



**BASEL CONVENTION**  
the world environmental  
agreement on wastes



**UNEP**

# Basel Convention Bulletin

September 2007

## Editorial

Dear Reader,

As I take up my appointment as the new Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, it is a great honour and pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to you. I am joining the Secretariat at a time when Parties are engaged in important discussions in the framework of the Open-Ended Working Group. Together with my colleagues, I look forward to supporting your work to the best of our abilities during this week as well as in the follow-up to your deliberations. I also look forward to meeting new friends and renewing old acquaintances, and to numerous personal interactions during the meeting.

Thanks to the efforts, initiative and foresight of its Parties and stakeholders, the Basel Convention has come a long way since the early days. Negotiated as the international community's reaction to the shocking discovery of deposits of hazardous wastes from the industrialized world in developing countries in the mid-1980s, efforts under the Convention initially focused on raising awareness and combating this despicable practice. Thankfully, there have been significant achievements in this respect over the past 15 years. This

has allowed Parties and stakeholders to progressively embrace a more holistic approach to the management of hazardous wastes. As I followed the development of the Convention over the years, I was happy to observe a progression from the often difficult and not always fruitful political debates on prohibition and control of waste exports that characterized the early negotiations, to a strategy focusing on development and implementation of overarching waste management principles, national level implementation and capacity building, as well as on cooperation and partnerships. I am convinced that these developments are key to achieving results where they are most needed: at the national level, particularly in developing and newly industrialized countries. In this sense, I would regard the adoption of the Basel Declaration, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Convention in 1999, as an important milestone.

I am aware that these developments depended, and will continue to depend, on extra dedication as well as on investment of time and money on the part of Parties and stakeholders. They also require an engagement of the Convention Secretariat that goes beyond the traditional Secretariat tasks. Last but not

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Dr. Katharina Kummer Peiry

least, they require a sustainable financial basis, which in turn requires investigating new approaches to fund raising. In serving the Parties, the Secretariat thus has an important role to play. Together with the Regional Centres, it can support the interlinkage between international policy and capacity building at the national level by assuming a catalyst role, and by facilitating initiatives of Parties and stakeholders. It can contribute to the reinforcement of synergies with key actors within and outside of the UN system, including partnerships with non-governmental actors. And finally, it can work with Parties and stakeholders to investigate new funding options.

**I am pleased and honoured to become a part of these promising developments, and I look**

**forward to continuing on the path followed by the dedicated Secretariat team under the leadership of my predecessor, Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto. I am committed to assisting Parties and stakeholders in the development and implementation of proactive concepts and ideas, while fully aware that the primary role of a Convention Secretariat is to serve Parties in a focused and efficient way.**

**In this sense, I wish you fruitful and successful deliberations during the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Open-ended Working Group.**

*Dr. Katharina Kummer Peiry*  
*Executive Secretary*  
*Basel Convention*

## New Executive Secretary for the Basel Convention

Ms. Katharina Kummer Peiry, a Swiss citizen, has been appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Ms. Kummer Peiry, a lawyer by training and an international expert on waste and chemicals management, brings substantive knowledge of the Basel Convention as well as strong negotiation and leadership skills to the position. She has worked on issues related to the Basel Convention for nearly 20 years. Her career spans several years with the Government of Switzerland, as Head of the Environmental Affairs Section in

the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and as a University lecturer in international environmental law. She also served the United Nations Environment Programme as a consultant and programme officer. More recently, Ms. Kummer Peiry founded a consulting firm and worked on environmental policy and law issues.

Ms. Kummer Peiry holds a PhD in International Law from University of London (UK) and a Master of Law from University of Zurich (Switzerland). She has authored, and contributed to, a number of publications on international environmental law, international chemicals and waste management, as well as many other environmental issues.

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention wishes Ms. Kummer Peiry a very warm welcome!

## Third Meeting of Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Dakar, Senegal

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) participated in the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP3) which was held on 30 April–4 May 2007, in Dakar, Senegal. Thierno Lô, Minister of the Environment of Senegal, was elected as COP-3 President.

Some of the major agenda items related to the Basel Convention were on cooperation between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions where discussions focused on the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation and Coordination between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, which took place in Helsinki, Finland, on 26-28 March 2007 (please see the April 2007 edition of the Basel

Convention Bulletin for a summary of the meeting). All intervening parties stressed the importance of improved coordination and noted their commitment to moving ahead in this area.

Discussions at the contact group level focused on non-compliance mechanisms and regional centres. On the latter issue, participants negotiated extensively. Among the proposals made was China's suggestion, supported by Iran, Benin, Trinidad and Tobago, the African Group, Uruguay, Jordan and the US, to make use of the existing Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCCs) as regional centres for the Stockholm Convention to avoid duplication and improve efficiency, cooperation and coordination between the two Conventions.

When discussing the agenda item on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from POPs wastes, the discussions concentrated on whether Parties should, in implementing the waste-related provisions, and as suggested by the Stockholm Secretariat, make use of the levels adopted in the "Updated General Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing, or Contaminated with POPs" adopted at COP-8 of the Basel Convention. The COP took note of the above-mentioned



Basel Convention technical guidelines, and established a provisional definition for levels of destruction and irreversible transformation based on them. It also welcomed the continued work of the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention related to reviewing and updating the technical guidelines regarding POPs and encouraged Parties to the Stockholm Convention to ensure the participation of experts in the ongoing work. COP3 also adopted the revised draft guidelines on Best Available Techniques (BAT) and provisional guidance on Best Environmental Practices (BEP) as related to the management of POPs. In addition, COP3 asked the OEWG to the Basel Convention to look at the relevant provisions on waste management.

For the Basel Convention, the consideration of the possible role the BCRCs could play in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention may be a positive development for the future of its centres. The Stockholm Convention Parties are willing to

recognize the potential of the BCRCs together with other existing centres, with the possibility of the establishment of new centres. Other positive outcomes included the agreement over further cooperation between the chemicals and waste Conventions. The provisional adoption by COP3 of the levels of POPs waste as adopted by the Basel Convention and the willingness of stakeholders to cooperate with the Basel Convention were equally promising outcomes.

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website at <http://www.pops.int/>

## Preparatory Meeting for the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention hosted a Preparatory Meeting of Experts for the launching of a public-private partnership on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of used and end-of-life computing equipment, held on 28-29 June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland. This strategically important meeting was attended by 30 participants comprised of Parties and Signatories, the private sector, civil society and academia. Examples of representatives included manufacturing industries such as Hewlett-Packard, Dell and Microsoft, recycling associations such as BIR and Xstrada, active NGOs such as BAN and Digital Links, as well as the academic institution Oeko-Institut.

The meeting, chaired by Mr. Oswaldo Alvarez of the Permanent Mission of Chile, discussed the scope, mission statement, objectives and working structure of the potential partnership on used and end-of-life computing equipment. Following the meeting, it was proposed that the partnership be called "Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment – PACE". If no objections are voiced, this would be the abbreviation for the Public-Private Partnership Initiative on Used and End-of-Life Computing Equipment. The Preparatory Meeting of Experts provided a theoretical framework to be presented to stakeholders

at a meeting to be held on 2 September 2007, immediately prior to the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group.

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## BCRC for the Arab States (Cairo) – Second Meeting of the Project Steering Committee

The second meeting of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States Project Steering Committee was held in Cairo, Egypt, on 14-15 March 2007.

The Steering Committee reviewed progress in the implementation of the agreed activities in 2006, the work plan for 2007, and adjusted the budget allocations of the project "Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Basel Convention" under the sub-programme "A Better Environment for Human Health and Well-Being" supported by a contribution of 1,000,000 Euros by the Government of Finland. The strategy for the long-term financial self-sufficiency of the Centre, including new projects, and resource mobilization by the Centre, were also discussed. The activities planned for 2007 will focus on institutional capacities of the region.

The 2006 plan focused on building the technical capacities of the member countries. About 70% of the targets have been reached in the fields of governance activities, inventories of hazardous wastes and waste producing activities, legal assistance on the implementation of the Basel Convention, public awareness programmes and the maintenance of the BCRC website ([www.baselegypt.org](http://www.baselegypt.org)). The Director of the Centre presented the financial statement for the year 2006, explaining that the total expenditures by the Centre reached US\$113,927 while the total cash advanced was US\$211,407. He indicated that the savings were of US\$97,480.

## Course and Congress on the Management of E-waste in South America

A course and conference on the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic wastes (e-waste) in South America took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 24-26 April 2007, co-organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region (BCRC-Argentina), within the framework of the agreement between the National Institute for Industrial Technology in Argentina<sup>1</sup> and the University of Cadiz, Spain.

Both activities were aimed at sensitizing industrialists – especially small and medium-sized enterprises dealing in electronics and/or computing equipment – to the impacts of e-waste on health and the environment.

Presentations of national and international lecturers were oriented at showing the pros and cons of the European WEEE and RoHS Directives so as to facilitate the tasks of decision-makers in the process of the formulation of norms adapted to national characteristics.

<sup>1</sup> The host organization of the BCRC for the South American Region (Buenos Aires)



The following member countries participated: Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Finland, as well as the following observers, the Director of the Centre, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production in Barcelona (RAC/CP). The following non-governmental organizations were also present: The Egyptian Humanitarian Relief and Rehabilitation Organization and Day of Hospital.

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The participating countries from the region were: Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil.

The programme and presentations of the course and conference can be found on: <http://crsbaseilea.inti.gov.ar> y en [www.inti.gov.ar/electronicaeinformatica/relec-a-](http://www.inti.gov.ar/electronicaeinformatica/relec-a-)



## Update on Local Authorities' Waste Management Project in South America

The Steering Committee of the project on "New Partnership with Local Authorities for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and Other Wastes in the Context of the Basel Convention in South America" met for the third time in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 2-3 April 2007.

The project aims at building a public-private partnership to set up, operate and maintain a comprehensive system for the environmentally sound collection, testing and final disposal of oily waste, including the co-processing of oily waste in cement kilns. It involves the local authorities in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the private company HOLCIM, local industry, as well as the Universities of Quito and Guayaquil, and the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and Caribbean region located in Uruguay (BCCC-Uruguay).

The meeting endorsed feasibility studies of the project for the city of Guayaquil and for Ecuador on a national basis. The background, legal framework and the process which must be complied with from the minimization, generation, collection, storage, transport and treatment of oily wastes were reviewed. The Project Document was then prepared for the signature of the Mayor of Guayaquil.

The meeting also discussed and approved a Proposal for the Implementation of the Demonstration Project for the Environmentally Sound Management of Oily Wastes in Ecuador presented by HOLCIM.

## Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) participated in the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM, hosted by the Government of Thailand in Bangkok on 21-23 May 2007. The meeting discussed progress made and future activities in the implementation of SAICM at the regional level in fulfilling the outcome of the Dubai Conference that adopted SAICM in February 2006 (please see previous Basel Convention Bulletins).

The SBC reported that assistance was being provided by the Basel Convention to countries in submitting their proposals to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. It added that the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP8) had adopted several decisions relevant to the implementation of SAICM, including decision VIII/2, and the



A draft Johannesburg World Summit Type II Agreement was reviewed by the participants.

The Municipality of Guayaquil will shortly start the production of a video about the project.

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Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of E-wastes (electronic and electrical wastes). To this end, projects on e-waste management are being undertaken in eleven countries in Asia Pacific in cooperation with Basel Convention Regional Centres and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). As per the Nairobi Declaration, these activities are envisaged to be expanded to include African and Latin American countries.

At COP8, a new programme area was agreed on mercury and asbestos as part of the focal areas in the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention. The Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia, located in Jakarta, thus announced its interest in cooperating with countries in the region, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in the area of mercury waste and illegal traffic of hazardous waste.

On the current discussions on coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination, held in Helsinki from 26 to 28 March 2007, was presented at the meeting. The Basel Convention Secretariat called on all countries to participate in

the process by providing input to their representatives in the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group.

In the discussions, the issue of free trade agreements (FTAs) potentially conflicting with the Basel Convention, the Waigani Convention, or the goals of SAICM came up. The meeting called for developing countries not be used as dumping grounds for hazardous wastes. The meeting also called for synergies, in general, and for trade agreements, in particular, not be misused so as to undermine existing multilateral environmental agreements or SAICM. The participants expressed their support for the continuation of synergies, especially in the area of information exchange.

On the issue of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, the meeting was informed that fifteen Governments (including India from the Asia-Pacific region) had contributed a total of US\$6 million in 2006. Another US\$500,000 has been committed for 2007. Suggestions for possible regional projects were made on illegal trafficking, waste minimization, sound agricultural practices, capacity building initiatives, packaging and labelling of products (implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals) for least developed countries and small island developing states in the region. In this connection, several delegates expressed interest in updating SAICM's Global Plan of Action, as linked to issues of concern in their countries such as obsolete pesticide stocks, contaminated sites, medical wastes, health-related issues and vulnerable populations.

A joint statement on SAICM and transboundary movement of wastes, submitted by Indonesia, Iraq, Nauru, Nepal, Oman and the Philippines, was issued to highlight the need for bilateral or multilateral agreements with components related to wastes to be consistent with the Basel and Waigani Conventions, SAICM and other multilateral environmental agreements.

## Workshop on the Reduction of the Use and Release of Mercury in Products

## Workshop on the Development of Legal and Institutional Infrastructures on Sound Management of Chemicals – SAICM Implementation

The SAICM Asia Pacific regional meeting was held back-to-back with a workshop to reduce the use and release of mercury in products on 17-19 May 2007 and a workshop on the development of legal and institutional infrastructures on the sound management of chemicals as part of SAICM's implementation on 24-25 May 2007.

The objectives of the first workshop were to strengthen awareness on mercury toxicology, exposure pathways, use and release in products and processes and to gain understanding of mercury flow in trade, to promote the exchange of information on mercury product substitutions and best practices to reduce mercury use.



In its presentation the Secretariat of the Basel Convention indicated that COP8 (December 2006) mandated the Convention to work on mercury as a new Strategic Plan Focus Area and on partnership activities on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes.

Current UNEP partnership activities on mercury were presented. National and sub-regional action plans aiming at reducing mercury use and release in products were shared. The workshop also identified national and subregional strategies and formulated action plans for reducing mercury in healthcare, schools and consumer products.

The latter workshop was the second regional workshop on the development of legal and institutional infrastructures on the sound management of chemicals held in conjunction with a SAICM Asia Pacific Regional Meeting. The first workshop took place in Riga in December 2006 back-to-back with the SAICM CEE Regional Meeting. The purpose of the workshop, funded by Sweden, was to identify and assess the needs and non-financial barriers for the development of national institutions and legal infrastructures for chemicals control. Participants noted that in most countries in Asia and Pacific, the main gaps seemed to be the absence of a framework legislation regulating the obligations of manufacturers, importers and professional users of chemicals, the lack of awareness of citizens and policy makers, and the lack of adequate infrastructures for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.

For more information, please see <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm> or contact:

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## Regional Forum on Public-Private Partnerships for the Management of Hazardous Waste in Latin American Cities

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) together with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the Municipality of Curitiba, the International Training Centre for Local Actors of Curitiba (CIFAL-Curitiba) and the Universidade Livre do Meio Ambiente (UNILIVRE) organized a Regional Forum on Public-Private Partnerships for the Management of Hazardous Waste in Latin American Cities which took place in Curitiba, Brazil, on 28 - 30 March 2007.



Among the topics presented was the project "Training Program for Municipal Officers in Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes" implemented by the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and Caribbean Region in Uruguay, as well as the project "Inventory of Electronic Wastes in South America" coordinated by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region in Argentina. A case study

on the management of healthcare waste in the city of Curitiba was also shown. One of the highlights of the event was the presentation of the project on the management of used oils by the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador, (please see article "Update

on Local Authorities' Waste Management Project in South America" in this edition of the Basel Convention Bulletin).

This case was an example of coordinated action between national and local authorities and the private sector on the development of a common strategy on the management of used oils in the city.

Participants discussed experiences and ideas about local solutions to waste management involving the public and private sectors. The event was opened by an official ceremony hosted by the mayor of Curitiba, Mr. Beto Richa, with representatives from the Ministry of Environment from Brazil, UNITAR and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

The Regional Forum also served to promote a dialogue between the different actors involved in the management of waste in Latin America. The Forum benefited from the participation of focal points from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela, municipalities such as Guayaquil (Ecuador), Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Cali (Colombia), Montevideo (Uruguay), Santiago (Chile) and México (México), BCCC-Uruguay, BCRC-Argentina as well as local NGOs and the private sector, which included Holcim, Veolia and SindiRefino.

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## Update on SBC public awareness material

The following includes an update of public awareness materials such as information leaflets, brochures, posters, CD-Roms, press releases, newsletters, publications and other items prepared and disseminated by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (material produced and disseminated between December 2006 and September 2007). Considerable efforts have been made to produce these materials in the most cost-effective way and in line with the corporate identity developed for Basel Convention information products. Wherever possible, the dissemination of publications on CD-Rom and usage of the Basel Convention website ([www.basel.int](http://www.basel.int)) have been encouraged to minimize paper usage and printing costs.

### Information Leaflets

- The Basel Convention at a Glance (E, other UN languages in preparation)
- The Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres at a Glance (E, other UN languages in preparation)
- Information leaflet on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme (E)

### CD-Roms

- CD-Rom with all SBC publications and information material for OEWG 6 (A, C, E, F, R, S)

### The Basel Convention Bulletin

- Two issues (April 2007 and September 2007)

### Other information material

- The Basel Convention at a Glance poster
- Special poster exhibition about the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres, series of 14 posters (one per Centre) and an introductory poster

### Basel Convention Website

- A new version of the Basel Convention website was launched in March 2007 ([www.basel.int](http://www.basel.int)). The new structure helps navigability by guiding newcomers to a special section while regular users continue to benefit from the usual sections available to them. The new graphic design is in tune with the corporate identity of Basel Convention information material produced in the last couple of years.

### Publications 2007

- Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)ethane (DDT) (Printed version in English, other UN languages in electronic form, printed version in A, C, F, R, S to follow)
- Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes containing or contaminated with unintentionally produced polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs), hexachlorobenzene (HCB) or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (Printed version in English, other UN languages in electronic, printed version in A, C, F, R, S to follow)
- General technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (POPs)



(Printed version in English, other UN languages in electronic form, printed version in A, C, F, R, S to follow)

- Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) (Printed version in English, other UN languages in electronic form, printed version in A, C, F, R, S to follow)
- Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), mirex or toxaphene or with HCB as an industrial chemical (Printed version in English, other UN languages in electronic form, printed version in A, C, F, R, S to follow)
- Basel Convention Training Manual on Illegal Traffic for Customs and Enforcement Agencies (electronic form in English)
- Basel Convention Instruction Manual for the Implementation of the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (electronic form in English)

### Cooperation and Coordination between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions

The three Secretariats, in collaboration with UNEP's Division on Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC), are joining forces to strengthen their communications and outreach activities. UNEP/DELIC has allocated around \$100,000 from the budget of the UNEP/Norway Framework Agreement to support joint communications and outreach activities by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The Secretariats have agreed to pursue the output defined below. A consultant has been hired to carry out the project under the guidance of focal points from UNEP/DELIC and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariats;

-Design a joint outreach folder for the three Conventions in English, French and Spanish.

-Using the existing leaflet "The Basel Convention at a Glance" as a model, write and design five additional leaflets with the same look and feel to be included in the folder. The working titles for these five leaflets are "The Rotterdam Convention at a Glance", "The Stockholm Convention at a Glance", "Understanding the life cycle of chemicals and wastes", "How chemicals and wastes affect human health and the environment", and "An overview of international chemicals management".

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## Change of Designation of Focal Point or Competent Authority

Parties are kindly reminded that changes of Focal Points or Competent Authorities need to be formally transmitted by fax or letter to the Executive Secretary as this relates to an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention.

A standard form is available from the Secretariat on request. Please contact Mr. Ariel Dayao on Ariel.Dayao@unep.ch

## Status of Ratifications

The Basel Convention has 170 Parties. The number of ratifications to the Ban Amendment is of 63. The number of Contracting Parties to the Protocol on Liability and Compensation is of 8.

## Update on the Project for the Implementation of the Technical Guidelines on the Dismantling of Ships

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) has been undertaking a number of activities to promote the implementation of the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of the Full and Partial Dismantling of Ships in ship recycling nations in Asia.

Under an initiative, which has received generous financial support from the United Kingdom, and from the Netherlands, the SBC has sought to make the Technical Guidelines more accessible for use in the main ship recycling States.

The Technical Guidelines have been translated into the Bengali, Hindi and Urdu and placed on the Basel Convention website: <http://www.basel.int/ships/compilation.html>. Subject to the availability of funding, these versions of the Guidelines will be published in hardcopy and distributed to the relevant authorities involved in ship recycling in South Asia.

The SBC has also been working to develop a training activity aimed at improving the practices of ship dismantling facilities in Asia. The project envisages the organisation of a three-day workshop directed at ship and yard owners, yard managers and supervisor-level employees in order to improve their appreciation of the implementation of the Technical Guidelines. The workshop is devised to gradually improve current ship dismantling practices in the yards. To this end, participants are encouraged to examine their current working practices and to identify problem areas and solutions which could mitigate the harmful effects which present practices may pose to the environment and human health. The workshop also provides for participants to establish long-term review mechanisms of practices in ship yard through the formation of self-improvement or cooperation groups. Subject to the availability of funding, and the necessary logistics, the Secretariat hopes to conduct this training activity in a major ship dismantling State in South Asia at the end of 2007.

### The following United Nations Members are not yet a Party to the Basel Convention:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan                           | 12. San Marino          |
| 2. Angola                                | 13. Sao Tomé & Principe |
| 3. Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 14. Sierra Leone        |
| 4. Fiji                                  | 15. Solomon Islands     |
| 5. Gabon                                 | 16. Somalia             |
| 6. Grenada                               | 17. Suriname            |
| 7. Haïti                                 | 18. Tajikistan          |
| 8. Iraq                                  | 19. Timor-Leste         |
| 9. Lao People's Democratic Republic      | 20. Tonga               |
| 10. Myanmar                              | 21. Tuvalu              |
| 11. Palau                                | 22. United States       |
|  | 23. Vanuatu             |
|  | 24. Zimbabwe            |

The SBC is also developing a long-term activity, to be conducted in the main ship recycling countries. In the development of this programme, the Secretariat is consulting the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as well as donor agencies and countries, to ensure the coordination with relevant on-going and past activities. This long-term programme seeks to promote economically, environmentally and socially sustainable ship recycling, and to facilitate compliance with the new Convention on Safe and Environmentally Sound Ship Recycling which is currently being negotiated in the IMO.

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## Information from UNEP-Chemicals, SAICM, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention

### From the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Basel Convention stakeholders are reminded of the availability of support from the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) for Governments and civil society networks to undertake chemicals management activities, including the implementation of the Basel Convention. The relevant strategic priority of the QSP in this regard is the “development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement the Strategic Approach, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives”.

Subject to confirmation of multi-sectoral engagement, the first Basel-related project was approved by the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee in May 2007. Under the project, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will use a grant of \$178,794 to strengthen its legislative, regulatory and enforcement capacity to comply with its international obligations under the Basel Convention and, to the extent that it is appropriate, the Stockholm Convention. QSP details and application materials are available at the SAICM web site: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsptf.htm>

### From UNEP Chemicals – Mercury

Work is ongoing on the ‘two track’ process for mercury, as a follow up to the decision taken at the Governing Council meeting of UNEP. UNEP Chemicals has had an initial consultation meeting with some of the key partnership members to start planning partnership activities as well as the development of an overarching strategy for partnerships early in 2008. Planning and organisational activities for the Open-ended Working Group meeting to review and assess options for the control of mercury are underway. The meeting is scheduled for 12 to



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The deadline for the current application round is 14 September 2007 and the next round is expected to close in approximately mid-March 2008. Project proposals should be submitted as early as possible to the SAICM secretariat in order for the Secretariat to provide guidance and assistance to applicants.”



16 November 2007, in Bangkok, Thailand. Invitation letters have been sent out. Some funding has been received, however additional funding will be required to hold the meeting in all six UN languages.

Work is ongoing with the Secretariat for the Basel Convention on the Guidelines for Mercury as Waste, including the discussion of future cooperation to pilot-test the Guidelines.

For more information, please visit the mercury website at: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/>



## Capacity Building Events From September to December 2007



<b>24-26 September</b>	UNEP/DELCO in cooperation with SBC, SRC and SSC	African Regional Workshop on Chemicals and Wastes Law and Conventions, Nairobi, Kenya	
<b>Secretariat of the Basel Convention</b>			
<b>BCRC Egypt</b>			
<b>October</b>		Three day workshop for ports enforcement officers on combating illegal traffic	
<b>BCRC Nigeria</b>			
<b>4-6 September</b>	Lagos, Nigeria	Three day workshop for ports officers and other security agents on combating illegal traffic and dumping of e-waste	
<b>9-11 October</b>	Dakar, Senegal	Regional training workshop on e-waste inventory and environmentally sound management of e-waste (ESM)	
<b>9-11 October</b>	Dakar, Senegal	Regional Coordination Meeting of BCRCs in Africa	
<b>BCRC Senegal</b>			
<b>5-7 September</b>	Venue to be decided	Second meeting of the Steering Committee of the project entitled "Demonstration of a Regional Approach to Environmentally Sound Management of PCB Liquid Wastes and Transformers and Capacitors containing PCBs"	
<b>BCRC South Africa</b>			
<b>8-12 October</b>	Lusaka, Zambia	Regional Workshop aimed at Promoting a Non-toxic Environment in Africa	
<b>3-7 December</b>	Nairobi, Kenya	Workshop to promote the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals and Waste Management	
<b>Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Title &amp; Project No.</b>	<b>Status</b>
18-21 September 2007	Ghana	Sub-regional consultation	Tentative
2-5 October 2007	Mexico	National consultation	Tentative
15-19 October 2007	Geneva, Switzerland	Regional Experts Meeting	Tentative
22-26 October 2007	Beijing, Republic of China	National consultation	Tentative
30 Oct.-2 Nov. 2007	Santiago de Chile, Chile	Regional DNA meeting	Tentative
5-9 November 2007	Quito Ecuador	National Thematic Workshop	Confirmed
5-9 November 2007	Dakar Senegal	Sub-regional meeting	Confirmed
5-9 November 2007	Pretoria South Africa	Regional DNA meeting	Tentative
12-16 November 2007	Belize	Sub-regional meeting	Tentative
19-23 November 2007	Gabon	Sub-regional meeting	Tentative
26-30 November 2007	Tunis Tunisia	Regional Officers Meeting	Tentative
9-12 December 2007	Cairo Egypt	Regional DNA meeting	Tentative
<b>Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention</b>			

**Planning to be finalized**



## Upcoming meetings of interest

<b>September 2007</b>	3-7 September	Sixth session of the OEWG, SBC	Geneva, Switzerland
	17-21 September	MOP19, Montreal Protocol	Montreal, Canada
	17-22 September	JOGMEC Metal Recycling Symposium	Tokyo, Japan
	26-27 September	OECD-Japan Seminar on Material Flows & Resource Productivity from Knowledge to Practical Policies	Tokyo, Japan
	25 September	International Workshop on Resource Efficiency and the Environment	Tokyo, Japan
<b>October 2007</b>	4-6 October	Senior Officials Meeting on 3R Initiative	Bonn, Germany
	10-12 October	UNECE Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"	Belgrade, Serbia
	22-26 October	4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	Montreal, Canada
<b>November 2007</b>	5-9 November	POPRC3, Stockholm Convention (to be confirmed)	Geneva, Switzerland
	12-16 November	GEF Council Meeting	Washington DC, USA
	12-16 November	IPCC AR4 Synthesis adoption, UNFCCC	Valencia, Spain
	19-23 November	Stockholm Convention POPRC-3	Geneva, Switzerland
	12-16 November	Open-ended Technical Working Group on Mercury	Bangkok, Thailand
	Date to be advised	WCO/HCS meeting	Brussels, Belgium
<b>December 2007</b>	Date to be advised	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the AHJWG on enhancing co-operation and co-ordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	To be advised
	3-14 December	IMO Assembly – 25 <sup>th</sup> session	London, UK
	3-14 December	COP13/MOP2, UNFCCC	Jakarta, Indonesia



**BASEL CONVENTION**  
the world environmental  
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