



BASEL CONVENTION



# Basel Convention Bulletin

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## Editorial

Dear Reader,

Hazardous wastes generally receive broad public attention only when their potentially disastrous effects are the subject of high level political discussions - or high visibility legal proceedings. This has occurred in July of this year, when a landmark court decision in relation to the dumping of toxic wastes by the ship Probo Koala in Côte d'Ivoire in 2006 reminded the world that actors involved in the management and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes have a responsibility to respect applicable international law. The Basel Convention, being the sole global treaty on waste management, embodies international law in this field to a large extent. Incidents such as the one in Côte d'Ivoire clearly show that the Convention is still needed today as much as it was on the day of its adoption. Moreover, such incidents are a stark reminder of one of the most important challenges still facing the Parties to the Convention, namely effective implementation and enforcement. In order to support countries in meeting this challenge, the Basel Convention is joining forces with international organizations specialized in the field. Implementation and enforcement are inextricably linked to capacity building at the national level. Under the umbrella of the Basel Convention, significant progress is being made in kick-starting and implementing a

number of important region-wide capacity building programmes and public-private partnerships.

The long term effects of incidents such as Probo Koala illustrate in a drastic manner what the Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, adopted by COP 9 in 2008, has affirmed at the political level: that waste, if not managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner, may have serious consequences for the environment, human health and sustainable livelihood. The commitment to managing

waste in a way that prevents such consequences, expressed by Ministers in the Bali Declaration, has since been supported by other international organizations: after the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2009, the World Health Assembly in May 2010 and the Human Rights Council in June 2010 also highlighted the link between toxic waste, human health, and the enjoyment of human rights.

Recently, the management of hazardous wastes and chemicals has moved up on the international political



Dr. Katharina Kummer Peiry

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agenda also. This is in no small part due to what has become known as the “synergies” process between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Several years of deliberations through a Party-led process culminated in the successful simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (better known as the ExCOPs) to the three Conventions, held in Bali in February of this year. A “first” in the history of international treaties and the highlight of the synergies process thus far, the ExCOPs have paved the way for implementing the three Conventions in a more holistic and coordinated way. Under the motto of “Greater Strength in Sync”, the Conventions have joined forces to better address the challenge of environmentally sound management of hazardous substances at different stages of their life cycle.

Happily, the past year has seen an improvement in the financial situation of the Basel Convention. The collection of outstanding core contributions from Parties amounting to nearly USD 1 million by December 2009, as well as generous donations to the Convention’s



programmes and partnerships, is largely responsible for this. In the greater scheme of things, however, it is undeniable that the needs for funding environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes will remain very significant in the years to come, and that these needs exist almost entirely at the national and sub-national levels. They include not only laws and regulations, and the institutional framework necessary for their implementation and enforcement - including government agencies with sufficient personnel and resources; national waste inventories; trained personnel and resources for effective border control and enforcement; and testing facilities -, but

## The ExCOPs

The simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (ExCOPs) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were held on 22-24 February 2010 in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia.

The meetings, which involved over 500 delegates from more than one hundred and forty governments, international and non-governmental organizations, were followed by the 11th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme.

The ExCOPs were preceded by several preparatory meetings on 20 and 21 February 2010: meetings of the bureau of each Conference of the Parties, a joint meeting of the bureaux, the eleventh session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and regional meetings.

A substantively similar omnibus decision was adopted simultaneously by each Conference of the Parties in plenary session on the morning of Wednesday, 24 February 2010.

The omnibus decision includes sections on joint activities, joint managerial functions, joint services, the synchronization of budget cycles, joint audits and review arrangements.

also significant infrastructure investments. This calls for innovative approaches and ideas. Greater recognition of the importance of environmentally sound waste management by the public and the media, by government ministries, international organizations, donor agencies and industry, is a crucial first step towards broadening the financial basis and making it more sustainable. But further steps are needed.

In this context, let me express two hopes for the future. The first is that in the coming years, considering the waste management aspect from the design stage of every production process and every national and international development programme or project, and allocating the necessary funding already at that stage, will become a reflex. In the context of the process of Bridging the Digital Divide, for example, there is increasing recognition that providing access to ICT for all will need to be achieved in a way that avoids swamping developing countries with enormous additional quantities of e-wastes a few years down the road. My second hope is that the Green Economy Initiative launched by UNEP, together with similar processes, will provide a stepping stone for concrete efforts to make better use of the economic potential of those waste streams that contain valuable secondary raw materials. Realizing this potential will require a new way of thinking: certain waste streams can be seen not merely as something undesirable to be disposed of at a high expense, but as a potentially valuable resource. The ultimate reward of such a shift in perception could be a true win-win situation: state-of-the-art recycling in accordance with agreed standards could create business opportunities and safe jobs; a higher yield of secondary raw materials; conservation of precious resources through extraction and re-use rather than primary mining; and better protection of the air, soil, water and thus human health. Realizing this potential might also lessen the incentives for illegal recycling operations through providing legal, safe and economically rewarding alternatives.

Having celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, the Basel Convention has had ample occasion to adjust to new global developments and needs with regards to waste management over the years, and has risen to these challenges. With the added benefit of closer cooperation with the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, I believe the Convention now has the potential to start considering wastes more in a life cycle context. This will make it possible to embrace new ways of thinking. I am looking forward to further discussions and work with Parties and stakeholders that could make my hopes a reality – and bring us closer to a world where incidents such as the one in Côte d’Ivoire will never happen again.

Katharina Kummer Peiry,  
Executive Secretary,  
Secretariat of the Basel Convention

The synergies process constitutes a unique development in the world of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. It reflects a strong collective commitment to evolve towards a common vision for change: capitalizing on commonalities, while fully respecting the legal autonomy of each Convention; strengthening existing mechanisms, while at the same time making them more efficient; and fostering a regional approach towards the implementation of activities as well as enhancing national and regional capacities required for Parties to develop a more sustainable approach towards the full implementation of the three Conventions.

The ExCOPs established the interim Joint Convention Services of the three Convention Secretariats on a permanent basis. They also decided to appoint a joint head of the three Secretariats; recruitment is currently ongoing. In 2011, each of the ordinary meetings of the three Conferences of the Parties will assess progress achieved in the implementation of the omnibus decision.

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## OEWG 7



The seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (OEOWG7) took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 - 14 May 2010.

The meeting was attended by approximately three hundred participants representing governments, UN agencies and bodies, other inter-governmental organizations, Basel Convention regional and coordinating Centres, non-governmental organizations and industry.

The purpose of OEOWG7 was to follow up on the developments since the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) and prepare for COP10, which will take place from 17 - 21 October in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

Several issues were discussed with the following four topics being referred to Contact Groups: New strategic framework, co-chaired by Ms. Carolyne Blain (Canada) and Mr. Prakash Kowlessar (Mauritius); Technical matters, chaired by Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan);

Ship dismantling, chaired by Ms. Claude Wohrer (France); and finally, Financial matters, chaired by Mr. Osvaldo Alvarez-Perez (Chile).

Other important issues were addressed under the heavy workload at OEOWG7, including Cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres; the Basel Convention Partnership Programme; the Indonesian-Swiss Country-Led Initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention (CLI) and the Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2012–2013.

In total, the OEOWG7 adopted 19 decisions, all relevant for COP 10.

The Parties recognized that the meeting ran efficiently, thanks to the contribution of the Joint Services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (JCS), and that progress had been achieved on a number of issues, including the vision, guiding principles, strategic goals and objectives set out in the draft strategic framework for 2012–2021 for the implementation of the Basel Convention; acknowledging the progress made under the CLI; the revised technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used tyres, the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury, and the technical guidelines on the co-processing of hazardous waste in cement kilns; the preliminary assessment of whether the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships establishes an equivalent level of control and enforcement as that established under the Basel Convention; enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic and the draft work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2012–2013. All these issues will be further considered during COP10.

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## Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP 10) Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 17 - 21 October 2011

The Government of Colombia has kindly offered to host the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Cartagena de Indias. Following consultations with the Expanded Bureau, the Secretariat has determined that the dates of this meeting will be 17 - 21 October 2011.

The Secretariat is currently engaged in consultations with the Government of Colombia with a view to finalizing the host country agreement as soon as possible.

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## Joint Consultation of the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres and FAO and UNEP Regional Offices

The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are organizing a Joint Consultation (Workshop) of the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres and FAO and UNEP Regional Offices to take place in Barcelona, Spain, from 27 September - 1 October 2010.

The aim of this Joint Consultation (Workshop) is to follow up on decision IX/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, decision RC-4/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and decision SC-4/34 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the so-

called "synergies decisions"), in particular regarding the coordinated use of regional offices and centres.

This Workshop will be held at the Stockholm Regional Centre (Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP) in Barcelona. The Workshop will bring together around 50 representatives from all three Conventions, Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer (14), Stockholm Convention Regional and Sub-regional Centres for Capacity Building and the Transfer of Technology (12), UNEP regional offices (5), FAO regional offices (5), FAO sub-regional offices (10) along with staff of the 3 Secretariats and experts.

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## New Basel Convention Strategic Framework for 2012-2021 Taking Shape

By its decision IX/3, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention decided that a new strategic framework for the implementation of the Convention was required for a 10-year period so that the Convention could promote the environmentally sound management of waste and play a decisive role in highlighting the links between waste management and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and human health and livelihood. Pending adoption of the new strategic framework, the current Strategic Plan should continue to be implemented.

Based on the comments and inputs received, and in accordance with decision IX/3, the Secretariat published a first draft of a new strategic framework on its website in September 2009. Based on further comments received, a revised version was made available in November 2009. A consultative meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, attended by experts representing all United Nations regions, including the Basel Convention Regional Centres, was convened from 7 - 8 December 2009 to discuss the first draft of the new strategic framework prepared by the Secretariat. Following further comments and inputs from all stakeholders, a revised version of the new strategic framework was prepared by the Secretariat and made available on the website on 31 January 2010. An open-ended coordination group, established in accordance with decision IX/3, had its meeting back-to-back with the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group on 9 May 2010. The group provided advice on, and prepared elements for, a new strategic framework.

The seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG7) which took place from 10 to 14 May 2010 in Geneva Switzerland, considered the draft strategic framework and the outputs of the coordination group and prepared a revised draft for further comments and revision, consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. OEWG7 agreed on the following elements of the Strategic Framework for 2012-2021: Vision, Guiding Principles, and Strategic Goals and Objectives. The Secretariat was requested to develop, by 31 July 2010, the means of implementation and suggested indicators for achievement and performance for comments by Parties and stakeholders. OEWG7 stressed that the indicators should be simple, easy to measure and linked to the programme of work and budget. These draft texts have since been developed and are available on the Basel Convention website.

The development of the Strategic Framework for the Basel Convention is an important piece of work that should steer the direction of the Convention in the future in order to ensure effective implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and global levels. Through the new Strategic Framework, protection of human health and conservation of the environment and natural resources from the adverse effects of hazardous wastes can be achieved.

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## PACE structure and work programme



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The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) was launched during the ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Bali, Indonesia, in 2008, with the adoption of decision IX/9 agreeing on the mission statement, scope of work, working principles and activities of the PACE. The objective of the PACE is to increase the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, taking into account social responsibility and the concept of sustainable development, and promoting the sharing of information on life cycle thinking.

Following the launch of the initiative, the PACE Working Group (PACEWG) was formally established in January 2009, as a sustainable public-private partnership for the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment. It is an open forum for all interested Parties and Signatories to the Basel Convention, international organizations, Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, industry bodies, academic organizations and civil society.

The PACEWG prepared its work programme and Terms of Reference and submitted them to the Open-ended Working Group for consideration at its seventh meeting (OEWG7). Furthermore, it has developed a financial mechanism and organizational structure. The work programme contains a set of activities that will assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to manage used and end-of-life computing equipment in an environmentally sound manner. The following activities are included:

1. To develop tools (such as guidelines) and activities on environmentally sound refurbishment and repair, including criteria for testing, certification and labelling;

2. To develop tools (such as guidelines) and activities on environmentally sound recycling and material recovery, including facility certification;
3. To develop and promote pilot schemes for the environmentally sound management of used and end of life computing equipment geared towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;
4. To develop awareness-raising and training programme activities.

To date, the PACEWG has established five Project Groups to work on the abovementioned activities. These are:

- Ad-Interim Project Group on Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) Criteria Recommendations;
- Project Group 1.1 on Environmentally Sound Testing, Repair and Refurbishment of Used Computing Equipment;
- Project Group 2.1 on Environmentally Sound Material Recovery and Recycling of End-of-Life Computing Equipment;
- Project Group 3.1 on Collection and Management of End-of-Life Computing Equipment from Informal Sectors; and;
- Project Group 4.1 on Awareness Raising and Training.

The Ad-Interim Project Group has already finalized its work and presented a report on environmentally sound management criteria. The four Project Groups are meeting regularly by teleconferencing, e-mail exchange and also face-to-face. The first face-to-face meeting of the PACEWG and Project Groups was held in May 2009 in Geneva; the second was hosted by the German Ministry for the Environment in Bonn, Germany, in February 2010. The third face-to-face meeting will be hosted by the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre in Beijing, China, in December 2010 with financial support from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Partnership and/or participating in one or more of the PACE Project Groups, please contact the Secretariat.

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## PACE Side Event during OEWG7 informs Parties on achievements and plans of the Partnership



During the seventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG7), a side event was held to provide a progress report on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) – a public-private partnership established under the umbrella of the Basel Convention. The event was opened by Dr. Katharina Kummer Peiry, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention.

During the side event on PACE, participants heard that significant progress had been made in a very short time. The Ad-Interim Project Group has finalized a report containing recommendations on criteria for environmentally sound management for use by other PACE project groups, governments and facilities. The other four Project Groups are making good progress to develop guidelines to assist countries in implementing the principle of environmentally sound management for computing equipment, best management practices, ways of reclaiming base and precious metals, adequately treating problematic substances and conserving resources and energy.

A number of waste surveys will be launched, based on 35 country proposals received from 5 United Nations regions. These will lead to initiation of pilot projects on collection and management of used and end-of-life computing equipment from informal sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In the first phase of the programme, the following countries have been selected for waste computing equipment surveys: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Jordan, Samoa, Serbia, and Sri Lanka.

## Negotiations begin on a new instrument to reduce risk from mercury

After almost a decade of discussions, the UNEP Governing Council in February 2009 took an historic decision to commence negotiations on a legally binding instrument on mercury, to be completed before the 27th session of the Governing Council/GMEF in February 2013. The UNEP DTIE Chemicals Branch in Geneva is mandated to act as secretariat to the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) that will prepare the instrument on mercury and to prepare the analytical and summary reports necessary for its work.

The first session of the INC took place in Stockholm from 7 - 11 June 2010, hosted by Sweden and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Approximately 450 delegates registered, representing 120 Governments, 80 civil society and industry non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as well as a number of inter-governmental organizations.

At its first session, the aim of the INC was to launch the negotiations with a general presentation of positions in relation to all of the possible provisions for the future instrument. The key outcome was an agreement to mandate the secretariat to draft "elements" for the

In addition to these completed tasks, there are a few remaining activities to be carried out by the PACE Working Group (PACEWG) and respective project groups, which are:

- Prepare and finalize an overall guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment;
- Finalize 2 technical guidelines (environmentally sound testing, repair and refurbishment of used computing equipment; and environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment);
- Finalize the uniform Glossary of Terms to be used in PACE reports, guidance document and guidelines;
- Elaborate provisions on the transboundary movement of used and end-of-life computing equipment;
- Develop and implement awareness raising and training activities.
- Initiate activities on resource mobilization and financial sustainability for pilot projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- Implement waste surveys in top ranked countries, and based on results of waste surveys select and launch pilot projects on collection and management of used and end-of-life computing equipment from informal sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

All of these PACE deliverables, completed tasks and those yet to be completed, will support the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, and further assist Parties in meeting their Basel Convention obligations.

The membership of the PACEWG has expanded since it was established in January 2009, and has been instrumental in mobilising interest of other potential stakeholders. A number of developing country Parties and Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer have joined the Partnership since its inception.

It should be noted that at the time of the side event on PACE (May 10, 2010) the PACEWG has the following membership: 27 Parties and Signatories to the Basel Convention; 9 Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs); 5 Research and Academic Institutions, and other UN Bodies; and 16 NGOs, Industry and Industry Associations.

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first draft text of the instrument on mercury, for discussion at the second session of the INC.

A further four sessions of the INC are scheduled. Detailed negotiations on the text of the instrument are expected to commence at the second session, which will take place in Chiba, Japan from 24 - 28 January 2011. Additional INC sessions are tentatively planned for late October 2011, June 2012 and early February 2013. Japan has already announced its offer to host the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in late 2013, during which the instrument on mercury will be opened for signature.

The INC elected Mr Fernando Lugris of Uruguay to serve as bureau member and chair of the committee.

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## The Mercury Programme in Central and Latin America

The Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in Uruguay, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Basel Convention Regional Centre based in Argentina is implementing a project to enhance the environmentally sound management of mercury containing wastes in Costa Rica, Argentina and Uruguay. Information collected in countries in the LAC region through pilot inventories of mercury is highlighting the need for action to enhance the environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury containing waste in priority economic sectors such as the health, industrial and artisanal mining sectors. The specific objectives of the project are: to develop methodological and hands-on tools for preparation and implementation of national plans for the ESM of mercury waste, according to the Basel draft technical guidelines on the ESM of mercury containing wastes; to assist Parties to the Basel Convention in identifying priorities and developing national mercury waste management plans; to assist at least one country to establish a temporary storage facility for mercury wastes, to develop a regional plan for the environmentally sound long-term storage of mercury waste in Latin America and the Caribbean region, and to launch an

awareness raising programme aimed at policy makers and Parties to the Basel Convention. This project is the first phase of a capacity building and technical assistance program on the ESM of mercury waste developed in the framework of a cooperative agreement with US-EPA and the Basel Convention Secretariat. The project is also funded by the Governments of Spain and Norway.

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## First meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury (INC 1)

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention participated in the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury (INC 1) which was held from 7 - 11 June 2010 at Scandic Infra-City Business Centre in Stockholm, Sweden. The meeting was attended by over 400 participants, representing governments, UN agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. INC1 was the first of five meetings anticipated to convene prior to the twenty-seventh session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (UNEP GC/GMEF) in 2013. The INC1 was hosted by the Nordic Council of Ministers and organized by UNEP.

Delegates at INC 1 began work in plenary chaired by Mr. Fernando Lugris (Uruguay) on the development of a legally binding instrument on mercury by engaging in initial exchanges of views on key elements of a convention, including: objectives; structure of the instrument; capacity-building and technical and financial assistance; compliance; issues of supply, demand, trade, waste and storage; atmospheric emissions of mercury; and awareness-raising and information exchange.

As far as the Basel Convention is concerned, there were many interventions from country delegations which highlighted the importance of the Basel Convention, in particular regarding mercury waste management, capacity building and awareness raising issues. These are good signs indicating the countries realise the need to avoid duplication, competition for resources, inviting coherence and encouragement of synergies among the chemical-related MEAs. There was, however, a cautioned consideration of involving the mercury instrument in the synergies process among the three existing MEAs i.e. the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The Secretariat's involvement in the technical briefing and the INC itself was appreciated and SBC was invited to provide further guidance in the form of an information paper to be submitted to INC2 regarding gaps that may exist and how cross-references can be made. Only one NGO was critical of the Basel Convention and how it could be cross-referenced in the proposed mercury convention and the reliance on BCRCs for capacity building activities.

On Sunday, 6 June 2010, participants gathered for a technical briefing and heard presentations on: mercury in products and processes; mercury storage and waste; mercury and mining; and the Paragraph 29 Study and mercury emissions from coal. SBC gave a presentation on the status of the development of the technical guidelines on the ESM of mercury waste under the Basel Convention and how it relates to the INC process. At the end of the meeting, Japan gave a presentation on preparations for INC 2 in January 2011, announcing that the meeting would be held in Chiba City. Japan also expressed the country's interest in hosting the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 2013, and in naming the mercury instrument the Minamata Convention.

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## Regional 3R Forum in Asia



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The Secretariat of the Basel Convention participated in the Inaugural Meeting on the Regional 3R Forum in Asia which was held in Tokyo, Japan from 11 - 12 November 2009. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Japan and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), with support by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The meeting was attended by senior officials from 12 Asian countries, including international organizations and experts in the area of 3R and waste management.

The main objective of the 3R Forum in Asia is to facilitate high-level policy dialogues on 3R issues, share challenges and opportunities, as well as to provide a strategic and knowledge platform for sharing of information and experiences and dissemination among Asian countries. The ultimate goal of the Forum is to achieve low-carbon and sound materials-cycle societies in Asia, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation aiming at energy efficiency through 3Rs, promotion of environmentally sound management of wastes and capacity building and institutional development in the countries.

At this meeting, the Forum discussed: challenges and opportunities in 3Rs/Waste Management in Asia; possible approaches for the effective promotion of 3Rs; and strengthening the networking/international cooperation for the 3Rs. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Tokyo 3R Statement – Towards the Establishment of the Regional 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) Forum in Asia was agreed. The meeting strengthened the policy discussions on 3Rs and waste management issues in Asia, paving the way towards achieving resource efficient economies in Asia.

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[http://www.env.go.jp/recycle/3r/en/forum\\_asia/index.html](http://www.env.go.jp/recycle/3r/en/forum_asia/index.html)

## The Probo Koala Programme-developing national legislation for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and enhancing enforcement capacity in Africa

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries in Africa, in cooperation with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariats, organized a consultation in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 20 to 21 July 2010 to discuss draft laws to enhance national implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The meeting concluded the second phase of the SAICM funded project which aims to enhance the capacity of Côte d'Ivoire to monitor and control transboundary movements of hazardous chemicals and wastes. The project is part of the capacity building programme supported by UNEP and bilateral donors to assist Côte d'Ivoire in the aftermath of the dumping of hazardous waste from the Probo Koala vessel in Abidjan. In the framework of this project, a series of training courses for implementation and enforcement authorities will be organized in Abidjan during October 2010. The courses will focus on the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, on the MARPOL Convention in cooperation with the International Maritime

Organization (IMO) and on the International Health Regulations in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO). The pilot enforcement capacity building project implemented in Côte d'Ivoire will be replicated in other African countries during the course of the next two years. These are: Morocco, Madagascar, Gabon, Kenya, Djibouti and Tanzania. In Tanzania the project began in December 2009 with the development of a gaps and needs analysis for the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and a technical mission to assess MARPOL reception facilities in the ports of Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar in cooperation with IMO. The project implementation in Tanzania will continue during the course of 2010 and 2011. The projects in Côte d'Ivoire and in Djibouti are funded by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. In the other participating countries, the project is funded by Kemi, the Swedish Chemicals Agency, the Governments of Norway and The Netherlands and by GTZ, the German Development Cooperation Agency.

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## Basel and Hong Kong: an equivalent level of control?



Ship dismantling – or ship recycling – is the process by which end-of-life ships are converted into steel and other recyclable items, and the remainder is then disposed of. These operations are performed mainly in South Asia, with India, Bangladesh and Pakistan currently occupying 70-80% of the market. China and Turkey occupy much of the remainder. The industry offers a valuable end-of-life solution for old ships although there are concerns about the environmental, health and safety standards employed, especially in South Asia, as the industry has historically gravitated towards low labour cost countries with weak regulations on occupational health and safety and the environment.

The Convention applies to end-of-life ships going for recycling but it has been difficult to enforce over the years as its provisions are not specifically tailored to the issue. Negotiations in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a legally binding instrument on ship recycling resulted in the adoption of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in May 2009. Throughout the negotiation process for the Hong Kong Convention, Basel Convention Parties invited the IMO to ensure

that the Hong Kong Convention establishes an equivalent level of control as that established under the Basel Convention.

To this end, the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG7) was requested by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting to carry out a preliminary assessment of whether the Hong Kong Convention establishes an equivalent level of control and enforcement as that established under the Basel Convention, after having developed the criteria necessary for such assessment. During OEWG7 in May this year, Parties developed the criteria necessary to carry out a preliminary assessment in four broad categories: (i) the scope and applicability of the Conventions, (ii) the control and, (iii) enforcement mechanisms of the two Conventions, and (iv) exchange of information / cooperation and coordination under the two Conventions.

Parties also established a methodology for the continuation of this work. To this end, Parties and other relevant stakeholders are invited

to review the work completed thus far, to identify the relevant articles, regulations and decisions of each Convention and, on this basis, to develop their own preliminary assessments. Parties and other relevant stakeholders are invited to make such submissions to the Secretariat by 15 April 2011. The information received will be submitted to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled to meet in October 2011, for consideration and action, as appropriate.

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## Ship Recycling Technology & Knowledge Transfer Workshop



In May 2009, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention received a request for technical capacity building assistance in relation to ship recycling from the Government of Pakistan. In response, the Secretariat developed a concept for a Ship Recycling Technology & Knowledge Transfer Workshop to strengthen the regulatory, institutional, procedural and infrastructural capacity of Pakistan's Government and industry to fulfil the relevant aspects of the Basel Convention in relation to ship recycling, particularly those dealing with the downstream management of hazardous and other wastes, and the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009. The Government of Turkey and the Ship Recyclers' Association of Turkey kindly agreed to host the Workshop in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The Workshop was made possible as a result of voluntary funding to the Secretariat from the Governments of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Workshop took place from 14 to 16 July 2010 in Izmir, Turkey. A delegation from Pakistan, comprised of representatives from both Government and industry, participated in the Workshop. In addition,

representatives from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the International Maritime Organization, the Government of Turkey, the Ship Recyclers' Association of Turkey and Germanischer Lloyd were present.

There was a strong sense of collaboration throughout the Workshop between the delegates from Turkey and Pakistan, with the Ship Recyclers' Association of Turkey agreeing to provide documentation to the Pakistan Ship Breakers' Association to assist in improving their processes and procedures at the facilities in Gadani. In terms of infrastructure, the development of suitable downstream waste management facilities in Pakistan was identified as a primary requirement. As a precursor to the development of such facilities, the development of a national inventory of hazardous waste, assessing waste management infrastructure requirements by region and types of waste streams, was seen as key. Opportunities for public-private partnerships and potential sources of donor funding to develop suitable infrastructure were also discussed.

From the regulatory perspective, it was shown that the Government of Pakistan has ratified international conventions for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes (including the Basel Convention) but had experienced some difficulties in their enforcement. This, in addition to the development of implementing legislation for the Hong Kong Convention, was identified as a potential area of future intervention in the regulatory/institutional sense in Pakistan. Discussions also touched upon the scopes of the Basel and Hong Kong Conventions and how the two Conventions should be seen as complimentary instruments, each providing control and enforcement within their respective scopes to ensure the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships.

Following the conclusion of the Workshop, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention is continuing to work with the Government of Pakistan and industry to finalise action plans discussed at the Workshop and to identify potential implementing partners. The Government of Pakistan has also signalled its intention to host a reciprocal workshop in Pakistan in the near future.

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## Strengthening the legislative, regulatory and enforcement capacity of SIDS in the Caribbean

A project aimed at strengthening the legislative capacity in Trinidad and Tobago and the enforcement capacity of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean to implement and comply with international obligations under the Basel Convention and, as appropriate, the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, commenced in June this year. The project will focus on Trinidad & Tobago with the expectation that the results of the activities carried out at the national level will be disseminated to other SIDS in the Caribbean through a series of regional workshops.

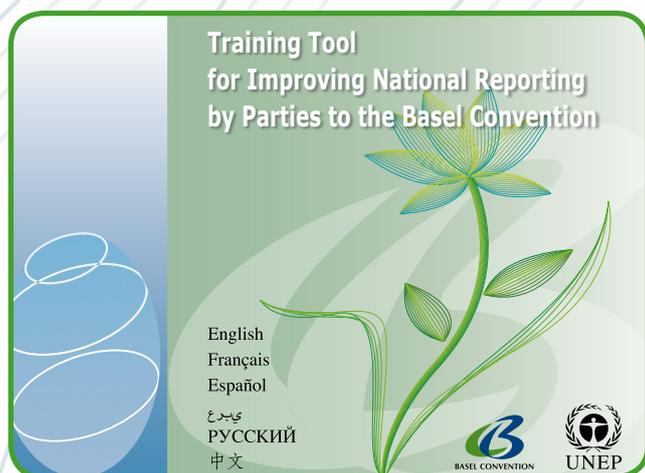
The project will be undertaken in three phases. First, an analysis will identify the gaps and needs in Trinidad & Tobago's legislative and regulatory measures, as well as its institutional capacity (for example, for implementation and enforcement) while taking into account the life-cycle aspects of waste management, such as waste prevention, minimization, inventorying and its handling, storage, transport and disposal. The second phase will commence with the drafting of implementing legislation or regulatory measures that the Government of Trinidad & Tobago could adopt to address the gaps and needs identified under the first phase. The final phase will focus

on enhancement of the implementation and enforcement capacity of SIDS in relation to International Conventions regulating transboundary movements of hazardous chemicals and wastes, such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. A series of regional workshops will be organized for SIDS in the Caribbean, specifically for competent authorities, Conventions' focal points, the legal profession and security and enforcement agencies. These training workshops will also seek to identify opportunities for enhancement of coordination between SIDS in the Caribbean. This project is funded by the Quick Start Programme (QSP) of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

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## Update on the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee



Since its seventh session (25-26 June 2008), the Implementation and Compliance Committee approved a Guidance Document on Improving National Reporting: a practical guide for the national technical officials responsible for the collection of information for the preparation of the national reports that are to be submitted annually to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. This Guidance document forms the core of a training CD to assist Parties improve their national reporting under the Convention. Copies of the training CD, which contains information in all six United Nations languages, were distributed during the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group and are available from the Secretariat. The CD will be used in future training workshops on improving national reporting.

In the intersessional period, the Committee has continued its consideration of several other issues under its general review mandate. On national reporting, the Committee is reviewing the mandate to classify and publish Parties' compliance performance with respect to the annual national reporting obligations, which it received from COP9. The Committee is also expected to assess the

status of reporting, including by identifying the difficulties faced by Parties in fulfilling their national annual reporting obligations and their needs for assistance in this regard. The Committee is also reviewing several additional general issues, including Parties' notifications of import or export prohibitions and of their designation of competent authorities and focal points; the application of the control system for the transboundary movement of wastes (notification document and movement document) and the difficulties that Parties face in implementing the system; and the status of existing national legislation and other legal or administrative measures. The Committee plans to make concrete recommendations on all these issues to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Regarding specific submissions, the Committee has received and declared admissible one Party submission from Oman. In addition, in line with its mandate and the Committee's recommendations, the Secretariat has initiated consultations with 96 Parties having possible difficulties in complying with their reporting obligations under article 13.3 of the Convention. Under the terms of reference of the Committee, the Secretariat may make submissions to the Committee, "if, while acting pursuant to its functions under articles 13 and 16, it becomes aware of possible difficulties of any Party in complying with its reporting obligations under article 13, paragraph 3 of the Convention, provided that the matter has not been resolved within three months by consultation with the Party concerned".

On 27 January 2010, the Committee welcomed Mrs. Pauline Davies, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations Office and International Organizations in Geneva, as the alternate for Mrs. Jacqueline Alvarez for the remainder of her mandate.

The eighth session of the Committee is scheduled for March 2011.

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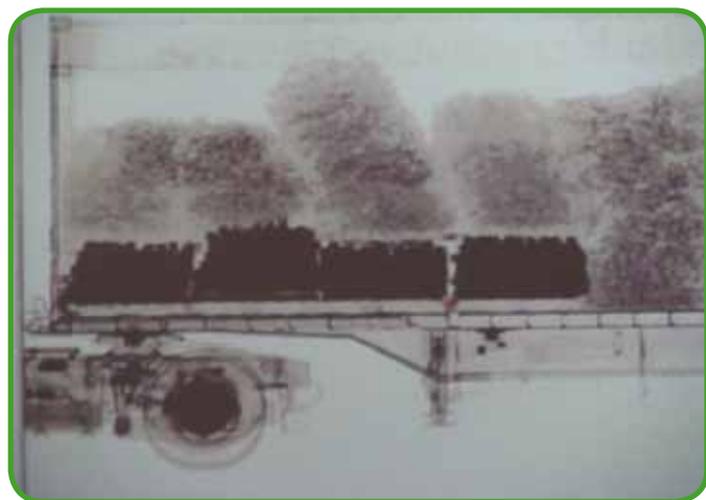
## International cooperation on enforcement and illegal traffic issues

The Secretariat has further strengthened its cooperation with several organizations and networks aimed at enforcing the Basel Convention and fighting illegal traffic.

### Multilateral Environmental Agreements Regional Enforcement Network

The Secretariat, also representing the Secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, participated in the Third workshop of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Regional Enforcement Network (MEA REN, Changmai, Thailand, October 2009). The workshop brought together 90 ozone officers, customs officers and Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions officers from North East, South and South East Asia to exchange information and experiences but also to develop concrete recommendations on how to improve the cooperation and enforcement of the Montreal Protocol as well as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The Secretariat made a presentation on the synergies process among the three global chemicals and waste Conventions and on the activities of the Secretariats in the region. It also delivered introductory remarks during the opening of the workshop. Among the outcomes of the meeting is the recommendation that UNEP, in cooperation with the Secretariat, continue its desk study on transboundary movement of harmful chemicals and hazardous wastes. In addition to PCB and ULAB, 4 types of wastes were identified for inclusion in the study - E-waste, Household waste, Asbestos, and POPs waste.

### Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes



The Secretariat was invited to participate, as an observer, in the Workshop 2010 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes (Yokohama, Japan, December 2009). The Network brings together ten participating countries (Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and Japan) and one special administrative region (Hong Kong SAR, China). The Secretariat presented an update on recent developments concerning legal and institutional issues for the Asian Network member countries (status of reporting, legislation, notifications); policy issues (Strategic Framework and Country-led Initiative); the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties and the Secretariat's activities on environmentally sound management of e-waste in the region. The Secretariat also co-facilitated the working group on enhancing collaboration between customs and competent authorities. On the third day of the workshop, participants visited Yokohama customs' offices as well as two recycling plants in Kawasaki. The Chair's summary of the discussions, inter alia, reiterates the importance of strengthening the communication and collaboration between customs and competent authorities, underlines the importance of risk profiling approaches as a trigger to the enforcement process, stresses the necessity of clarifying and addressing the challenges faced in the context of the ship-back procedure, and reminds Parties of the requirement under the

Convention to notify of national definitions of hazardous wastes as well as of import or export prohibitions.

### Green Customs Initiative

The 6th Partners meeting of the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) took place in Geneva, Switzerland in January 2010. The Secretariat joined the other Partners of the GCI (MEA Secretariats, Secretariat of the OPCW, WCO and Interpol) to take stock of past and plan future activities. The need to develop more specific training tools for customs was reiterated. Partners held an extraordinary meeting in July 2010 in Paris, France, to decide on the allocation, timeline and responsibilities related to using USD 669'000 that UNEP DTIE has received from the United Nations Development Account exclusively to support Green Customs Initiative activities from 2010 - 2012.

The Secretariat also cooperates closely with the Secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in the delivery of customs training workshops throughout the world. Since COP9, GCI regional training workshops have taken place in the Dominican Republic, Hungary, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Mongolia and the Syrian Arab Republic. Future workshops were discussed during the July 2010 Partners' extraordinary meeting.

### World Customs Organization

In March 2010, the Secretariat attended the 29th meeting of the Enforcement Committee of the World Customs Organization (WCO, In Brussels, Belgium). The WCO Enforcement Committee meets on annual basis to review the work of the WCO in the field of enforcement and to decide upon WCO's main enforcement priorities and strategies for the following 12 months. It is the first time that the three Secretariats were jointly represented during the meeting. The Secretariats made a presentation on the synergies process, enforcement activities undertaken in the context of the three Conventions, as well as cooperation with the WCO. During the meeting, the WCO Secretariat reported on its Operation Demeter which took place between 23 March and 11 May 2009. As reported by the WCO, customs administrations of 65 countries participated in the operation by targeting illegal transboundary movement of 16 types of hazardous and other waste from Europe to countries in Asia/Pacific and Africa. Customs officers at more than 300 seaports and other selected locations intensified their risk assessment and profiling. More than 2,000 physical controls were carried out to identify high risk shipments. Participating customs administrations notified each other of suspicious shipments across continents. They were supported by their national environmental agencies, police forces, the SBC, the EU IMPEL TFS, and 7 WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) from the participating regions. During the 50-day operation, 516 warning messages, feedbacks and seizure messages were exchanged via CENcomm, the WCO's secure communication tool. The Operation led to seizures of over 45,641,000 kg plus 1,830 pieces of wastes in the 86 cases reported, ranging from metal scrap, household waste, waste tires, and end-of-life vehicles, to non-functioning or "used" electrical and electronic equipment, granite and silicon barrels. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention provided legal and technical support to this operation.

The Secretariat is also cooperating with the Secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the WCO in developing a WCO joint e-training course on the three chemicals and waste Conventions. This new tool will provide more practical information to customs officers and facilitate their role in implementing and enforcing the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

### International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

The Secretariat offered its support to the June 2010 Inspection Month at Seaports organized by the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Seaport Environmental Security Network (INECE SESN). The INECE SESN is an informal network of enforcement professionals involved in the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes in seaports. The goals of SESN are to build capacity, promote good practices, raise awareness, and facilitate international collaboration on enforcement among government officials. The Secretariat attended a meeting of the INECE SESN Advisory Committee (Rotterdam, Netherlands, March 2010) to discuss the modalities of the hazardous waste inspection month. The Secretariat also provided, upon request,

legal support to countries participating in this capacity building exercise. The Secretariat is pleased to report that on 16 July 2010 it signed a memorandum of understanding with INECE that will further strengthen the cooperation between both institutions with the aim of improving the implementation, compliance and enforcement of the Basel Convention.

### European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law Transfrontier Shipment

The Secretariat furthered its cooperation with the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law Transfrontier Shipment (IMPEL TFS) through its participation in a Waste Shipments seminar (The Hague, Netherlands, December 2009). This meeting provided a welcome opportunity for organizations undertaking enforcement activities to share information and exchange views. The meeting concluded, inter alia, that a platform should be established to improve coordination of enforcement activities. The Secretariat also attended IMPEL TFS' 2010 annual meeting (Basel, Switzerland, June 2010). A statement was made on behalf of the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat also co-facilitated a session on its E-waste Africa project.

### Interpol

The first meeting of Interpol's Global E-Waste Crime Group took place in Alexandria, Virginia, USA (25-27 May 2010). Representatives of 18 countries participated in the three-day meeting aimed at developing a multinational enforcement strategy to control the illegal trade

of e-waste. Progress will be assessed during the 7th International Conference on Environmental Crime (Lyon, France, September 2010).



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### Streamlining the Basel Convention objectives in the Human Rights and Health agendas

Two recent developments illustrate a welcome streamlining of the Basel Convention objectives into the Human Rights and Health agendas. Following an initiative from Indonesia, which holds the Presidency of the Basel Convention ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the sixty third session of the World Health Assembly adopted on 21 May 2010 a resolution on the Improvement of Health through Safe and Environmentally Sound Waste Management (WHA63.25). The resolution, inter alia, welcomes the Basel Convention Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood adopted during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, urges member states to apply the health impact assessment as one of the key tools to assess the health aspects of waste management and requests the Director General of WHO to work together with UNEP and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to strengthen the implementation of the Bali Declaration.

At the fourteenth session of the Human Rights Council held on 8 June 2010, an Interactive Dialogue was held on the adverse effects

of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, in which the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention participated. The purposes of the dialogue were to examine the impact of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on Human Rights, to discuss the current trends, good practices, challenges and possible solutions in this area, and to mainstream a human rights-based approach in the work of relevant Intergovernmental Organizations. Also during its fourteenth session, the Human Rights Council elected Mr. Calin Georgescu from Romania as the new Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights.

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### E-wastes Programme in Africa, from Wastes to Resources

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is coordinating a programme on E-wastes in Africa with the objective of enhancing E-wastes' environmentally sound management and recycling and the enforcement of regulations on their transboundary movement. The programme includes the development of a study on the flows of E-wastes from Europe to West Africa in cooperation with the OKO-Institute and EMPA. The study is being conducted with the support of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres based in Senegal and Nigeria and the national focal points in Liberia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Nigeria.

Under the programme, the development of E-waste country assessments and inventories in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin and Nigeria is currently ongoing. A series of E-wastes Stakeholders workshops to discuss the country assessments, policies and plans for E-waste management in these countries took place from March to June 2010, under the lead of EMPA and the Basel Convention Centres. A socio-economic study and a feasibility study for the establishment of recycling facilities was launched in Nigeria in June 2010 by the OKO-Institute and the Basel Convention Coordinating

Centre in Nigeria. The study will be followed by a training programme on environmentally sound dismantling and recycling practices for the informal sector.

The E-wastes programme also encompasses activities on enforcement of regulations on transboundary movements of E-wastes in Africa. IMPEL and the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre in Nigeria, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Basel Convention Regional Centres in Senegal and Egypt, launched the enforcement activities in Accra, Ghana, in November 2009. In September 2010, a train-the-trainers' course will be organized during an exchange programme, where enforcement authorities from Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Egypt and Tunisia will be trained by IMPEL members in The Netherlands and Belgium. The E-wastes programme in Africa is funded by the EuropeAid and Cooperation Office of the European Union, by the Governments of Norway and the UK, and also by NVMP, the Dutch recyclers association.

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## ESM of E-Waste in Asia-Pacific



The Programme on the Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste in Asia-Pacific was launched in Tokyo, Japan, in 2005. The first activity under the Programme was developed with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA) in 2006, during which time two technical guidelines for the ESM of E-Waste were produced. Since then, more activities with other participants, both national governments and regional centres, have taken place. The total number of projects/activities completed by 2009 comprised of E-Waste Management Training/Workshops (2 projects), E-Waste Studies and Other Activities (4 projects), E-Waste Inventories (6

projects) and E-Waste Technical Guidelines development (2 Technical Guidelines). The Programme has continued into its second phase thanks to the financial support of the Government of Japan.

The second phase was initiated with a Regional Training Workshop on ESM of E-Waste Project Development, co-organised by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, BCRC-SEA, the Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and BCRC China in August 2009, in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. Seven Parties and two BCRCs participated in the Workshop which resulted in the development of various project proposals. The proposed projects/activities consist of Detailed Inventories and Flows (1 proposal), Pilot Collection, 3R Systems (3 proposals) and Tools Development and Training (6 proposals).

At the time of writing, two projects are being undertaken by Cambodia and BCRC-SEA in parallel. Cambodia is conducting a Training Programme on E-Wastes for Key Stakeholders (for government officials and e-waste workers/scavengers) and a Demonstration of ESM of E-Waste, in particular, a collection Scheme at a Recyclable Waste Collection Site. Meanwhile, BCRC-SEA is conducting a Regional Training Workshop on ESM of E-Waste Part 1 – Collection and Separation.

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## BCRC-CAM participates in key meeting about the harmonization of e-waste management in Latin America

Last April, the Director of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Central American Sub-region including Mexico based in El Salvador (BCRC-CAM), Mr. Miguel Araujo, participated in a key public-private meeting convened in Mexico by the Canadian-based International Development Research Center (IDRC). The objective of the meeting was to commence the development of a consensus document on the positions, definitions, requirements and guidelines for the implementation of efficient national and regional policies which contribute to the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes in Latin America.

The meeting, organized as a workshop entitled “Regional Consensus for the electronic waste streams in Latin America”, was attended by 20 participants, representing the governments of Costa Rica, Mexico, Colombia and Peru as well as manufacturers of electronic products such as Sony, Dell, HP, IBM, Lenovo and Nokia, and the following technical resource organizations: Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research (EMPA), the German Development Cooperation (GTZ), the Costa Rican NGO ACEPESA and BCRC-CAM.

During this meeting, the implementation of the regional project “Harmonization of the management of electronic wastes in Latin

America” was commenced: an initiative coordinated by the “Regional Platform on Personal Computers Electronic-Waste in Latin America and the Caribbean” (RELAC Platform) and managed by the SUR Corporation, with the support of IDRC, that includes the participation of BCRC-CAM as well as of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America based in Argentina (BCRC-Argentina).

The participants worked jointly on the structure of the consensus document for the initiative. Also during the workshop, a regional survey on electronic wastes was launched in all of the Latin American countries, with the support of BCRC-CAM and BCRC-Argentina.

The participation of these two Basel Convention Regional Centres in the RELAC Platform will facilitate the coordination of this important regional initiative with global initiatives of the Basel Convention, such as the Partnership for Action on Computer Equipment (PACE) and the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI).

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## BCRC for Training and Technology Transfer for Central Europe (Slovakia)

The waste from electric and electronic equipment, or e-waste, is growing very rapidly. This includes not only its generation, but also its transboundary movement, especially from developed countries to developing countries or to countries with economies in transition. With the increasing transboundary movement of e-waste, there is a strong need to ensure the environmentally sound management of such wastes’ storage, transport, treatment, reuse, recycling and final disposal. E-waste and its environmentally sound management has become one of the priority waste streams in many countries of the Central and Eastern European region.

For this reason, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe based in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia) decided to take an active approach in this area. The Centre first regional activity dealing with this waste stream was a regional workshop aimed at the implementation of EU Directives on WEEE and the presentation of the results of the first Basel Convention partnership programme, the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI). The workshop also focused on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones according to the Basel Convention guidelines (refurbishment, material recovery and recycling, collection, awareness raising, design considerations and transboundary movement).

The workshop was organised thanks to the financial support from the European Commission Financial Instrument TAIEX and to the professional support from EU and MPPI experts. Participants from 11

Central and Eastern European countries participated in the workshop. The Directive 2002/95/EC on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment and the Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) were presented by EU experts. The MPPI was presented by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) and members of the partnership such as representatives from the Governments of Switzerland and Germany and private sector including Nokia, Umicore and Fonebak.

Another project, an "Assessment of electrical and electronic waste in order to develop a regional guideline under UNEP MAP" was designed to assess the current situation in e-waste management in the following six Mediterranean countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Turkey. The project was developed thanks to funding provided by UNEP MAP as a donor institution.

The main activities of the regional project were:

- Identification and estimation of current and future waste streams: materials composition of current and future flows;
- Collection, Sorting and Reuse possibilities;
- Technology to treat processing, recycling and recycling scheme operation;
- Disposal and its scheme operation.

The project outputs and results showed each participant country's e-waste management was different. On the one hand, EU member states or those in the process of accession had developed and implemented necessary legislation. On the other hand, the remaining four participant countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Turkey) still required assistance in preparing legislation and financial assistance towards technical capacity building. With the aim of disseminating the results of the project into the wider western Balkan region, BCRC Slovakia organised a sub-regional workshop in Ankara, Turkey. The workshop was developed for Turkish experts and Western Balkan country participants. It was organised thanks to the financial and professional support from

TAIEX. SBC's activities on e-waste were presented by Mr. Ibrahim Shafii. The main topic of the workshop was the implementation of EU legislation related to WEEE and the results of the project mentioned above. The workshop was attended by participants from five Western Balkan countries and Turkish representatives from the governmental, industrial and private sectors.

Currently, the Centre is coordinating a "follow-up" project entitled "Assessment of Electrical and Electronic Equipment" with the following two activities: preparation of an assessment of the status of the management of WEEE in the Mediterranean region and the development of a proposal for action according to the Basel Convention technical guidelines. The aim is to assess the current situation and prepare a proposal for action for 22 countries from the Mediterranean region. The region consists of EU members, North-Mediterranean countries and South-Mediterranean countries. The project will be finalised in the autumn of 2010.

The BCRC Slovakia is also active in the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), coordinated by the Basel Convention Secretariat. The BCRC Slovakia participates in three of its project groups: the Ad-interim project group on Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) criteria for computing equipment, the Project Group 3.1 on collection and management of end-of-life computing equipment from informal sectors and the project group on awareness raising and training. Many countries from the region have expressed their interest to launch projects targeted at the environmentally sound management of e-waste. These countries need to assess their current situation relating to e-waste management, prepare a legislative basis and develop appropriate facilities. The Centre, in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, is looking for financial support for these activities.

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## Capacity Strengthening and Information Exchange on PCB Management in Selected Asian Countries

This project is designed to last for 20 months from May 2010 to December 2011 at a cost of 292,900 USD, with 248,900 USD funding from the SAICM Quick Start Programme, and 44,000 USD in-kind contributions from project partners.

This project has selected four countries in Asia: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, to develop national PCB management policies through comprehensive analysis of the status of PCB management and necessary supplementary investigation based on available NIPs, as the basis of a regional strategy on PCB management. A regional workshop, attended by approximately 15 delegates, will be organized to exchange information on activities and experience of PCB management. Based on a case study and a regional desk study, a

regional strategy on PCB management will be developed. A regional information exchange platform will also be developed in English and four other national languages, via the website of BCRC China, with references to experts' resources, research progress and other issues related to PCB under the Stockholm Convention. In addition, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, China, will participate in this project and provide technical support to other partners in this project.

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## Regional awareness-raising workshops on enhancing cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

As part of their joint activities, the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have undertaken a series of regional workshops to assist Parties in their implementation of the decisions on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three chemicals and waste Conventions (the "Synergies Decisions").

The workshops aimed at:

- promoting of information exchange on models and good practices for coordination mechanisms;
- identifying of areas where further coordination at the national and regional levels might be required;
- raising awareness on technical and financial opportunities for coordinated implementation of the Conventions;
- providing training on resource mobilisation for the implementing the Conventions' obligations.

In collaboration with Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres, regional workshops were conducted in English speaking Africa (South Africa, 28-30 October 2009), South America (Uruguay, 23-25 November 2009) and Asia (China, 19-21 April 2010).

The outcomes of regional workshops, structured as recommendations for a more coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions at the national and regional levels, are available on the website of each Convention.

The next workshops are scheduled for Central and Eastern Europe (Slovakia, 20-22 September 2010), for Arabic-speaking countries (Autumn 2010) and for French-speaking Africa (end of 2010-beginning of 2011). Other workshops will be organised for Central America and the Caribbean and the Pacific.

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## The 5th International Conference on Waste Management and Technology



The International Conference on Waste Management and Technology (ICWMT) has been held annually since 2005, organized by the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC China). The coming 5th International Conference on Waste Management and Technology is scheduled from 15 to 17 December 2010 in Beijing, China.

Aiming at promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience among international experts, and at enhancing cooperation among the participant countries, this annual conference has become a stage for specialists and officials to discuss scientific problems, to exchange experience and to find innovative solutions. Participants from governments, research institutions, universities and industry have previously attended the conference. The upcoming 5th International Conference on Waste Management and Technology will invite key experts and government officers to give keynote speeches on the important issues relating to solid waste.

The conference organisers would like to provide an opportunity for all participants to present and communicate their viewpoints. Papers related to the following issues are welcomed:

- Environmental management of, and technology for, electrical and electronic waste
- Municipal sewage sludge management and technology
- Municipal solid waste management and technology
- Hazardous chemicals waste management and technology
- Studies and experiences on available techniques and environmental practices of waste disposal
- All other related topics

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## BCRC-CAM prepares a new hazardous materials “clearinghouse” for Central America

BCRC-CAM will publish in December 2010 a new hazardous materials “clearinghouse” for Central America to be used by designated contact points of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as those of the Montreal Protocol and the Strategic Approach for Chemicals Management (SAICM). The clearinghouse could also be used by other interested stakeholders such as academia, NGOs and the private sector.

This important activity is promoted by BCRC-CAM in accordance with its mission to promote the safe and environmentally sound management of hazardous materials (substances, residues and wastes) in Central America and Mexico, through the support of the implementation of the Basel Convention and other related international agreements and initiatives.

The preparation of the new hazardous materials “clearinghouse” is supported by the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention which

formalized a cooperation agreement with BCRC-CAM following recommendations of a Sub-regional Workshop for Designated National Authorities (DNAs) of the Rotterdam Convention from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic and Colombia, which was held last March 2010 by BCRC-CAM in San Salvador.

The new hazardous materials “clearinghouse” system will be the first of its kind in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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## First Transboundary Movement of ULAB under the terms of the Regional Strategy



The first shipment of Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB) was recently transported from Empresas Ambientales in El Salvador, to the Acumuladores Iberia Recycling Plant in Guatemala. Acumuladores Iberia was the first recycler to receive the Global Green Lead Award for sound environmental practices. This single shipment marks a very important stage in the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of ULAB in Central America. The shipment of 88 tons, the first consignment of 3,600 tons of ULAB, has already been recycled to produce lead bullion that can be further refined and re-used to produce new automotive and other Lead Acid batteries.

The shipment is the first step in the transformation of the regional trade in ULAB. The implementation of the Regional Strategy brings with it safe working conditions, responsible environmental management practices and due regard for the protection of human health during ULAB collection, packaging, transportation and recycling. This phase of the Strategy marks the beginning of controlled and regulated transboundary movements of ULAB that are in full compliance with the Basel Convention.

Following the success of the first shipment of ULAB, the Guatemalan Ministry of Environment approved the delivery of another 3,600 tons of ULAB from the Salvadoran company Grupo Rayo, through the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure of the Basel Convention.

This event is also a milestone for the Basel Convention Regional Center for Central America and Mexico (BCRC-CAM) and Basel

Convention Regional Center for the Caribbean Sub-Region, because, in conjunction with the Environment and Health Ministries of Central America and the Caribbean Island States, they developed the Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of ULAB for Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela. Several non-governmental institutions also collaborated in this task including: the International Lead Management Center (ILMC), the public-private Green Lead initiative through the Regional and International Work Groups, as well as the University of West Indies and the private sector.

BCRC-CAM has promoted the implementation of the Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of ULAB in Central America, having facilitated, in conjunction with the government of Guatemala, the ILMC, the International Green Lead Work Group and the Basel Convention Secretariat, the transformation of Acumuladores Iberia, which led to its Green Lead Award of February 2009. Moreover, these efforts are gradually expanding to other countries since the Centre has established a Green Lead Working Group for Central America and, with the support of the management of Acumuladores Iberia, has prompted the use of the Green Lead Protocols in three Salvadoran ULAB Collection and Storage facilities (Empresas Ambientales de El Salvador, Grupo Rayo and Recicladora Centroamericana), with the objective of achieving Green Lead Awards for collection, storage, packaging and transport of ULAB.

The industry magazine, Metal Bulletin Monthly, reported in its November 2009 edition that the advances in ESM in Central America are being followed closely by other regions of the world, including the Middle East and West Africa, where similar initiatives are being prepared and supported by other Basel Convention Regional Centres.

The BCRC-CAM is located in San Salvador, El Salvador, at the office of the headquarters of the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), within the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

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## Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention Visits El Salvador



Dr. Katharina Kummer Peiry, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, visited El Salvador at the end of May 2010 after her participation at the GEF meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay. During Dr. Kummer Peiry's stay in El Salvador, she met with Mr. Herman Rosa Chavez, the Salvadoran Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, who expressed his commitment to develop and implement a fully fledged national program on hazardous materials and wastes, making use of the synergies among the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions. This national plan would be the first of its kind in Central America and could motivate neighbouring countries to replicate this effort.

El Salvador has the advantage of an already existing inter-institutional committee, with participation including the ministries of Defence, Agriculture, Health, Environment and the Fire Department. Dr. Kummer Peiry was able to participate in a working session of this

committee and congratulated them for their coordinated work. This meeting was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of Central America Integration System (SG-SICA) and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), where the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico (BCRC-CAM) is hosted.

During her visit, Dr. Kummer Peiry gave a press conference during which she remarked that Central America could well become a model region on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of hazardous materials, considering the rapid advances of BCRC-CAM in the promotion of the ESM of Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB); its collaboration with the Rotterdam Convention; the new upcoming feasibility project on the destruction of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in coordination with the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the Montreal Protocol; and its important contribution to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), promoted at the global level, where BCRC-CAM's Director is one of the Co-Chairs of Project Group 4.1 on Awareness Raising & Training.

Dr. Kummer was also scheduled to visit Guatemala, whose Environment Minister, Dr. Luis Ferrate, had organized, together with BCRC-CAM, a high level dialogue with representatives of the ministries of Environment of Central America, as well as a visit to the ULAB recycling plant owned by Acumuladores Iberia, first winner of the Green Lead Award for its compliance with Basel Technical Guidelines and the Green Lead Protocols. Unfortunately, in light of the emergency situation in Guatemala due to the combination of the eruption of the Pacaya volcano and the arrival of tropical storm Agatha, these two activities had to be postponed.

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## Basel Convention Executive Secretary at the IV GEF Assembly



Uruguay hosted the IV Assembly of the Global Environment Fund at the city of Punta del Este, where over a thousand representatives of 181 countries met to discuss the future action lines of the GEF. The Assembly, considered a success as it announced its largest replenishment ever, of USD 4.5 billion, also had a few high level side-events.

Especially important was the working lunch on the challenge of financing the emerging chemicals and waste agenda, organised jointly by the governments of Switzerland and Uruguay. The goal of the lunch was to increase the visibility of chemicals and waste management as a dynamic and very successful area of international environmental policy which provides not only for important local

environmental, social and economic benefits, but also for significant global environmental benefits.

The panel was hosted by Uruguay's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luis Almagro and was chaired by GEF's CEO, Mrs Monique Barbut, the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, Dr Katharina Kummer Peiry, Co-Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP) and Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention, Mr Donald Cooper.

According to the panelists, most countries are ready to undertake new commitments on chemicals' management and the GEF could play an important role in this area. The fact that the Stockholm Convention has access to GEF Funds reinforces the synergies sought in February 2010, in Bali.

Dr. Kummer Peiry's words were clear about the importance of the joint work of Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions and their interaction with the Global Environment Fund, opening a new era of cooperation among environment organisations.

Although no formal negotiations or formal agreements were sought the event provided an opportunity for an open and frank debate on the future of the chemicals and wastes cluster.

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## The Joint Workshop of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional and Sub-regional Centres

BCRC-SEA participated in the “The Joint Workshop of the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention Regional and Sub-regional Centres”, which was held from 28 September to 2 October 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. Over the course of the week, participants recognised various areas of future cooperation and coordination and

emphasis was placed on ‘training the trainers’ where the Secretariats provided practical information and tools to the Centres to improve their delivery in their respective regions. Active participation by the Directors and Centres’ staff further enhanced the quality of the workshop.

(<http://www.basel.int/centers/wrkshop280909/index.html>)

## 20th Anniversary Event: Launch of the Basel Waste Solutions Circle



A celebratory event to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was held on 17 November 2009 in Basel, Switzerland. The event sought to raise awareness of

the Convention, in particular the link between waste management, human health and livelihood and the environment. It was jointly organized by the Secretariat and the canton of Basel-City, with the generous support of the Government of Switzerland.

A highlight of the anniversary event was the launch of the Basel Waste Solutions Circle, a global initiative to promote the protection of human health and livelihood through the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes worldwide, as called for in the Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood. The representatives of Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya and Switzerland launched the Circle by each presenting one important project undertaken in their respective countries that had contributed to the implementation of the Bali Declaration. The representatives were each awarded certificates of recognition by Dr. Katharina Kummer Peiry, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention, for their commitment to the Convention.

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## Synergies Coordinators Group wins the Baobab Staff Award



The Synergies Coordinators Group was awarded the Team Award of the prestigious 2009 United Nations Environment Programme Baobab Staff Award in March 2010 for their exceptional performance. Ms. Laura Meszaros, Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention; Mr. David Ogden, Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention; Mr. Nelson Sabogal, Secretariat of the Basel Convention; and Mr. Osmany Peireira, Joint Services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, are the honoured members of the Group.

In 2008 and 2009, the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions adopted synergies decisions calling for increased cooperation and coordination on various issues aimed at strengthening the implementation of the three Conventions at the national, regional and global levels. In May 2009, to facilitate joint activities and the implementation of the synergies decisions in the three Secretariats, a Coordinators Group was set up.

This joint programmatic coordination group comprising the coordinators of the three Secretariats has the responsibility for overall planning and implementation of the strategic guidance provided by the Synergies Oversight Team (consisting of the Executive Secretaries of the three Conventions and a representative of the Executive Director of UNEP) as well as for engaging and communicating with the inter-Secretariat groups established to develop and undertake joint activities.

The Baobab Staff Awards scheme was established in 2007 to recognize and reward exceptional performance and dedication to achieving the goals of UNEP, and takes its name after the baobab tree native to African savannah, which is a symbol of strength, power and resilience.

Strength in numbers: new ratifications, legislation and other measures adopted by Parties, notifications received by the Secretariat

Several exciting developments in relation to ratifications have recently occurred – with the Basel Convention pleased to welcome Tonga as a new Party to the Convention (24 June 2010), bringing the number of Parties to the Convention up to 173 Parties.

In addition, the following Parties have ratified the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention: Chile (12 August 2009); Ireland (13 November 2009) and Kenya (9 September 2009). This brings to 68 the total number of Parties to the Ban Amendment.

Yemen also transmitted to the Depository on 25 August 2008 its instrument of accession to the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation. This brings to 10 the total number of Parties to the Protocol.

Information is a valuable building block to ensure an effective and efficient implementation of the Convention, without which problems arise – for example Parties cannot respect each other's legal framework when undertaking a transboundary movement. Under the Convention, Parties are thus obliged to share with other Parties specific types of information relating to their legal and institutional framework. As such, the Secretariat, following a request from the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the seventh session of the Committee for Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention, is actively seeking further information and clarification from Parties with regard to:

- Restrictions on the import and export of hazardous wastes and other wastes (Articles 4 and 13);
- National definitions of hazardous wastes (Article 3);
- Texts of national legislation and other measures adopted by Parties to implement and enforce the Basel Convention (decision IX/23).

Consequently, the Secretariat's national legislation database is growing and developing, with many Parties providing and continuing to provide the Secretariat with texts of national legislation and other measures adopted by them to implement and enforce the Basel Convention. This collection of national legislation and other measures is regularly updated and available to consult at:

<http://www.basel.int/legalmatters/natleg/byparties/frsetmain.html>.

Pursuing this trend of growing numbers and information, with recent notifications, the Secretariat has now received 38 notifications of national definitions of hazardous wastes and of restrictions on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

Parties wishing to transmit information, clarification, notifications or texts to the Secretariat are kindly requested to contact the Legal Office, Joint Services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

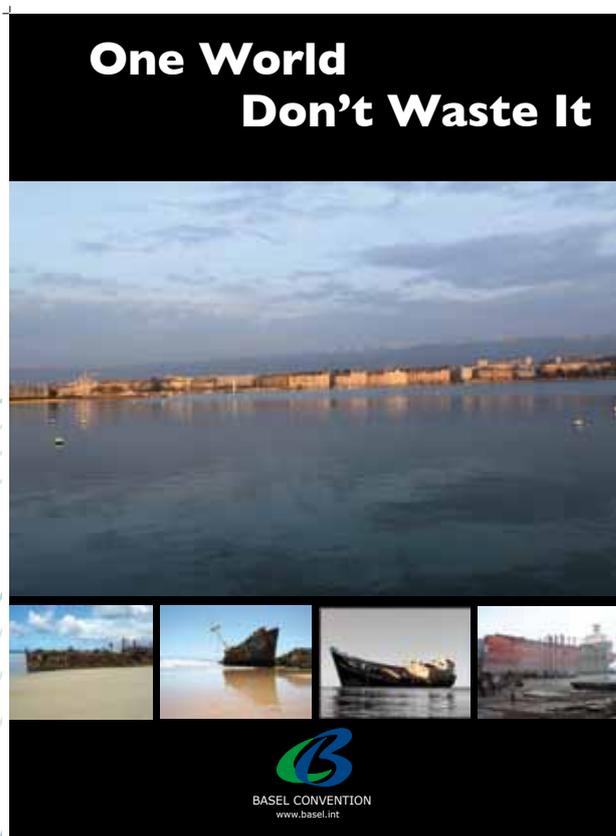
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## Upcoming meetings of interest

| Date                  | Title  | Venue                           | Status    |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>SEPTEMBER 2010</b> |  |                                 |           |
| 13.9.-15.9.           | Green Customs Initiative Subregional Workshop  | Malawi                          | confirmed |
| 13.9.-17.9.           | 7th International Conference on Environmental Crime (Interpol)   | Lyon, France                    | confirmed |
| 21.9.-22.9.           | 4th Workshop of the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Regional Enforcement Network  | Beijing, China                  | confirmed |
| 23.9.-28.9.           | Third meeting of the country led initiative (CLI3)   | Hilterfingen, Thun, Switzerland | Confirmed |
| 26.09.                | 2nd Safe Planet Strategic Partners Workshop  | Barcelona, Spain                | Tentative |
| 27.9.-1.10.           | Joint Consultation Meeting of the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres and FAO and UNEP Regional Offices  | Barcelona, Spain                | Confirmed |
| <b>OCTOBER 2010</b>   |  |                                 |           |
| 27.9.-1.10.           | Joint Consultation Meeting of the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres and FAO and UNEP Regional Offices  | Barcelona, Spain                | Confirmed |
| 11.10.-15.10.         | Sixth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC 6)  | Geneva, Switzerland             | Confirmed |
| 11.10.-15.10.         | Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 5)  | Nagoya, Japan                   | Confirmed |
| 11.10.-15.10.         | Regional Green Customs Workshop for Europe and Central Asia Network Countries (Back to back meeting with the ECA Enforcement Network)  | Turkmenistan                    | Confirmed |
| 17.10.-21.10.         | Regional awareness raising workshop on the guidelines on BAT&BEP, and ESM of PCBs and POPs wastes  | Kuwait City, Kuwait (KISR)      | Confirmed |
| 18.10.-29.10.         | Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10)  | Nagoya, Japan                   | Confirmed |
| 19.10.-21.10.         | Regional Workshop on Environmentally Sound Management of Asbestos Waste resulting from Natural Disasters   | Jakarta, Indonesia              | Confirmed |
| <b>NOVEMBER 2010</b>  |  |                                 |           |
| 1.11.-4.11.           | Regional workshop on New POPs, reviewing and updating NIPs, reporting requirements   | Dakar, Senegal                  | Tentative |
| 4.11.-5.11.           | First Core-team meeting of the Global Alliance Thematic Group on Reduce barriers to bring new non-chemical products into use   | Geneva, Switzerland             | Confirmed |
| 4.11.-5.11.           | Regional Workshop on Environmentally Sound Management of Asbestos Waste resulting from Natural Disasters   | Beijing, China                  | Confirmed |
| 8.11.-12.11.          | 22nd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol   | Kampala, Uganda                 | Confirmed |
| 10.11.-12.11.         | DDT Expert group meeting   | Geneva, Switzerland             | Confirmed |
| 15.11.-19.11.         | 39th GEF Council Meeting   | Washington DC, US               | Tentative |
| 15.11.-19.11.         | Subregional meeting to identify elements of National Action Plan or strategy for the implementation of Rotterdam Convention  | Santiago, Chile                 | Confirmed |
| 29.11-10.12.          | Sixteenth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (Climate Change COP 16 & CMP 6) | Cancún, Mexico                  | Confirmed |
| TBD                   | Joint workshop of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for Effective Participation in the Review Committees' Work – CRC and POPRC   | Sri Lanka                       | Tentative |
| <b>DECEMBER 2010</b>  |  |                                 |           |
| 6.12.-8.12.           | Regional Synergies Workshop (Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions)  | Dakar, Senegal                  | Confirmed |
| 13.12- 15.12.         | Face-to-Face Working Group Meeting of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)   | Beijing, China                  | Confirmed |
| TBD (2 days)          | Third consultative meeting on the new strategic framework of the Basel Convention  | Geneva, Switzerland (TBC)       | Tentative |
| TBD                   | Orientation Meeting for Pool of Experts on Technical Assistance  | TBD                             | Tentative |

For additional or past copies of the Basel Convention Bulletin as well as copies of any Basel Convention information material, please contact the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.  
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