

# BASEL CONVENTION bulletin

July 2005



## Editorial: Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships

### Priority Areas for OEWG

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A central policy instrument of the Basel Convention for the achievement of its objectives is the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of hazardous and other wastes. Three important prerequisites for ESM are, for governments to provide a comprehensive national policy and legal framework on ESM, the availability of adequate resources through sound resource mobilization programmes and the building of partnerships with all stakeholders involved, especially public-private partnerships at the national and local level.

The promotion of ESM among its Parties, resource mobilization and partnerships are priority areas for the Basel Convention and our July Bulletin shows efforts made and achievements reached in these fields.

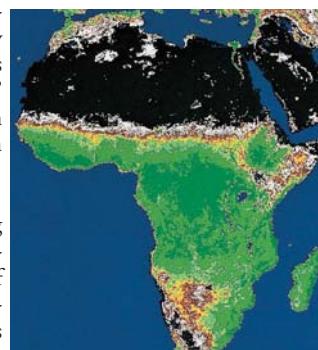
The Basel Convention Secretariat (SBC) was invited

to participate in and contribute to the G8 Ministerial Meeting on the 3R Initiative, which took place in Tokyo in April. ESM requires the sound management of goods and substances through their entire life-cycle. The 3Rs - reduce, reuse, recycle- are therefore an integral part of ESM and are principles that are put into operation worldwide in the implementation of the Basel Convention. At the 3R meeting, the Basel Convention presented a priority area of the Partnership Programme it put into place in 2002 to assist Governments in their efforts to achieve ESM, namely its projects on electrical and electronic wastes, or "E-Waste", at the global and regional levels, especially the special E-waste project for Asia and the Pacific (please see relevant articles). Participation in the G8 meeting and the organization of a special side-event by the SBC on its activities in E-waste provided not only the most valuable opportunity to share the Basel Convention's experience in 3Rs at

#### Basel Convention Project Concept for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of PCBs in Africa Approved for Pipeline Entry by GEF Secretariat

For the first time, a project concept prepared by African States, a Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC-Senegal), UNEP and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) was approved for pipeline entry by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility. The project concept had been selected as one of the priority project proposals under the NEPAD Environment Action Plan and was highlighted as a leading NEPAD Environment activity by President Abdoulaye Wade during his inaugural speech at the second Partners' Conference for the Environment Action Plan held in Dakar on 15-16 March 2005.

The project will aim at demonstrating the benefits of taking a regional approach for the ESM of PCBs in the fields of regulatory reforms, training, and the preparation of investment programmes among others. A demonstration pilot project for the ESM of PCBs in Africa and the decontamination of PCB containing equipment will be implemented during the full size phase of the project. The technical activities involved in the project will rely on the principles for ESM developed under the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention, including the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines for the ESM of POPs as Waste and the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines for the ESM of PCB Waste.



of it funded by the GEF. Countries which have expressed interest in participating in the preparatory phase of the project to begin in January 2006 are Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Togo. BCRC-Dakar would be contracted as the executing agency for the project (PDF-B phase) while UNEP would be considered the Implementing Agency for the GEF. SBC and UNEP will work closely in the weeks ahead to ensure the final project proposal (PDF-B) entitled 'Demonstration of a Regional Approach to the ESM of PCB Liquid Wastes and Transformers, and Capacitors Containing PCBs, will be submitted to the GEF for final adoption.

A similar approach will be considered in the coming months by UNEP, SBC and the BCRC in Central America for the development of a regional project for the ESM of PCBs in Central America. A project proposal will be developed that will be based on the results obtained through the implementation of the joint UNEP-Chemicals/SBC funded regional project for the ESM of PCBs in Central America and will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat.

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# One World, Don't Waste It

work, but also to further promote the Environmentally Sound Management of hazardous and other wastes among key stakeholders. Progress on the 3R Initiative will be fed into the G8 Summit meeting at Gleneagles in the UK this month. A kick-off meeting will be held in November 2005 hosted by the Government of Japan.

Of further relevance to partnerships and resource mobilization, under the umbrella of the Basel Convention, we are also very proud to inform you that a Basel Convention project concept on the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs in Africa was approved for pipeline entry by the Global Environment Facility Secretariat. This is a key event and a first in the history of the Basel Convention and I very much welcome a development, which will hopefully pave the way for more initiatives to come.

Of interest in this edition of our Bulletin is also the recent Basel Convention participation in the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in May. The issues related to the Basel Convention were the source of lively and sometimes complex discussions. The decisions related to the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on POPs and PBCs and on the usage of the 14 Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres as delivery mechanisms for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, for example, are the fruits of compromises between different tendencies. They will, hopefully, enable the continuation of effective synergies between the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, using existing mechanisms and resources as the most efficient tools possible.

While the Secretariat of the Basel Convention has been active in developing projects and mobilizing resources, overall, the problem of securing adequate resources to ensure the implementation of the Basel Convention needs the serious attention of Parties. I hope that the forthcoming Open-ended Working Group meeting will initiate constructive discussions on this matter with the assistance of the Bureau.

I wish you a pleasant read.

**By Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto**  
Executive Secretary  
Basel Convention

## Basel Convention Secretariat at G8 Ministerial Conference on 3R Initiative, Tokyo, Japan

The SBC participated in and contribute to a Ministerial Conference on the 3R Initiative on 28-30 April 2005 in Tokyo, Japan. The SBC also participated in an International Symposium on the 3R Initiative, and organized its own side-event on Electronic and Electrical Waste (E-Waste) Management in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The 3R Initiative aims to promote the "3Rs" (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) globally so as to build a sound material-cycle society through the effective use of resources and materials. The Initiative, a new G8 Initiative, was agreed upon at the G8 Sea Island Summit in June 2004. The Ministerial Conference in Tokyo was held in order to formally launch the 3R Initiative.

### INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE 3R INITIATIVE



Dr Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto

The SBC participated in an International Symposium on the 3R Initiative -on the theme of establishing a 3R-oriented society and building an international recycling network globally- a side-event to the G8 meeting, which took place on 28 April 2005 and was organized by the United Nations University, the Organization for the Promotion of Sustainable Society and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan. The Executive Secretary of SBC, Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, participated in a panel discussion to share the experience of the Basel Convention and its activities in the environmental-ly sound management of hazardous and other wastes, of which the 3Rs are part. The outcome of the Symposium was reported to the Ministerial

Conference on the 3R Initiative of which the results are mentioned below.

### MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE 3R INITIATIVE

Twenty countries and four international organizations participated in the Ministerial Conference,<sup>1</sup> which was chaired by Ms. Yuriko Koike, Minister of the Environment, Japan.

During the conference, participating countries and organizations shared information on 3R-related activities carried out by them. Following the discussions at ministerial level, the conference recognized it necessary to promote;

- (a) the formulation and implementation of visions and/or strategies leading to a sound material-cycle society;
- (b) the reduction of barriers to the international flow of goods and materials;
- (c) cooperation between developed and developing countries;
- (d) cooperation among stakeholders; and
- (e) science and technology suitable for the 3Rs.

It was also agreed that the outcome of the conference should be fed into the G8 Summit meeting at Gleneagles in the UK in July 2005, and shared with the international community through various fora. The Chair's summary can be viewed at <http://www.env.go.jp/earth/3r/en/info.html>. The conference welcomed a proposal by Japan to organize a senior level meeting as a follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on the 3R Initiative.

### 3Rs-Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

The principle of reducing waste, reusing and recycling resources and products is often called the "3Rs." Reducing means choosing to use material with care to reduce the amount of waste generated. Reusing involves the repeated use of items or parts of items which still have usable aspects. Recycling means the use of waste itself as a resource. Waste minimization can be achieved in an efficient way by focusing primarily on the first of the 3Rs, "reduce", followed by "reuse" and then "recycle."

<sup>1</sup> The following countries and international organizations participated: G8 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and European Commission) and other invited countries (Brazil, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and Viet Nam); UNEP, OECD, Secretariat of the Basel Convention and Arab League.



## 3R Initiative - SBC Side-Event on E-Waste Management for the Asia-Pacific Region

The SBC side-event on E-Waste Management for the Asia-Pacific Region took place on 29 April 2004 on the premises of the Ministerial Conference on 3Rs. It was successfully attended by around 100 participants.



Welcoming remarks were made by Ms Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary of SBC and H.E. Mr. Zhang Lijun, Vice Minister of State Environment Protection Administration, China. A presentation on the Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste for the Asia Pacific Region was given by Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Technical Programme Officer, SBC. Panel members covered the following themes;

- Capacity Building Needs of Developing Countries in E-Waste Management, Mrs. Masnellyarti Hilman, Deputy Minister for Technical Infrastructure for Environmental Management, Ministry of the Environment Indonesia
- The Role of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Beijing in E-Waste Management in the Asia Pacific Region, Dr. Jinhui Li, Director, BCRC Beijing, China



- The Role of Industry in E-Waste Management, Mr. Mats Pellback-Scharp, Director Environment & Supplier QA, Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications
- The Role of the NGOs in E-Waste Management in the Asia Pacific Region, Dr. Ashok Khosla, Development Alternatives, India

The side-event highlighted global issues evolving around the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of electronic and electrical wastes (E-waste) in Asia and the Pacific region. It showed how the Parties to the Basel Convention are playing their role in the ESM of E-waste and provided a platform for the exchange of views on how E-waste management problems can be solved globally and regionally. It also promoted the establishment of partnerships at the regional and global level in solving environmental problems, involving key public and private stakeholders. It also gave information on the role of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Beijing, China, on the coordination of activities related to E-waste management in the region. Please see the following recap of the Basel Convention's activities in E-waste management.

## Recap of Basel Convention E-Waste Activities - Meeting the Challenge of E-Waste

Electrical and electronic waste, E-waste, is covered in Annex VIII (entries A1180, A1150 and A2010) and Annex IX (B1110) of the Basel Convention. E-waste is also a priority waste stream identified in the Basel Convention Strategic Plan (2000-2010) adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, under the Convention's approved Partnership Programme, and in the "Ministerial Statement on Partnerships for Meeting the Global Waste Challenge" adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

### Why focus on E-waste?



- E-waste contains problematic substances such as lead, cadmium, beryllium, mercury or brominated flame retardants for example which can harm human health and the environment if they are not refurbished, recycled, or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.
- E-waste grows at a rate of 3-5% per annum, three times more rapidly than the general waste stream.
- More and more E-waste ends in landfills and incinerators where it releases hazardous materials into the environment.
- Large quantities of E-waste are exported to countries where, due to a lack of environmental regulations and infrastructure, recovery facility workers and neighbouring residents are exposed to health risks and the environment to pollution hazards. This is of special concern to countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

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## Basel Convention E-waste Activities



### GLOBAL LEVEL

At the global level, the Basel Convention, following an initiative of the Swiss Government, identified mobile phones as a priority waste stream and created the "Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative" (MPPI) in 2002.

The MPPI, a unique public-private partnership, aims to improve the environmental friendliness of mobile phones, influence consumer behaviour and political institutions, and promote the sustainable and environmentally sound refurbishing and recycling of used and end-of-life mobile phones.

The MPPI membership is composed of experts from Parties and Signatories to the Basel Convention, Basel Convention Regional Centres, representatives of mobile phone manufacturers and telecom operators and representatives of the Basel Convention Secretariat.

There are four project groups set up under the MPPI, namely mobile phone refurbishment; collection and transboundary movement rules; material recovery and recycling; and design consideration. Each of the project groups has produced guidelines which form the basis of a recently agreed upon roadmap for the development and implementation of pilot projects on collection and sustainable treatment schemes for used and end-of-life mobile phones in rapidly industrialising and developing countries.

The Basel Convention has also initiated a Global Computer Refurbishment and Recycling Partnership called "e2e". It is aimed at engaging manufacturers and other companies dealing

with electronic equipment to increase the reuse and recycling of personal computers-including circuit boards and components, keyboards, mice, printers, loud speakers, laptops and flat panels-to encourage the diversion of such end-of-life equipment away from landfills. UNEP and the UN University are among the partners of these activities.

### REGIONAL LEVEL

At the regional level, the Basel Convention has developed a project on the "Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste in Asia and the Pacific"

The project is a four-year programme to address the critical issues associated with the rapid generation of E-waste and its consequences for the Asia-Pacific region.

The countries in Asia and the Pacific identified E-waste as a priority and emphasized the need to obtain the latest and relevant information on environmentally sound management of E-waste, inclusive of information regarding know-how on cleaner technologies or processes used in the repair, refurbishment, recycling or recovery of used or end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment.

The project was developed by the Basel Convention in partnership with its Regional Centres in Asia and the Pacific (China, Indonesia, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme) with UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and NGOs and industry in the region. Nine countries have expressed interest in the project, namely Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand.

The Basel Convention Regional Centre in Indonesia will assist in coordinating national

implementation activities for the environmentally sound management of E-waste in the region.

The programme aims to address the key obstacles to the environmentally sound management of E-waste. Its aims are:

- to support national and local initiatives to divert end-of-life equipment from landfills towards sustainable reuse and recycling operations to protect human health and the environment,
- to provide an assessment of the regional situation on E-waste, tools to develop national policies for re-use, repair, refurbishment and recycling and build capacity to implement these policies,
- to raise public awareness on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment.

Recommendations on the establishment of facilities for the environmentally sound management of E-waste taking local specificities into consideration will also be prepared.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Centre for Hazardous Waste Management, Training and Technology Transfer -the Basel Convention Regional Centre in China- currently implements two projects on E-waste under the Basel Convention Strategic Plan:

- A partnership with local authorities for the environmentally sound management of E-waste in urban areas in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- A survey of the import and the environmentally sound management of E-waste in Asia-Pacific Region.

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting Africa Institute for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and Other Wastes

The SBC participated in the 6th Task Force meeting of the Africa Institute for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and Other Wastes in April in South Africa. The meeting was attended by representatives of Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Dr. John Mbogoma, Director of



the BCRC Pretoria, the SBC and Mr. Mike Cockerell, consultant to SBC on resource mobilization and the BCRCs were also present.

It was noted at the Task Force meeting that concrete progress had been made in the ratification process in many countries, a positive development as entry into force of the Agreement is essential to secure the financial sustainability of the Centre. Planned and past activities were also reviewed. Past activities included training activities undertaken with the Eskom Africa Centre for Energy and Environment, on the environmentally sound management of various hazardous waste streams and a project on medical waste with the John Snow Inc for example. All Task Force members commended the positive contribution that the Centre is making to the region through the implementation of such activities, and the impetus being provided to the development of synergies with other agencies and environmental conventions. Those present recommended that the ratification process be actively pursued by each country to ensure that these important activities could be sustained. The Institute will be legally established upon ratification of the Agreement by five states which are expected to be deposited by September 2005.

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## The following Press Statement was jointly adopted by the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Singapore and issued on 12 May 2005 following a meeting of delegations of both countries in Geneva

The Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia and the Delegation of the Republic of Singapore met in a friendly session at the Office of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) in Geneva, on 10-11 May 2005 to discuss a mutually acceptable resolution relating to the current dispute over the export of "organic material" or "waste" from Singapore to Indonesia. The SBC had kindly offered its good offices to Singapore and Indonesia to meet to reach an amicable resolution of the issue.

Both delegations agreed that the matter should be resolved amicably in the interest of friendly relations between the two countries. As States Parties to the Basel Convention, they recognised the importance of settling their differences in a peaceful manner and in keeping with Article 20 of the Convention.

At this meeting, Indonesia and Singapore presented and exchanged their views on the facts of the case. Both delegations further recognised that the current dispute relates to the interpretation of Article 3 of the Convention on domestic definitions of hazardous waste as well as Article 13 on the transmission of information on such domestic definitions to all States Parties to the Basel Convention through the SBC.

Based on the exchange of views between the two delegations, Singapore and Indonesia agreed as follows:

Both delegations noted the collection of samples in Indonesia and Singapore for testing as well as the tests results which have been undertaken by the independent expert recommended by the SBC.

In view of Article 3 and Article 13 of the Basel Convention regarding domestic definition of hazardous wastes, the Delegation of the Republic of Singapore expressed its view that export of the material in question from Singapore to Indonesia was not classified as hazardous waste according to Singapore's domestic laws.

On the other hand, pursuant to Indonesia's domestic laws, the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia considered that the export of the material in question from Singapore to Indonesia was hazardous waste prohibited under its domestic laws.

As part of Indonesia's obligations as a State Party to the Basel Convention, the Indonesian Ministry of Environment (KLH) transmitted to the SBC a list of



hazardous wastes contained in government regulation 85/1999 on 29 July 2004. This notification was sent by the SBC and received by Singapore on 27 Aug 2004. Meanwhile, the material in question was exported from Singapore on 27 July 2004 and arrived in Batam on 28 July 2004.

As State Parties to the Basel Convention both Indonesia and Singapore are determined to comply with all its provisions. Singapore has acted in accordance with its domestic law, and the export of material in question from Singapore to Indonesia on 27 July 2004 did not breach the Basel Convention, and the shipment of material in question from Indonesia to Singapore will not be regarded as a re-export under articles 8 and 9 of the Basel Convention.

In the interest of resolving this issue amicably and in the spirit of good neighbourliness, Singapore will allow the return of the material in question from Indonesia to Singapore. In this context, the current prohibition imposed by Singapore on the return of the material in question will be lifted immediately after the release of this joint press statement. Both parties will, within a week, initiate the process to ensure the speedy return of the material in question to Singapore.

In order to prevent any future similar incidents, both Singapore and Indonesia agreed to utilise the existing technical forum under the Indonesia-Singapore Joint Working Group on the Environment (ISWG).

The Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention congratulated the two Parties on the successful resolution of this matter, and commended them for the fraternal and cooperative manner in which this had been achieved.

# One World, Don't Waste It



## First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Basel Convention participated in the first Conference of the Parties (COP-1) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which was held on 2-6 May 2005, in Punta del Este, Uruguay.



Mr. Ibrahim Shafii and Ms. Donata Rugarabamu

Over 650 participants, representing more than 132 governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies, attended the session. The meeting adopted a broad range of decisions required to set the Stockholm Convention's implementation in motion.

### ITEMS OF RELEVANCE TO THE BASEL CONVENTION

The items related to the Basel Convention created much debate and the results showed compromises between differing opinions. Please see the Basel Convention's statement during the Ministerial Segment of the Conference of the Parties in the box (page 7).

The Basel Convention's General Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing or Contaminated with Persistent Organic Pollutants and Specific Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing or Contaminated with PCBs, PCTs and PBBs,

adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention were put to the COP for consideration. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) made an intervention during this agenda item urging the COP to adopt them.

While many countries expressed their support for the Guidelines, others did not agree to their adoption. The adopted decision thus reminds Parties to take into account the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines, in particular the provisionally-defined "low POP content" levels of destruction and irreversible transformation, and methods considered to constitute the environmentally sound disposal of wastes consisting of, or contaminated with POPs.

The decision welcomes the continued work of the Basel Convention in developing the above-mentioned methodologies, and encourages Stockholm Convention Parties to participate in this work. The decision also requests the Stockholm Convention Secretariat to further strengthen synergies with the SBC, and to keep Parties informed of the status of the Technical Guidelines on POPs, with a view to future consideration of a decision on the issue by the next Conference of the Parties.

Under the heading of "Technical Assistance", countries discussed the feasibility of using existing Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) as centres to promote synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), thus facilitating the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Many donor countries and host countries of existing BCRCs supported the issue. The adopted decision on regional and sub-regional centres requests the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to develop a study on regional and sub-regional centres and criteria for evaluating their performance which is to be reviewed at second meeting of Conference of the

Parties to the Stockholm Convention. The guidelines for the study to be followed by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat include consultations with the Stockholm Convention's focal points and existing BCRCs which provide technical assistance in the area of chemicals and wastes, the consideration of using existing BCRCs, while providing scope for creation of new centers, the access by the centres to resources of the Stockholm Convention's financial mechanism and the effective cooperation, collaboration and synergies in advancing activities which assist Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention and other MEAs.

On the issue of cooperation between the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions, Switzerland introduced a draft decision submitted with Norway and France on elements to enhance synergies between the three Conventions. Delegates adopted a decision which requests the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to prepare a study on how cooperation between the three Conventions could be improved. It also requests that this study, which will consider common structures such as a merged Secretariat, be submitted for consideration to the eighth meeting of the Conference to the Parties of the Basel Convention. The COP committed the Stockholm Convention to building synergies with the Basel Convention, and to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), acknowledging the relevance of these processes, as they relate to POPs wastes and the broader issue of safe management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle, respectively.

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## Statement of Dr Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention

Mr President, your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly, I wish to thank the Governments of Uruguay, Switzerland and the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention for this excellent and productive meeting. I am grateful for this opportunity to address this important meeting, and wish to take this opportunity to briefly describe the synergies that are currently being explored, or could be further explored, between the two Conventions.

As you are aware, the Parties to, and the Secretariats of, the Stockholm and Basel Conventions worked closely in the development of the two technical guidelines addressing the environmentally sound management of POPs wastes. The Basel Convention considers that work on future technical guidelines to be an evolving and dynamic process that is most beneficial to Parties if undertaken with close collaboration between the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention.

I am very mindful of the benefits to be gained by establishing a coherent and uniform approach to dealing with persistent organic pollutants that are wastes, and I believe that this can be secured by taking concrete steps to reinforce close collaboration between the two Conventions. The absence of a harmonized approach with respect to regimes and standards for the management of POPs wastes under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions would serve to undermine effective implementation of both Conventions. I believe, therefore, that efforts to secure uniformity and equality of treatment by the two Conventions in their application to persistent organic pollutants as waste are a priority.

A further point of common interest between the two Conventions is the execution of capacity building activities relating to POPs wastes at regional and subregional levels. Many decisions have been adopted in international fora, such as the WSSD, UNEP Governing Council, SAICM, AMCEN and the Basel Convention Conference of the Parties, that have called for activities to be undertaken to promote synergies between the three chemical-related conventions. Moreover, the Parties to the Basel Convention have requested the Regional Centres to play an active role in developing and implementing partnerships programmes on POPs waste. In accordance with these decisions, the Basel Convention Regional Centres have already undertaken a significant number of activities to promote such synergies, and they are ready to work further in this field with all relevant stakeholders, including other centres and institutions.

Yet another opportunity for synergies between the Basel and Stockholm Conventions is in respect of the national implementation plans and, specifically, in connection with the need for Parties to review legal requirements and obligations arising from national, regional and international agreements. One such relevant international agreement is the Basel Convention. In the Guidance document before you, it is observed that, in developing strategies and action plans for the Stockholm Convention, there may be considerable benefit in overall effectiveness and efficiency in coordinating activities with the Rotterdam Convention and the Basel Convention. In this connection, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention would welcome the opportunity to share its experience in the context of the Basel Convention.

Having regard to the wide scope for synergies, the Secretariat shall be reporting to the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, and its subsidiary bodies, on the outcomes of this meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. The Basel Convention Secretariat looks forward to continued exploration and development of synergies between the two Conventions, within the scope of the mandate provided to it by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Finally, I note that, currently, the opportunities for synergies are greatly enhanced by the most effective and facilitative presidency of both the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention by Uruguay.

Thank you for your kind attention.

## Launch of a PCB Inventory and Management Decision Supportive Tool (DST)

The SBC recently released a toolkit to support decision making in the invento-  
rying and management of PCBs and PCB containing equipment.<sup>1</sup> The toolkit - PCB Inventory and Management Decision Supportive Tool (DST)- is the product of experience gathered from PCB related country projects in Côte d'Ivoire (1997 and 2000-2001), The Gambia (2002) and Thailand (2003) and other PCB related activities carried out in the context of the implementation of the Basel Convention.

The toolkit has been developed in Access language for ease of use by Parties to the Basel and Stockholm Conventions in the context of the implementation of their National Implementation Plans. Further to the numerous requests received from Governments for such a toolkit, the SBC, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and UNEP-Chemicals, will be distributing English, French and Spanish versions of the software to any requesting Party, free of charge. This first version of the toolkit will be



Analysis of electrical equipment for PCB quick testing onsite

The toolkit will assist government offi-  
cers and field managers in carrying out inventories of PCBs and PCB containing equipment in an efficient and organized fashion. It includes a risk assessment dimension and provides concrete recom-  
mendations and instructions for the manage-  
ment of equipment in use or to be discarded. In addition, the toolkit will greatly contribute to the efforts of relevant national or provincial authorities in the collection, processing and organization of PCB related data. The toolkit will also support medium and long-term planning, as related to the preparation of PCB disposal plans or to transboundary movements of PCB waste for example.

updated after having been tested by Parties to the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

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<sup>1</sup> PCBs-or polychlorinated biphenyls-are chemical compounds used in industry as heat exchange fluids, in electric transformers and capacitors, and as additives in paint, carbonless copy paper, sealants and plastics for example. They can pose risks to the nervous system, reproductive system, immune system and to the liver. PCBs fall under the scope of the Basel and Stockholm Convention and are supposed to be phased out by 2025.

# One World, Don't Waste It

## Third Expert Group Meeting on the Preparation of a Set of Tools for the Selection, Design and Operation of Hazardous Waste Landfills in Hyper-Dry Areas

The expert group meeting, held in Cairo, Egypt, on 23-26 May 2005, was the follow-up to a first and second expert group meeting held in July 2004 in Alexandria and November 2004 in Cairo respectively, within the framework of the project "The Preparation of a Set of Tools for the Selection, Design and Operation of Hazardous Waste Landfills in Hyper-Dry Areas" financed by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC)/UNEP under the Basel Convention Strategic Plan. It was co-organized by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), the Cairo Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for Arab States and the SBC.

The workshop was attended by 30 participants from Arab countries, experts from local universities and institutes, the Arab League and SBC.

The objective of the meeting was to review and finalize the Technical Guidelines on Site Design, Operation and Monitoring for Hazardous Waste Landfills in Hyper-Dry Areas and to agree on the structure and contents of a Training Manual on Hazardous Waste Landfill in Hyper-dry Areas. The meeting worked in small groups, revised the above-mentioned Technical Guidelines in detail by amending the original document previously prepared by BCRC Cairo.

The meeting was also a showcase for 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 incineration facilities for medical and hospital waste located at the Cairo University was organised.

A pilot scale implementation of the Technical Guidelines will be carried out in Yemen and the meeting was informed that a Memorandum of Understanding for a pilot project between the



Biomedical waste treatment installation in Cairo

BCRC Cairo and the Government of Yemen had been finalized and was ready for signature. It was agreed that the BCRC Cairo would finalize the draft Technical Guidelines and the Training Manual incorporating all comments by the expert group members and the new draft would be circulated to all participants for final comments.

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## Latest SBC Publications and Information Material

- Guidance Manual. Preparation of National Health-Care Waste Management Plans in Sub-Saharan Countries, hard copy, French
- 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, hard copy, Spanish

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

## Regional Workshop on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The Basel Convention Secretariat (SBC) participated in a Regional Workshop on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) held in Yaounde, Cameroun, from 9-12 May 2005, as represented by Ms Salimata Seck of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Senegal. The workshop follows in the series of compliance workshops started in Mexico City in March 2005 (please see April newsletter) and organised by UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI).

The workshop was attended by experts involved in the implementation and enforcement of MEAs in the following countries; Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, and Togo.

The meeting was a platform to discuss and make inputs to a draft manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements prepared by UNEP/DEPI through presentations made by several MEAs. The manual is to serve as an over-arching guide on MEA compliance and enforcement.

## Become a Partner

Whether you are a corporation, non-governmental organisation, foundation or government agency, partnering with the Basel Convention is simple. The Secretariat will work with you to create a tailored programme to meet your needs. There are many benefits to forming a partnership with the Basel Convention, including:

- Access to the expert capacity of the Secretariat, almost 160 Parties to the Basel Convention and 13 Basel Conventions Regional Centres around the globe;
- Opportunities to leverage your funds or resources with those of other Partners.

Forging a partnership with the Basel Convention is a smart investment in a better world.

*To discuss your interest in partnering with the Basel Convention, contact :  
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## Open-ended Working Group Meeting 4-8 July 2005

The fourth Basel Convention meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) will take place on 4 - 8 July 2005 in Geneva. It will be followed by the fifth OEWG early next year as part of the preparations for the eighth conference of the Parties in late 2006.

Priorities for OEWG 4 will be to continue working on the legal aspects of dismantling obsolete ships, obsolete ships en route to ship-breaking yards as well as on the problem of abandoned ships.

Discussions will also take place on the strengthening the Convention's effectiveness by developing its partnerships with industry, developing a draft decision on resource mobilization, empowering the Basel Convention Regional Centres to support capacity building at the national level and progressing on the regime for liability and compensation.

Regarding the development of Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound, Management (ESM) of hazardous and other wastes, the meeting will continue with the preparation of several guidelines on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) wastes, including wastes containing DDT, Dioxin, Furans and other pesticides.

Still other items on the OEWG's agenda include facilitating the ratification and implementation of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation, which has not yet entered into force and providing guidance on the detection, prevention and control of illegal traffic.

The overarching issue needing to be addressed by Parties at the meeting will be that of securing adequate resources to ensure the sound implementation of the Convention.

To download the meeting documentation and for more information please consult:

<http://www.basel.int/meetings/oewg/oewg4/index.html>

## Finalization of Project on Legal Assistance by the Basel Convention Regional Centre - Slovak Republic



The Legal Assistance Project was funded by the Governments of Austria and Belgium and was supported by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC). It was designed to assist Bulgaria, the FYR Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro in the implementation of the Basel Convention and relevant obligations concerning national legislation.

After its participation in the Project, Bulgaria will spend the next two years focusing on the adoption of national legislation that meets the requirements of the Basel Convention and other relevant international regulations. The effective implementation of the new legislation will represent an important step for Bulgaria as a future member of the European Union.

In the FYR Macedonia, relevant legislation was not in compliance with the Basel Convention. Waste had not been defined according to the Basel Convention and the transboundary movement of waste was not regulated. Following the completion of the Legal Assistance Project a draft Law on Waste Management was put in place, which represented a significant step in the fulfillment of EU and Basel Convention legal requirements. The Law on Waste Management was adopted by the Parliament and it was published in the Official Gazette of the FYR Macedonia on 5 October 2004. The definition of wastes, hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, as well as other terms connected with waste management are now in compliance with the Basel Convention and European regulations.

In Serbia and Montenegro, the aim of the project was to harmonize national legislation, as related to the control system of transboundary movement of wastes, with the Basel Convention and European Union Council Regulation 259/93. The following new laws and subsidiary regulations were developed: Draft Law on Environmental Protection, Draft Law on Waste Management, Draft Regulation on Documentation, to be enclosed to the application for the issuance of a permit for import, export and transit of waste, Regulation on the Conditions to be Fulfilled by Authorized Institutions for the Testing of Waste, and a new proposal for customs tariffs. The improvement of the legal system and the existing control system for transboundary movements of waste as well as their adaptation to the international requirements will open the door to Serbia and Montenegro for closer cooperation with the EU and OECD.

The Secretariat wishes to express its gratitude to the Governments of Austria and Belgium for their financial contribution to this project and wishes to acknowledge the dedication of the project coordinators in the respective countries and the BCRC in the Slovak Republic.

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# One World, Don't Waste It

## International Seminar on the Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Environment, organized the Seminar in Rome on 6-8 April 2005. Its aim was to discuss the technical, scientific and structural aspects of the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. A total of 22 countries and the Secretariats of the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions participated in the meeting.

The Basel Convention Regional Centres on Training and Technology Transfer (BCRCs) located in China, Nigeria, Russian Federation, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay, participated, taking into account that the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention (by its Decision RC-1/14) had invited the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres to participate in the regional delivery system to make full use of synergies among concerned entities. Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, presented cooperation projects for the implementation of the Basel



Convention. Mr. Nelson Sabogal made a presentation on "Analogies and Linkages between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions".

The meeting adopted the "Rome Declaration on the Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on PIC", primarily directed to Parties with less advanced projects and focusing on developing priorities and international co-operation perspectives. The Declaration, among other matters, stresses maximizing the use of

existing resources such as the BCRCs and highlighted the importance of the development of synergies to secure the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes.

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## Basel Convention Secretariat : Staff News



Mr Jari Vaarnamo

Mr Jari Vaarnamo has recently joined the Secretariat as Administrative Officer, following the departure of Mr Paul Silfvenius.

Jari will cover all administrative issues, which include budget finance, human resource and office management. A Finnish national, Jari previously worked in personnel management and administration in several United Nations field missions, such as Croatia (UNPROFOR, 1993-1997), Iraq (UNOCHI, 1998), and Liberia (UNMIL, 2003-2005).

Previous work experience includes legal and financial positions in the banking sector and in a private law firm in Finland. He was also Legal Advisor in the Finnish army where he held the rank of Major.

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## National Legislation Project Update



The Basel Convention Secretariat (SBC) has developed a project aimed at strengthening the legislative, regulatory and enforcement capacity of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, which is sensitive to the difficulties and needs of such countries.

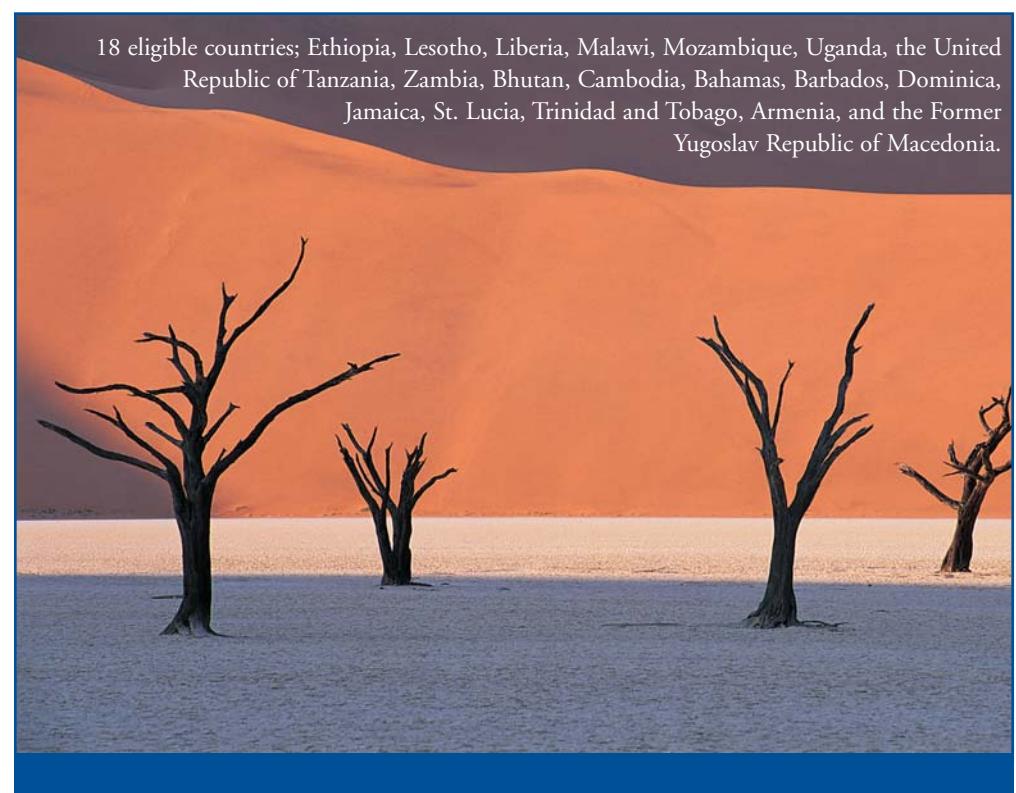
Letters of endorsement have been received from 18 eligible countries; Ethiopia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Armenia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



The project will be conducted in three phases, having particular regard to the current status of each country's legislation and regulations for wastes. Phase 1 will be comprised of a gaps and needs analysis whereby studies are undertaken to identify the lacunae in existing legislation and regulatory measures and conflicts with requirements of the Basel Convention. Phase 2 seeks to strengthen the regulatory framework and legislative measures, through the development of guidance and tools, and to address the gaps and needs identified under Phase 1. Phase 3 seeks to enhance the implementation and enforcement capacity through the development of training materials for agencies engaged in implementing

and enforcing the Basel Convention. To this end, the project is particularly concerned with both the legislative and the enforcement aspects involved in the implementation of the Convention.

Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, having regard to



As this is a pilot project, it will be carried out in English, however, the SBC intends to replicate it in other languages in the future, following its successful outcome. Furthermore, the development of the project's tools will be aimed at being suited for dissemination to other Parties, thus the effects should exceed the immediate benefits enjoyed by the participant countries.

The project offers a comprehensive and integrated approach for realizing the entire range of

the benefits of adopting an integrated approach to chemicals and wastes management.

The Secretariat is now in the process of securing voluntary funding in support of this project.

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### Joining the Party

The Basel Convention has 165 Parties. Since our last Bulletin, Eritrea acceded to the Convention on 10 March 2005. Bolivia ratified the Ban Amendment on 31 March 2005, which now has 56

Parties. The Democratic Republic of Congo recently acceded to the Protocol on 23 March 2005, which brings the number of Contracting Parties to the Protocol to 5.

## Upcoming Meetings of Interest to the Basel Convention

<b>1 Jul 05</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties, Montreal Protocol, Montreal, Canada
<b>4-8 Jul 05</b>	4th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, Geneva, Switzerland,
<b>13-15 Jul 05</b>	Intersessional meeting of the Working Group on Ship Recycling IMO, UK,
<b>18-22 Jul 05</b>	Fifty-third session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, IMO UK,
<b>16-18 Aug 05</b>	2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Project for the Development of a Strategy for the ESM of used lead acid batteries in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and Caribbean Island States, San Salvador, El Salvador
<b>29 Aug to 2 Sept 05</b>	POPs regional workshop, Jordan
<b>19-24 Sept 05</b>	SAICM PrepCom 3, Vienna, Austria
<b>26-28 Sept 05</b>	IPCC 24th session, UNFCCC, Montreal, Canada
<b>26-30 Sept 05</b>	COP2, PIC/Rotterdam Convention, Rome, Italy
<b>27-29 Sept 05</b>	Second Meeting of the Steering Committee of the project entitled 'New partnership with local authorities in Guayaquil for the environmentally sound management of oily waste in the context of the Basel Convention', Guayaquil, Ecuador
<b>3-07 Oct 05</b>	Regional Forum on Public Private Partnerships for integrated waste management in urban areas in Latin America and the Caribbean, Curitiba, Brazil
<b>17-28 Oct 05</b>	COP7, UNCCD, Bonn, Germany

## Upcoming Activities of the Basel Convention Regional Centres

### **BCRC Egypt**

- Workshop for Iraq on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Cairo, Egypt, 11 to 13 July 2005, BCRC Egypt and UNEP GEN
- Regional Workshop for Arab States on the environmentally sound destruction of POPs and decontamination of POPs containing waste in the context of the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention, Amman, Jordan, 28 August- to 31 August 2005, MoP Jordan and BCRC Egypt. Financed by the Government of Switzerland and UNEP, WHO

### **BCRC South Africa**

- Regional Workshop on POPs laboratories for African countries, Pretoria, South Africa, 10-12 August 2005, BCRC-South Africa and UNEP Chemicals

### **BCRC Russian Federation**

- Meetings on development of the legislation in the sphere of the monitoring and control over the transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes from countries of the region \*, August 2005
- Training workshops on introduction of the Basel Convention Provisions in Eastern European countries of the CIS-region \*, September 2005 \* subject to availability of funds

### **BCRC El Salvador**

- Second 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" San Salvador, El Salvador, 16 to 18 August 2005, BCRC El Salvador and BCRC Trinidad and Tobago. Additional funding by UK, USA and UNEP.

### **BCRC Uruguay**

- GRULAC Regional Workshop on the context of the UNEP/GEF POPs Labs project. Montevideo, Uruguay, 5-9 September 2005, BCRC Uruguay and UNEP Chemicals

## Call for National Legislation on Basel Convention

In early 2004, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention started to collect texts of national legislation and measures of the Parties to the Convention on the implementation of the Basel Convention, both in hard copy and in electronic form.

As of 14 March 2005 the Secretariat has received the national legislation from 73 Parties to the Convention, which can be found on the SBC website at the following URL:

<http://www.basel.int/legalmatters/natleg/fsetmain.html>. (some texts are only available in the national language of the country concerned).

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