



BASEL CONVENTION

*the world environmental
agreement on wastes*

BASEL CONVENTION *bulletin*

April 2004

BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTERS

We're off!

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Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto

At the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in December 2002, the decision was made to legally establish 13 Basel Convention Regional Centers. By COP6, 12 Regional Centers were already operational in Argentina, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Russian Federation, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. A thirteenth Center was added through plans to open a Pacific Regional Center with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Why Regional Centers?

The Basel Convention Regional Centers were established to bring technical and legal expertise and experience where it is most needed in a manner that is best adapted to regional contexts. The role of the Centers is to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition

in reaching the objectives of the Convention. The overarching aim is to strengthen capacity building at the regional and national levels, which is achieved through training, technology transfer, information sharing, consulting and awareness raising. Further, the Regional Centers are also the basis for a worldwide network, in which each entity may communicate information, experiences and success stories to the others, thereby, maximizing our collective potential for best results.

Progress Report

Since our last Bulletin of October 2003, two Basel Convention Regional Centers have been legally established and preparations are under way for the signing of further Framework Agreements. On the 18th of December 2003, we signed a

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Mr Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer, Basel Convention Secretariat, Mrs Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary, Basel Convention Secretariat, Mr Asterio Takesy, Director of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) (Photo: SBC)



Memorandum of Understanding with SPREP, formally establishing the Pacific Regional Center in Samoa. Mr. Asterio Takesy, Director of SPREP, was present at the signing.

The Center will target training, technology transfer and awareness raising activities for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu. The Center will also support the development of national legislation and provide technical guidelines implementing the Conventions. It will promote the ratification of the Basel and Waigani Conventions.

Early this year, on 30th of January 2004, the Basel Convention Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of Uruguay signed a Framework Agreement, which officially launched the Basel Convention Coordinating Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the Latin American and Caribbean Region. Ambassador Guillermo Valles, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uruguay and Mr. Paul Irureta, Minister of Housing, Land Planning and Environment of the Republic of Uruguay were at the official signing ceremony.

The legal establishment of the Center followed successful operations on a pilot basis since 1995. The signing of the Framework Agreement is of particular significance as it gives full legitimacy to the operations of the Center.

Joining the party

Since our last Bulletin of October 2003, Rwanda joined the Convention on 7 January 2004. As of March 2004, the Basel Convention has 159 Parties (158 States and the European Community). The Protocol on Liability and Compensation was ratified by Ethiopia on 8 October 2003. Ethiopia becomes the first Party to the Protocol. Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Latvia and Lithuania recently ratified the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention. Please see our newly designed ratification tables which now include a glossary of frequently used terms at

www.basel.int

Waigani Convention

First signed in 1999, the Waigani Convention bans the importation into South Pacific Forum countries of hazardous and radioactive wastes (the latter are not part of the Basel Convention) and controls the transboundary movement and management of hazardous wastes within the South Pacific region. It targets hazardous wastes, including radioactive and nuclear wastes, transported around the region's 38.5 million square kilometers of blue water, the biggest expanse of open ocean on the planet.

The Center will coordinate the Basel Convention Regional Centers in Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago) on training and technology transfer.

Additionally to the Center's core functions, special emphasis is also placed on executing programmes of regional scope, in coordination with the sub-regional centers, and on information exchange. It will also contribute to the promotion of a lifecycle approach to the management of hazardous materials through the coordinated implementation of the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, great efforts have been made in developing projects in partnership with the Basel Convention Secretariat, as in the field of lead-acid batteries and PCBs for example.

Though much improvement has been made in this field, the region is still faced with the high cost of research and implementation facilities in the environmentally sound management of toxic waste and waste minimization.

We are thrilled at the progress made in this field of our work, and the signing of both Agreements represents a crucial development for the Basel Convention. Basel Convention Regional Centers are the tools, which ensure the much-needed practical implementation of our programmes, and thereby help promote environmentally sustainable development.

**Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto,
Executive Secretary,
Basel Convention Secretariat**

For more information on Basel Convention Regional Centers, please contact Mr Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer, Capacity Building and Training, on +41 (0) 22 917 82 12, Email: Nelson.Sabogal@unep.ch

Addresses

Basel Convention Coordinating Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the Latin American and Caribbean Region

Centro Coordinador del Convenio de Basilea de Capacitación y Transferencia de Tecnología en Desechos Peligrosos para América Latina y el Caribe

Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente
Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente
Rincon 422, 1er piso Montevideo, Uruguay
Tel. (598 2) 917 07 10 / int. 54
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E-mail: suspel@adinet.com.uy
<http://www.desechospeligrosos.org>

The Pacific Regional Center

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
P.O Box 240, Apia
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Tel: (+685) 21 929
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New members for the **MPPI**

Alcatel, Sharp Telecommunications Europe and Vodafone have been welcomed into the Basel Convention's Mobile Phone Working Group (MPWG).

At its second meeting (16-17 February 2004), the Mobile Phone Working Group agreed these prestigious companies should join in overseeing the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, which is looking at ways of reducing the negative environmental impact of the mobile phone industry. With the arrival of these companies, the industry side of the partnership will include Alcatel, Sharp Telecommunications Europe, Vodafone, LG, Matsushita/Panasonic, Mitsubishi, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Philips, Samsung, Siemens, and Sony Ericsson.

The second meeting also agreed in principle to invite other key network operators as members and a limited number of refurbishers, recyclers and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as observers to the MPWG. A wider industry base, and NGO participation, is particularly important to the Basel Convention.

Although the MPWG needs to remain at a manageable size, a careful expansion of membership is imperative to ensure that the Basel Convention has available to it the

resources, experience and expertise of the many players important to improving the environmentally sound management of the industry.

Membership of the MPWG is open to Parties and Signatories to the Convention and the active involvement of countries, particularly developing countries, in both the MPWG and its project groups is encouraged.

At this point, four project groups are operating under the MPWG, and four more are scheduled to commence over 2004. These focus on the reuse, the collection and transboundary movement, the recovery and recycling of mobile phones, and on awareness raising.

The Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, and other partnerships that will follow, have the potential to better engage key industry leaders in a practical and constructive dialogue on waste management

issues. While it is increasingly clear that these partnerships cannot be rushed, their patient nurturing will add to the accomplishments of the Basel Convention in coming years.

For more information, please contact: Milton Catelin, Senior Programme Officer, Partnership and Public Affairs, on +41 (0) 22 917 8227 or by email at: milton.catelin@unep.ch



Left to right: Frank MacAlister (USA), Ramon Arratia (Vodafone) and Milton Catelin. (Photo: SBC)

Public-private partnership

Hazardous waste tracking in Mexico

In the context of a partnership with industry and the private sector, the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT), the private company Gedden (Canada), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico (El Salvador) and the Basel Convention Secretariat signed an agreement for the development of an electronic waste tracking system in the context of the Basel Convention.

The proposed system will greatly facilitate the capacity of industry and other waste generators in declaring and reporting information to the central authorities concerning the generation and the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, in line with the national legislation in Mexico. The system will also be tested on a pilot basis for the administration of the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes from Mexico to several countries in North America and Europe. The user-friendly system, one version of which will be web-based, will be put free of charge at the disposal of the focal points to the Basel Convention in the sub-region upon completion of the project.

For more information, please contact Vincent Jugault, Programme Officer, Technical Cooperation and Training, on +41 (0) 22 917 82 23 or by email at Vincent.Jugault@unep.ch.



Fonebak-World Recycling Support Programme *Rolls Out*

Shields Environmental Group was the first corporate donor to the Basel Convention's Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, whose Working Group recently had its second meeting (please see article on page 3).

The company, which is based in the UK, where its operations started, is a £30 million (\$46.5 million) company, now expanding throughout Europe and North America. It is active in the reuse and recycling of telecom equipment and mobile phones. In 2002, the company processed over 455,881.30 kgs of equipment and materials. Of this, 215,075.81 kgs of material was recycled.

Shields Environmental's Mobile Phone Division, Fonebak, has recently opened a repair and refurbishment facility in Bucharest, Romania, which now employs close to 100 people, bringing employment and new skills to the area. Romania is the physical starting point of the company's World Recycling Support Programme.

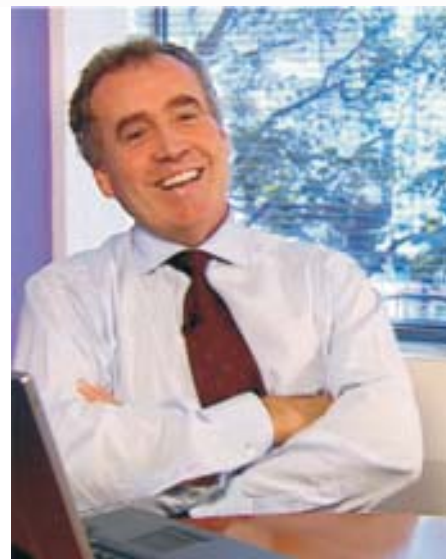
The aim of the programme, which started in July 2002, is to share 25 years of experience in environmental management

with developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Working with Network Operators in Romania, Shields has now established a Fonebak Recycling Scheme for mobile phones and a scheme for Network Infrastructure.

In addition, the company cooperated with Bucharest University in adding an environmental component to the University's curriculum. Shields will support a master class course and sponsor two students through the newly established Environmental Course. The Fonebak facility will also provide work experience on technical repair to students.

Gordon Shields, Chairman and founder of the company said; "I believe this multi-faceted support, which includes practical and intellectual elements, will be of great benefit to spread the environmental message and deliver on it".

Possibilities for similar operations are currently being explored in Kenya and Nigeria where discussions are ongoing with the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Lagos University.



Gordon Shields (Photo: Shields Environmental Group)

Mr. Shields added: "We believe the duplication of our efforts in Romania are key for success. We will be working very hard with the support of all sectors to bring environmental awareness and technical know-how where it is most needed".

For more information, please contact Shields Environmental on +44 (0)1708 684000 or by fax on +44 (0)1708 684020 and by email at enquiries@shields-e.com

Implementing *Conventions* in Latin America and the Caribbean

A Regional Workshop for the Coordinated Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 28 to 30 January 2004. It dealt with information sharing on experiences in integrating the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in countries of the region.

It also focused on identifying opportunities for the development of pilot projects on the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes.

The participants agreed to endorse procedures for national coordination and to promote regional co-operation. This could take the shape of a Memorandum of Understanding among Ministries to establish procedures on data exchange and the revision of existing legal frameworks to identify gaps and weaknesses, for example.

The participants also called for the strengthening of the Basel Convention Regional Centres.

The workshop was organized by UNEP/Geneva Environmental Network and the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre in Uruguay, with the support of the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment of Uruguay. The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions contributed to the workshop, as well as the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL), which made a financial contribution.

The following countries participated in the workshop: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Uruguay.

For more information, please contact Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer, Capacity Building and Training, by email at Nelson.Sabogal@unep.ch or on +41 (0) 22 917 82 12.



Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape SAEFL



Geneva Environment Network

Regional management of *used lead acid batteries*

The first meeting of the Steering Committee for the development of a regional strategy for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of used lead acid batteries (ULAB) in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States was held in Caracas, Venezuela from 4 to 6 December 2003.

Representatives of 9 countries from the region, industry, academia, and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention participated in the meeting hosted by the Government of Venezuela. For the first time in the context of the Basel Convention, a region undertakes to put in place an integrated strategy for the ESM of ULAB through a multi-partner international initiative.

Such a strategy will rely on the following elements:

- the recognition of the acuteness of the problems associated to the unsound management of used lead acid batteries in the region;
- the shared views that the region possesses the technical capacity to solve the problems associated with the collection, storage, transport and recycling of ULAB through the development of a collective approach;
- the existence of a constructive public-private collaborative relationship towards the ESM of, in particular, ULAB, to minimize human health and environmental impact issues;



The meeting agreed on the main elements of a work programme and assigned responsibilities to members. Two other meetings of the committee will be organized in the Caribbean and Central America in 2004 and 2005.

For more information, please contact Vincent Jugault, Programme Officer, Technical Cooperation and Training, on +41 (0) 22 917 82 23 or by email at Vincent.Jugault@unep.ch

TRAINING WORKSHOP

Waste minimization in Central and Eastern Europe

The Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention counts the prevention and minimization of waste generation through the use of cleaner technologies among its aims.

From 10-13 November 2003, the Basel Convention Regional Centre in the Slovak Republic (Bratislava) carried out an international training workshop on the implementation of waste minimization. The training workshop focused on an integrated concept of cleaner production methods to help participants from Central and Eastern Europe implement or follow up on cleaner production projects in their respective areas.

The training workshop was well attended and highly interactive, whereby presentations and lectures alternated with practical exercises and simulation games. The participants were also taken on a half-day tour of a textile company, which has implemented a cleaner production project.

The workshop was carried out thanks to the valuable contributions from the Austrian Government and the Slovak Environmental Agency, in addition to financial support from the Basel Convention's Trust Fund. The following institutions contributed as well: the UN's Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNEP's Cleaner Production Programme, the



Training Workshop in Bratislava. (Photo:SBC)

European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

The following countries participated: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the

former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

For more information, please contact Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer, Capacity Building and Training, Basel Convention Secretariat, by email at Nelson.Sabogal@unep.ch or on +41 (0) 22 917 82 12.

Pilot project on **TBM** in Asia

Four Asian countries – China, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand – which participated in a Pilot Project on the Monitoring and Control of Transboundary Movements (TBM) of Hazardous Wastes in the Asian Region, recently completed their national workshops.

The workshops, which were organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Jakarta for Indonesia, and respective Environmental Agencies, were each attended by about 40 representatives of government departments involved in the control and monitoring of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.

The objectives of the workshops were:

- To enhance cooperation and improve networking between Contracting Parties to the Basel Convention, the Regional Centre of the Basel Convention for the Asia and Pacific Region based in Beijing, the World Customs Organization, Interpol, UNEP/Regional Office for the Asian & Pacific and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention in relation to the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the prevention of illegal traffic;
- To enhance cooperation and improve networking at the national level between

environmental enforcement authorities, Customs, Port Authorities and testing laboratories; and

- To develop recommendations and guidelines concerning the national approach and cooperation on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the prevention of illegal traffic.

The workshops also discussed a Guidance Manual for the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous and Other Wastes and Prevention of Illegal Traffic in the respective countries, which the Secretariat of the Basel Convention had reviewed.

“In these workshops, it was reported that countries in the Asian Region have been a constant target of illegal shipments of wastes, hazardous and non-hazardous”, said Ibrahim Shafii, Technical Programme Officer at the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. “Over the years there have been many cases of illegal dumping of plastic wastes, mixed wastes, electrical and electronic wastes. Some of these cases are still not resolved and the wastes are still stored at the ports. Most delays are due to the failure to identify the exporters and countries of origin and to problems with the

identification of national agencies responsible for disposing the dumped wastes when the country of origin refuses to take back the shipments. In addition, no funds have been set aside to pay for the proper disposal of such wastes. These workshops managed to bring together all relevant agencies at the national level to discuss how to prevent future occurrences and solve illegal trafficking problems.”

China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated in the Pilot Project, which commenced in June 2002. The Pilot Project is funded by Japan and the Netherlands with in-kind contributions by participating countries. A mid-term review workshop was organized from 24 to 26 September 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to discuss the results of the first phase of the desk study. Gaps in the monitoring, information exchange and control systems were identified and recommendations made to improve the cooperation between the relevant Competent Authorities.

For more information, please contact Ibrahim Shafii, Programme Officer, Basel Convention Secretariat Technical Unit, email: Ibrahim.Shafii@unep.ch tel: +41 (0) 22 917 86 36

The Basel Convention at *Carnival!*

The Swiss city of Basel, after which our Convention is named, hosts a special Carnival celebration every year, one week after the beginning of Lent. The celebrations traditionally start on Monday at 4am with a first parade – called the Morgenstreich – of people in costumes and masks, carrying lanterns, and playing piccolos and drums. The Morgenstreich kicks off three days of festivities with more parades, confetti battles and culinary delights of cheese cake and flour soup.

A group of keen Carnivalists from the Basel Convention Secretariat and their families attended the Basel Carnival this year, which proved eventful and memorable. The Secretariat was invited by the city authorities and given the generous opportunity to experience the event from the town hall. A meal followed in the cellar of the building, to music and songs. Getting up in the middle of the night and walking around Basel in freezing temperatures was not only enjoyed by all present, but we highly recommend the experience!

For more information on the city of Basel, please see www.basel.ch



Photo: Andreas Arlt

New staff members

Senior Legal Officer

Ms. Donata Rugarabamu has taken up the position of Senior Legal Officer, following the retirement of Mr. Pavel Suian.

Ms. Rugarabamu, a barrister, with legal qualifications from Cambridge University and the London School of Economics and Political Science, is a specialist in Public International Law.

Prior to joining the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Ms. Rugarabamu was First Legal Officer and Team Leader of a corporate claims unit in the United Nations Compensation Commission. Prior to this, she has worked, variously, at the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law (Cambridge University) and the African Society of International and Comparative Law. Ms. Rugarabamu is Tanzanian and British.

All legal matters should be directed to Ms. Rugarabamu who can be contacted by e-mail: donata.rugarabamu@unep.ch and by telephone on +41 (0) 22 917 82 19.

Information Officer

Ms. Nicole Appel has recently started in the capacity of Information Officer. A Swiss national, Ms. Appel previously worked in public awareness for several United Nations entities, including the World Meteorological Organization and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. She gained experience in environmental issues while working in government relations in Brussels and has written for a Swiss-based magazine.

Ms. Appel replaces Ms. Anne-Marie Fenner and will be dealing with information and public awareness issues. She will also work on the newly established Partnership Programme of the Basel Convention, headed by Milton Catelin. She studied international relations at St Andrews University in Scotland and at the Bologna Center of the School of Advanced International Studies (Johns Hopkins University) in Italy.

Ms. Appel can be reached by e-mail at Nicole.Appel@unep.ch, and by telephone on: +41 (0) 22 917 82 20

Associate Programme Officer – Capacity Building and Training Unit

Mr. Andreas Arlt recently joined the Secretariat as Associate Programme Officer, supported by the German Government under the Junior Professional Officer scheme. He works on programme development and implementation and will shortly be the desk officer for the Basel Regional Training Centre in Moscow. He will also work on projects related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions using an innovative approach aiming at the environmentally sound management and disposal of municipal waste streams.

Mr. Arlt previously worked for UNEP Chemicals on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Past experience includes the Institute of Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis at the Federal Research Centre in Karlsruhe, Germany. He also worked for "Nature Conservancy" and "OIKOS", two companies based in Quito, Ecuador.

Mr. Arlt holds a doctorate in process engineering from the University of Stuttgart and a degree in chemical engineering from the Technical University of Karlsruhe, Germany. He also



Back row: Maiko, Andreas and Nicole. Front row: Donata and Kate. (Photo: SBC)

studied environmental engineering at the University of Massachusetts, USA.

Mr Arlt's coordinates are: Andreas.Arlt@unep.ch, tel: +41 (0) 22 917 8364.

Associate Legal Officer – Legal Services and Compliance Unit

Ms. Maiko Igarashi recently joined the Legal Services and Compliance Unit as Associated Legal Officer, supported by the Government of Japan under the Junior Professional Officer scheme. Ms. Igarashi replaced Ms. Hiroko Mosco, a previous Junior Professional Officer from Japan. Having worked as a lawyer in the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Igarashi brings her experience to the support of legal and compliance issues in the Basel Convention Secretariat.

Ms Igarashi graduated with an LLM from Harvard Law School in the USA and has a BA from Waseda University in Japan. She was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2002. At the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ms. Igarashi worked on the establishment of a certification system for organic grown food and labeling regulations for GMOs. She has also had work experience in the US Department of Agriculture.

Ms Igarashi can be reached by email at Maiko.Igarashi@unep.ch or by telephone on +41 (0) 22 917 83 40

Special Assistant

Ms. Kate Ross has joined the Basel Convention Secretariat as Special Assistant and will be giving secretarial and administrative support to Ms Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, the Secretariat's Executive Secretary, as well as other staff members in the period leading up to COP 7.

Ms. Ross, a British national, previously worked as Marketing Assistant for the International Telecommunications Union and as Administrative Assistant with UNEP's Balkans Unit and the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN). She holds a BA in European Studies from University of Bradford, UK, and a Postgraduate Diploma in European Business Administration from Chichester College, UK.

Ms. Kate Ross can be reached via email at: Kate.Ross@unep.ch or by telephone on +41 (0) 22 917 84 44

Welcome

House of Lords Delegation

In March 2004, the Basel Convention Secretariat received a delegation from the United Kingdom's House of Lords.

The delegation was composed of 10 representatives of the House of Lords' Science and Technology Committee, which is currently inquiring into processes by which science is incorporated into international agreements such as multilateral environmental agreements. The delegation was welcomed by the Basel Convention's Executive Secretary, Sachiko Kuwabara-

Yamamoto, and by Pierre Portas who heads the Secretariat's Technical Unit. A briefing about the Basel Convention was given, followed by more detailed information on the role played by science in the evolution of the Convention.

Ms. Kuwabara-Yamamoto stressed that the Convention, through the set up of its Annexes, enjoys necessary flexibility in embracing new scientific developments in relevant areas such as defining hazardous waste.



Photo: London-GB.com

Thank you to our Interns!

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has had the valuable support from interns from the University of Geneva since 2002 and wishes to recognize their efforts. Interning means working without a salary, most often during or just after University studies, in return for practical experience and exposure to programmes and policies relevant to future areas of work.

Our first two interns, Ms. Sara de Pablos, from Spain, and Ms. Ahoua Traoré, a national of the Ivory Coast, started in November 2002 for a period of six months and contributed enthusiastically to a great number of activities, such as the preparations for the Sixth Conference of the Parties/ They also helped in developing project proposals submitted by the Basel Convention Regional Centres and the Parties to the Convention to the first session

of the Open-Ended Working Group. Ms. Marcela Zapata, from Bolivia, worked from March until October 2003 and assisted the Secretariat in the development of our Project on Municipalities. Mr. Michael Arnold, from Switzerland, carried out his internship from July until December 2003 and contributed to the development of project proposals for the Basel Convention Regional Centres and the preparation of the second session of the Open-Ended Working Group. During the same period, Ms. Anne Menthon, a French national, also assisted in the preparation of projects and in the compilation of information for a brochure on the Basel Convention Regional Centres.

Thank you to all of you for your interest and precious contributions!

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 Centers 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 Milton Catelin, Senior Programme Officer, Partnership and Public Affairs, on +41 (0) 22 917 82 27 or by email: Milton.Catelin@unep.ch

Meetings 2004

5-8 April	Latvia Toxics Synergies meeting
15-16 April	Third Meeting of the Expanded Bureau to COP6, Geneva.
25-27 April	Montreal International Policy Conference on Hazardous Waste Management and Contaminated Sites.
26-30 April	3rd session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, Geneva
25-29 October	Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7), Geneva (to be confirmed)

www.basel.int