress made in the development of facilities for the management of hazardous wastes in member countries present at the meeting. A site visit to the facilities available at BCRC Cairo for testing and analysis



Cairo Meeting

took place and it was agreed that a pilot scale implementation of the Guidelines mentioned above would be carried out in Egypt and Yemen.

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Ten-Year Celebration of Basel Convention Focal Point in Germany

A conference was organised in Berlin, mid-November, by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany's Federal Environmental Agency and Berlin's Institute for European Politics to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Federal Environmental Agency's function as Focal Point of the Basel Convention in Germany.

A wide range of presentations on legal, technical and historic aspects of multilateral waste management issues were given by the participants on this occasion.

Mr. Pierre Portas, Deputy Executive Secretary of SBC, gave a presentation on the "Future challenges for the Basel Convention" which was based on the results of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (please see summary of COP7 on p 3 and Ministerial Statement on p 5).

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Sixth International Environmental Discussions of European Neighbours (EDEN) Conference

Back to back with the meeting on the Ten-Year Celebration of the Basel Convention Focal Point in Germany (please see above), the SBC participated in the last of the six "Environmental Discussions of European Neighbours" Conference on the "Transboundary Shipment of Waste". Presentations on the new EC regulation on the shipment of waste, a twinning project between Germany and Poland and transboundary cooperation in the implementation of waste shipment regulations were given. The EU network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) gave an overview of its activities with regard to the transboundary shipment of waste in general and introduced its seaport project, which aims at controlling the export of wastes from European seaports, since they constitute an important bottleneck for

transboundary shipments of waste from the EU to destinations abroad. Information on the interim regulations for the new EU member states and consequences of the accession for waste management issues were also discussed. Delegates from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and the Republic of Slovenia provided overviews on the current situation in their countries with regard to the control of the transboundary shipment of waste, the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation on the national level.

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Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

The SBC participated in the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which took place from 4 to 8 October 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya, and was organised under the auspices of UNEP. Participants made progress in clarifying the purpose of SAICM by agreeing on a structure for future discussions. It was agreed that SAICM would consist of an overarching policy strategy, a global plan of action with concrete implementation measures, and of a high-level declaration, with progress made during the session in identifying and elaborating the elements for the overarching policy strategy. Participants also agreed on the scope of SAICM's further development. The meeting also agreed to ask the SAICM Secretariat to work on a study on financial considerations excluding the cost of SAICM implementation. The financing issue is also of great interest and relevance to other MEAs (such as the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions).

There are still a number of outstanding issues including financing, the prioritisation of the global plan's implementation measures and how synergies between the relevant stakeholders could be effectively harnessed. The Basel Convention participated

in the SAICM process so as to ensure the inclusion of life-cycle approach in chemical management, including their wastes, coordination in provision of resources both for chemical and waste management programmes and enhancement of synergies and partnerships among all stakeholders.

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Seventh Consultation on Prevention and Disposal of Obsolete and Banned Pesticides Stocks

The Seventh Consultation on the Prevention and Disposal of Obsolete and Banned Pesticides Stocks, which took place in Rome, Italy, in September, examined the developments that have taken place since the last meeting of 2002, as well as new activities throughout the world.

A report on the current status of the African Stockpiles Programme (ASP) was presented. The country projects for disposal and prevention of ASP's Phase I in Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, South Africa, Tan-

zania and Tunisia are fully funded (US\$50.6 million) and are scheduled to start in early 2005 after approval by the World Bank. FAO will carry out the technical support and coordination. Reports were presented on the regional activities of FAO in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). Twenty one pre-inventories of obsolete pesticides have been carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as a full inventory in Bolivia. The preliminary global amount of obsolete pesticides comes to 6,714 tonnes.

The work of the Basel Convention was presented, highlighting the two main pillars of the Convention, the regulation of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and the Environmentally Sound Management of hazardous wastes, including pesticides as waste, the Basel Convention Regional Centres, the technical guidelines for POPs waste and its projects on obsolete pesticides.

The meeting was attended by representatives of seven countries: Belgium, Ethiopia, Germany, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and USA. The following Agencies and organizations participated: FAO, GEF, SBC, UNEP-Chemicals, WHO, PAN-Africa, PAN-UK.

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Background Information on SAICM

UNEP's 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.

UNEP's Executive Director was requested to work with relevant inter-governmental groups and other stakeholders to review current actions to advance the sound management of chemicals, identify gaps and propose concrete projects and priorities.

The strategic approach is to promote the incorporation of chemical safety issues into the development agenda. 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 was held in Bangkok from 9 to 13 November 2003.

Legal Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centres in Egypt, Indonesia and Trinidad and Tobago

During the high-level segment of COP7, three Framework Agreements were signed for the legal establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centres in Egypt, Indonesia and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Agreements were signed by Dr. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, Her Excellency, Mrs. Masnellyarti Hilman, Deputy Minister of Environment, Indonesia, His Excellency Mr Bernard Weston, Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago and Her Excellency, Mrs Naéla Gabr, Ambassador of Egypt, respectively.

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Pictured: Dr. Kuwabara-Yamamoto with (top to bottom) H.E. Mrs Gabr of Egypt, H.E. Mrs. Masnellyarti Hilman of Indonesia, and H.E. Mr Bernard Weston of Trinidad and Tobago



Comments on draft Training Manual for the Enforcement of Laws Implementing the Basel Convention

Parties are kindly reminded to send their comments on the draft Training Manual to SBC by 31 December 2004. During COP 7, elections were held to replace five members of the Compliance Committee whose terms of office had come to an end. COP 7 also approved the work programme of the Compliance Committee for 2005-2006. In addition to reviewing submissions, during 2005-2006, the Compliance Committee will also undertake the:

- Identification and analysis of difficulties relating to reporting obligations under the Basel Convention;
- Identification and analysis of difficulties relating to designation and functioning of national competent authorities and focal points;
- Identification and analysis of difficulties relating to development of national legislation to implement effectively the Basel Convention.

The Committee is now in the process of further developing its work programme.

For more information on the Compliance Committee, please see the Basel Convention website:

<http://www.basel.int/legalmatters/compcommittee/index.html>

or contact:

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Staff News

Mr. Pierre Portas, Senior Programme Officer for technical issues, has been appointed to the position of Deputy Executive Secretary and Head of the Technical and Capacity Building Unit of the Basel Convention Secretariat. Mr. Portas can be reached at Pierre.Portas@unep.ch, tel. +41 (0)22 917 82 17, fax: +41 (0)22 979 34 54

Ms. Sylvie Bletry, Secretary, is the new Publications Assistant following the departure of Ms. Brenda van Eden. Ms. Bletry can be reached at Sylvie.Bletry@unep.ch, tel. +41 (9)22 917 8112, fax +41 (0)22 797 34 54

Mr. Milton Catelin, Senior Programme Officer for Partnerships and Public Affairs, will leave the Secretariat at the end of the year to take up a new position in the private sector in the UK.

Upcoming meetings of interest to the Basel Convention – 2005

10-14 January	Port Louis, Mauritius	International Conference for the Ten-Year Review of Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS
17-21 January	Brussels, Belgium	WCO Scientific Sub-Committee
18-20 January	Ahmedabad, India	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
9-10 February (ten)	Paris, France	OECD Working Group on Waste Prevention and Recycling
February	London, UK	1st meeting of the Joint ILO/IMO/BC Working Group on ship dismantling
February (ten)		First session of the Chemical Review Committee for the Rotterdam Convention
21-25 February	Nairobi, Kenya	23rd Session of the UNEP Governing Council/GMEF
14-24 March	Brussels, Belgium,	WCO Harmonized System Committee
2-6 May	Punta del Este, Uruguay	First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention: on Persistent Organic Pollutants