

## Comments from the BCRC-Egypt regarding Strategic Plan and new strategic framework

The 2002-2010 strategic plan of the Basel Convention assigned to the BCRCs an important role in assisting the SBC to efficiently implement the provisions of the Basel Convention and the sound management of hazardous wastes in developing countries; yet without assisting these centres builds their capacities and credibility to take their role. The Strategic Plan did not also provide explicit tool/mechanism to financially support these centers sustain their functions and activities. Developing countries and countries with economic in transition benefiting from these centers are always reluctant to pledge contributions to the centres due to their financial status. Therefore, many of the BCRCs remain almost dormant, unless there is a donor funded project through which they can provide the capacity building services. In the absence of donor funded projects; sometimes the minimum operation cost can not be secured and the risk of losing trained staff and suffer noticeable set back in its capacities.

The framework agreements for the establishment of the BCRCs did not include sections signed by the served countries to commit minimum participation in the activities and bottom line contributions to the operation cost of their centres. Renewing the framework agreement should include, after negotiations with the countries served by the center, article state obligations from served countries, and should be co-signed by all served countries; may be in one of the COP meetings. The whole mechanism and its logic should be reflected in the new strategic plan.

Another alternative to secure minimum operation cost for the centres can be by establishing a trust fund' sub-account that receives voluntary contributions (which should be encouraged by the SBC) from the donors and region's member countries specifically for the support of their BCRCs and for the capacity building connected with their regional role.

In addition, there are several issues connected with improving the role of BCRCs and stabilize their performance at a standard level, and a capacity building activity section should be inserted and budgeted in the new strategic plan:

- 1- Develop a permanent structure for all BCRCs, clarify the main umbrella the centres are working under and reflect this explicitly in the framework agreements, and assume basic operation cost.
- 2- Carefully develop terms of reference of permanent staff of the centers and insist to match nominations from host countries with these nominations.
- 3- Develop and oblige personnel of the BCRCs to take capacity building training both technical and administration guided by the SBC. It is also recommended that SBC should arrange with the donors study tours aim at exposing BCRCs to relevant technologies before these BCRCs can be fully utilized in training and technology transfer in their regions.
- 4- Equip and empower BCRCs to act as accreditation offices and collect fees on behalf of the SBC from companies, NGOs, and institutes seeking accreditation to practice Sound Management of Hazardous Waste.