



Basel Convention Bulletin

June 2008

Editorial COP9 Basel Convention Bulletin

Dear readers,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Bali on the occasion of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. COP9 is the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties I have the privilege of serving since taking up my duties as Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention last year. I am therefore particularly pleased to be able to greet you today in unique settings.

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia is our generous host this year. I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the Indonesian Government for its interest in the Basel Convention and the outstanding efforts which have gone into ensuring that this event is a success, in a true spirit of cooperation.

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties has before it a number of important challenges. Meeting these challenges successfully will determine the future direction of the Convention. My hope is that the outcomes of this COP will contribute to placing the Basel Convention firmly on the international agenda,

and, further, re-affirm the implementation of the Convention as a prerequisite for sustainable development worldwide.

In this context, the theme of COP9 focuses on "Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood". The Basel Convention was set up to protect human health and the environment from the negative effects consequential to uncontrolled transboundary movements and the unsound management of hazardous and other wastes. The protection of human health and livelihood is therefore at the core of the Basel Convention. This assertion is as true today as it was at the time of the negotiation of the Convention. We must, through our efforts at COP9, reposition the Basel Convention in such a way that the decision-makers systematically include all waste management issues into costing, planning and implementation efforts linked to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development as a whole. While nobody would actively contest its importance, waste management today is not generally



Dr. Katharina Kummer Peiry

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considered a priority topic at the national or international levels, and thus does not receive the political and financial support it clearly merits. We must make sure that waste management is understood as a crucial issue that deserves political and financial support. By highlighting the contribution made under the Basel Convention to human health and livelihood, the high-level segment of COP9 should help raise the profile of the issue at all levels.

In order to support us in this endeavor, we have organized a World Forum on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood on the first day of the high-level segment of COP9 (26th June 2008). Eminent persons from Government, civil society and industry will highlight ways in which environmentally sound waste management contributes to the attainment of selected Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were adopted to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, discrimination against women, and to promote partnerships at all levels. They provide a high-level framework for the improvement of livelihoods and life worldwide. The Forum, open to all, should be a frank discussion about Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, which will be moderated by the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner. I welcome you all to participate in the Forum, the programme of which you will find in document UNEP/CHW.9/INF/2 and on page 3.

Next year, the Basel Convention will be twenty years old, an anniversary which provides a bench mark to reflect on past achievements and to address future challenges. Among its past achievements, the Basel Convention set up an effective regulatory system, which, every day, enables hazardous and other wastes to be transported and managed in an environmentally sound manner.

Further, innovative concepts have been developed and implemented, such as the Basel Convention's partnerships programme. The Mobile Phone Partnership Programme is the first partnership that came to fruition. The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) will be launched at COP9, which reaffirms the validity and continuation of using a partnership approach to address emerging problems (please see relevant articles in the Bulletin).

New problematic waste streams have emerged, such as electrical and electronic wastes (e-waste) which have been embraced and tackled hands on by the Basel Convention. At COP8, the Basel Convention adopted the Nairobi Declaration on the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste, and a related programme of activities which will be launched at COP9. Other innovative activities include the Basel Convention's engagement in international efforts linked to ship dismantling through its involvement in the negotiations of a new treaty, the International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, under the auspices of the

International Maritime Organization (IMO) (please see relevant articles in the Bulletin).

There are many other achievements worthy of being mentioned, among others, the capacity building efforts for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, undertaken by the Basel Convention's unique network of Regional and Coordinating Centres worldwide (please see relevant articles in the Bulletin).

However, we must bear in mind that the world has changed since 1989. With the globalization of trade, the emergence of new waste streams, the development of new technologies, new solutions are required. Finding and implementing such solutions constitutes one of the key challenges for the future.

We have a proposal on the table at COP9 to launch a review of the Convention, to be completed by 2012. This process will allow us to analyze, in great depth, the adequacy of the way in which the Convention currently operates, in order to develop the possible needed adjustments for the long-term. A number of related activities are already ongoing, such as a review of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres, and the assessment of the Strategic Plan of Implementation to 2010. These processes will help us in identifying the strategic priorities for the next decades.

In relation to the above, COP9 will be a useful platform to launch a proactive process regarding the interpretation of Article 17.5 and the Ban Amendment, taking account developments since 1995 when the Amendment was adopted. A High-level lunch, generously hosted by H.E. Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, State Minister for the Environment of Indonesia, will kick-off the discussion informally, with possible new approaches that could be considered in the formal process of the COP.

The Basel Convention's future is also linked to developments in the global international environmental governance arena. COP9 will consider the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation and Coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. I welcome this process as an opportunity for Basel Convention Parties to make their mark in this significant UN-wide process.

COP9, finally, is also our opportunity to position the Basel Convention onto a solid financial basis in order to allow it to continue its work, through a realistic and focused work plan and the allocation of corresponding resources to implement it.

My vision is that COP11 in 2012 will mark the birth of a reinvigorated Basel Convention, which will have a highly visible place on the political agenda through its successful contribution to human health and livelihood worldwide. This would be all the more appropriate as



2012 marks the 20th anniversary of entry into force of the Convention. With the launch of a review process and a new Strategic Plan, COP9 has the opportunity to lay the foundation for this vision to become a reality.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our host, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, a country renowned for the hospitality of its people, for its warm welcome and continuous commitment to the Basel Convention.

The theme of COP9: Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood

(please see UNEP/CHW.9/INF/2 for more details about the theme of COP9)

The theme of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention is Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, which was chosen to reaffirm the undeniable interdependence between the environmentally sound waste management of hazardous and other wastes and the achievement of sustainable development, especially for those who need it the most.

World leaders agreed on eight measurable goals, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit, to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women and develop partnerships. The MDGs provide a high-level framework for the improvement of livelihoods and life worldwide. The aim of the theme on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood is thus to demonstrate the significant concrete contribution of environmentally sound waste management through the attainment of selected MDGs¹.

A discussion Forum, the World Forum on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, will take place on the first day of the Basel Convention COP9 high-level segment on 26 June 2008 in Plenary. A person of high international renown will be invited to give a keynote address on the interlinkage between waste management and human health and livelihood. Following the key-note address, eminent speakers from Government, civil society and industry will make presentations on how their activities contribute to the achievement of relevant MDGs, in relation to the theme, in concrete terms. Speakers are invited based on their personal experience or involvement in making a significant contribution to the achievement of each of the MDGs through environmentally sound waste management.

The main outcome of the Forum should be a Bali Commitment, establishing the theme of "Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood" as a vector for the attainment of sustainable development through the relevant MDGs. The Bali Commitment could provide a tool for introducing the issue of environmentally sound waste management into the international health and development agendas.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Basel Convention Bulletin and I wish you a very fruitful and dynamic meeting.

Dr. Katharina Kummer Peiry

*Executive Secretary
Basel Convention*



Programme

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Bali, Indonesia

High-level Segment: World Forum on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood

26 June 2008

Room Nusantara (1st floor)

Morning Session

- 10.00** Key-note address and opening ceremony
- 10.30** Moderator's introduction to theme and Millennium Development Goals
- 10.45** Moderator's introduction of the speakers and proceedings of the day
- 11.00** Speakers' interventions
- 12.00** Discussion open to the floor

Lunch break at 13.00

Afternoon Session

- 15.00** Summary of morning session by moderator
- 15.30** Speakers' interventions
- 16.30** Discussion open to the floor
- 17.15** Wrap up by moderator and conclusions

¹ MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women, MDG 4: Reduce child mortality, MDG 5: Improve maternal health, MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. MDG 8: Develop Partnerships for development



Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood

Health-care waste management

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has initiated discussions with the World Health Organization (WHO) to explore opportunities for closer collaboration, particularly in those areas of WHO's global leadership that relate to the Protection of the Human Environment. Opportunities under discussion include extending collaboration on the environmentally sound management of waste (ESM) and working to ensure the effectiveness of the Convention taking into consideration the work being undertaken by WHO Member States to implement the International Health Regulations (2005). These regulations require Parties to notify WHO of any public health incident of international concern, such as events caused by environmental contamination that has the potential to spread across international borders. The following article has been provided by colleagues at the WHO to highlighting issues associated with health-care waste management. We look forward to including contributions on other key public health issues to future editions of the Bulletin.

Health-care activities lead to the production of waste that may lead to adverse health effects. Most of this waste is not more dangerous than regular household waste. However, some types of health-care waste represent a higher risk to health. These include infectious waste (15% to 25% of total health-care waste) among which are sharps waste (1%), anatomical waste (1%), chemical or pharmaceutical waste (3%), and radioactive and cytotoxic waste or broken thermometers (less than 1%). Sharps waste, although produced in small quantities, is highly infectious. Poorly managed, they expose health-care workers, waste handlers and the community to infections. Contaminated needles and syringes represent a particular threat and may be scavenged from waste areas and dump sites and be reused.

The safe and sustainable management of health-care waste is a public health imperative and a responsibility of all. The right investment of resources and commitment will result in a substantive reduction of disease burden and corresponding savings in health expenditures.

The WHO core principles on health care waste management require that all entities associated with financing and supporting health-care activities should

provide for the costs of managing health-care waste. This is the duty of care. Manufacturers also share a responsibility to take waste management into account in the development and sale of their products and services.

Health-care waste management options may themselves lead to risks to health and no perfect readily achievable solution to manage health-care waste exists. Health-care waste, whether generated at smaller rural clinics or larger facilities, can be managed where adequate well-operated infrastructures exist. However, the volumes of waste generated within large facilities and targeted public efforts (e.g., immunization campaigns) are more challenging, particularly in developing countries where resources may be limited.

In collaboration with countries and partners WHO is involved in waste management in health care settings.

This includes: the setting, validation and monitoring of norms and standards through guidelines for waste management in health care settings; Developing tools and guidelines for diseases control and risk reduction such as management of waste from blood transfusion activities as well as guidelines for emergency contexts; Support of developing ethical evidence based policy through a series of papers for example, safe health care waste management or, mercury in health care; Simulating research and development and testing new technologies such as working with academic institutions in testing and verifying health care waste management options for resource poor settings; Assessment, status and trends in close collaboration with national authorities; Provides support for sustainable capacity building on health care waste management in health care settings.

WHO is collaborating with the UNEP mercury partnership, provides support to 72 GAVI priority countries on health care waste and is involved in the Global Environment Facility implementation project in 8 countries: Argentina, India, Latvia, Lebanon, The Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania and Viet Nam with the objective to demonstrate and promote best techniques and practices for reducing health-care waste to avoid environmental releases of dioxins and mercury; and contributes to the World Patient safety initiative through clean environment.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the international agency within the United Nations system responsible for health. WHO experts produce health guidelines and standards, help countries to address public health issues and also support and promote health research. Through WHO, governments can jointly tackle global health problems and improve people's well being. 192 countries and two associate members are WHO's members. Public health experts and a wide variety of professionals work for WHO in 147 country offices, six regional offices and at the headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Public health issues related to health care waste management are WHO priorities.



Global Programme for Sustainable Ship Recycling

The Global Programme for Sustainable Ship Recycling was created in 2007 to facilitate improvements in worker health and safety and environmental conditions in ship recycling countries in the South Asia region. The Programme concept has been developed in close consultation with two other international organizations with an interest and expertise in ship recycling: the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Office (ILO). The Secretariat of the Basel Convention seeks to work with all ship recycling stakeholders to ensure the future sustainability of the industry.

A new Convention on the “Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships” is currently being negotiated under the auspices of the IMO to facilitate improvements in the industry, although entry into force is not expected until approximately 2015 after sufficient ratifications are received. Action is urgently required to prevent incidence of worker injury and fatality and reduce the negative impacts of this activity on the environment. To this end, the Programme seeks to:

- Promote the sustainability of the ship recycling industry by enhancing the application of internationally recognized standards relating to occupational safety and health (OSH) and environmental protection;
- Promote effective implementation of the future Convention for the “Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships” being negotiated under the auspices of the IMO, by building upon existing technical assistance activities promoting the guidelines of the IMO, ILO and Basel Convention, and elements of the new Convention (as developed); and
- Promote an integrated approach to the ship recycling industry, by addressing infrastructural and other needs in the participant countries in and beyond the ship recycling yards.

The future activities of the programme will include:

- **Development of model facilities** in each of the participant countries.
- **Development of Government-to-Business certification scheme(s)** to provide a yardstick by which ship owners and governments may assess the adherence of a yard to internationally accepted OSH and environmental standards.
- **Policy development** to assist ship recycling countries in preparing for the entry-into-force of the IMO Convention on the “Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships”.
- **Establishing linkages** with related development programmes being implemented in the participant countries.
- **Training and workshops**

Initial consultations

A diverse group of ship recycling stakeholders met in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in January 2008 for initial discussions on the Global Programme concept.

The events in Dhaka, hosted by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, with support provided by the Bangladesh Ministry of Environment and Forests, were intended to provide a forum for an initial consultation on the Global Programme by facilitating an exchange of views by Government Ministries and Departments,



industry, IGOs, NGOs and international experts. Bangladesh, which currently has the largest ship recycling industry, was selected as an appropriate venue to initiate these discussions.

Highlights of discussions

The importance of the ship recycling industry to the countries in which it is based, particularly Bangladesh, was highlighted by both Government and industry representatives alike. In Bangladesh, the industry employs 25,000 workers in approximately 25 yards, although it is estimated that 500,000 people are indirectly employed by the industry (in downstream sectors). Over 95% of a ship can be recycled, the majority of which is steel, which provides Bangladesh with 80% of its current steel requirements, mainly for construction.

While Government, NGOs and industry welcome efforts by international organisations to improve the state of ship recycling globally (both through the new Convention being negotiated under the auspices of the IMO and initiatives such as the Global Programme), several points relative to the future Programme emerged in the discussions:

- Standards must be improved in a phased manner and such improvements should be affordable so as to ensure the industry continues to be economically viable in the countries concerned.
- The programme must be country-driven, taking into account requirements at the international and national levels. New regulations as defined in the new IMO Convention need to be transposed into national legislation as deemed appropriate by national policy makers and regulators.
- Linkages need to be established with other national sectors (e.g. in developing a model yard with waste reception facilities)
- Lessons from previous assistance projects, for example, SafeRec in Bangladesh, need to be borne in mind to assure both optimal usage of resources and expected outputs.
- Many ship recycling countries already have the necessary expertise in-country to achieve improvements. In this regard, financial, not technical, assistance is the greatest requirement.
- The workers must have a key role to play in future developments in the industry. The main concerns of the workers, as voiced by NGOs, include the opportunity for permanent employment, better enforcement of their rights, decent work, a minimum wage structure and improved worker health and safety at the yards.



In terms of the proposed Programme activities, the development of a model facility was welcomed by all stakeholders, although the specifics with regard to the funding of such a project, the type and level of international assistance, would require further discussion.

Training was also deemed essential, although other educational mechanisms require exploration. Training should be needs-based as it is apparent that certain types of job functions (e.g. working at height) cause the most accidents. Permanent facilities need to be developed to address ongoing training requirements. Training should be provided free-of-charge to workers.

27th Session of the World Customs Organisation Enforcement Committee

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) participated in the 27th session of the World Customs Organisation Enforcement Committee. The SBC gave a presentation on the current situation in illicit trafficking in hazardous wastes and the role of customs, thereby raising awareness about the Basel Convention with customs officials. The SBC also participated in the thematic group discussion that examined the WCO recommendation on countering transnational environmental crimes and possible

Fourth Workshop of the Asian Network for the Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention participated in the fourth Workshop of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes in Tokyo on 28-30 January 2008 where it chaired a session on the criteria for waste and non-waste with a focus on electrical and electronic equipment. The workshop participants agreed to cooperate in the following fields: (1) Update country contact lists (2) Close collaboration with EU countries e.g. through IMPEL/TFS (3)

The European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and the Basel Convention Join Forces

The Basel Convention and IMPEL signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a view to strengthening cooperation between the two bodies.

Expertise will be shared to curb illegal traffic of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention. Concrete

In finalising the discussions, the Secretariat committed to further develop its proposal on the Global Programme for Sustainable Ship Recycling, on the basis of these initial consultations with key stakeholders.

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action plan to combat such crimes. The members of the Committee showed great interest in Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and environmental issues and decided, among other things, to continue to exchange and share information on the manner in which customs can assist in the implementation of MEAs. The Committee adopted the WCO recommendations on countering transnational environmental crimes and possible action plan to combat such crimes. These recommendations and action plan were presented for adoption by the WCO Council at its meeting in May 2008.

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Research on distinguishing waste from non-waste by BCRC-China (4) Development of reference material on good practices (5) Research for speedy Basel notification and consent procedure (6) Research on degree of damages during the shipment by type of packaging and loading (7) E-waste partnership programme under the Basel Convention. The workshop was attended by participants from competent authorities or focal points to the Basel Convention from twelve countries and a special administrative region, the Basel Convention Regional Centers (BCRCs) in China and Indonesia, the IMPEL-TFS network, UNEP/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Canada, and governmental and non-governmental organizations in Japan.

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activities will focus on inspections, monitoring, reporting and enforcement of the provisions of the Basel Convention. There will also be training activities for Parties to the Basel Convention that are developing countries and countries with economies in transition on legislation, regulation and best practices.

Discussions have started on the formulation of a work programme for cooperation using Basel Convention projects with an enforcement component as a basis. The first area of further cooperation will probably be related to monitoring shipments of electrical and electronic waste from Europe to developing countries and to the environmentally sound management of such waste.

The European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law was set up in 1992 and is referred to in the 6th EU Environment Action Programme, the Recommendation



2001/331 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 April 2001 providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in the Member States. IMPELs' purpose is to ensure a more effective implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation in the European Community and offering practical advice on implementation and enforcement of EC environmental legislation. One of the Clusters of IMPEL focuses on enforcement and compliance of transboundary shipments of waste (TFS-cluster).

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Update on project activities undertaken under the Basel Convention partnership on the environmentally sound management of e-waste in the Asia-Pacific region

The Basel Convention Partnership on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Wastes for the Asia Pacific Region that was developed as a project and officially launched in Tokyo, Japan, in November 2005 on the occasion of the Asia-Pacific Regional Inception Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electronic and Electrical Wastes, hosted by the Government of Japan in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and Japan's National Institute for Environmental Studies. The goal of this programme of action is to enhance the capacity of Parties to manage electrical and electronic wastes in an environmentally sound way through the building up of public-private partnerships, and by preventing illegal traffic.

The following Asian countries have supported and participated in the project activities: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition, BCRC China, BCRC SEA and PRC-SPREP prepared regional proposals for countries covered by their Centres. The Governments of Canada, Japan, and the Netherlands have provided financial support for the implementation of the project and further efforts are being made to secure funding from other sources.

Table I shows the progress of project activities as of April 2008. The next phase of this project is the initiation of pilot schemes on the collection and segregation of e-waste, including take-back schemes, the initiation of pilot repair, refurbishment and recycling schemes and the training of customs and enforcement officers to control the import and export of electrical and electronic wastes so as to combat illegal trafficking.

The development of appropriate methods for evaluation, testing, characterization and classification of e-waste, extended producer responsibility, standards and guidelines for the environmentally sound management or for certification schemes will be initiated in the future.

The establishment of mechanisms for information exchange at the national and regional level and the monitoring of impacts on human health and the environment of the management of electrical and electronic wastes will be a priority.

Table I Project activities undertaken under the Basel Convention partnership on the environmentally sound management of e-waste in the Asia-Pacific region (as of April 2008)

Country/BCRC	Title of project	Scope	Status
BCRC China	Feasibility analysis to develop a centre of excellence of information on the ESM of e-waste in BCRC in Beijing	Regional	Completed.
BCRC China	Research on criteria between new/used EEE and hazardous/non-hazardous criteria in selected Asian countries	Regional	In progress; to be completed in June 2009
PRC-SPREP, Samoa	Pilot inventory of e-waste in five Pacific island countries	Regional	In progress. To be completed in December 2008.
BCRC SEA, Jakarta	Development of guideline documents on methodology on inventory of e-waste and environmentally sound recycling, reuse, repair, refurbishment/disposal of e-waste	Regional	Completed. See http://www.bcrc-sea.org/



Country/BCRC	Title of project	Scope	Status
BCRC SEA, Jakarta	Training workshop on ESM of e-waste	Regional	Completed on 13-15 March 2007 in Cambodia. See http://www.bcrc-sea.org/
Sri Lanka	Development of national implementation plan for e-waste management	National	Completed.
Development Alternatives, (NGO), India	Facilitating partnerships for ESM of e-waste in India (NGO project): Phase I	National	Completed.
Indonesia	Preliminary inventory of e-waste	National	Completed.
Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam	Inventory of e-waste	National	Completed.
Cambodia	Development of awareness raising kits and conducting training courses	National	In progress; to be completed in Aug. 2008

For more information, please contact:

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Inventory of electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) in South America

The project aimed at assessing the e-waste situation in South America by performing initial inventories in the region. In addition, it aimed at implementing 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) policies of end-of-life electrical and electronic products, promoting the sound management of e-wastes.

The following countries participated in the activities: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. An outcome was the publication of the first "Review Study on Formal and Informal Networks for the Management of End-of-Life Electric and Electronic Equipment in South America, Opportunities for the Latin American Market", available on the website of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region (<http://crsbailea.inti.gov.ar>) and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (www.basel.int). An assessment of the legal framework and current management practices of e-waste was carried out in Argentina, Chile

and Venezuela covering computers, printers, cash registers, refrigerators and video and sound equipment.

A pilot study on the collection, classification, repair and recycling of used computer equipment, with a view to approaching this waste stream in an environmental sound manner in the framework of this project is being carried out by the Computer Programme for Education - CPE (Computadores para Educar) of the Ministry of Communications of Colombia with the support of the Ministry of Environment of Colombia, the BCRC for the South American Region located in Argentina and EMPA (Eidgenössische Materialprüfungs- und Forschungsanstalt), Switzerland.

The Centre coordinated the project activities with the technical support of SBC and the financial assistance of the Government of the United Kingdom (70.000 USD) and cash and kind contributions by CPE (30.000 USD).

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StEP and Basel Convention discuss synergies

The German Ministry of Environment hosted a meeting, on 25 April, 2008, at which Solve the E-waste Problem Partnership (StEP) members and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, along with three Parties, met in Bonn to discuss future collaboration and cooperation on the topic of electrical and electronic waste (e-waste). Both entities are working on e-waste through different mandates and it was timely to discuss synergies between the two programmes in efforts to enhance and ameliorate activities undertaken by both UN bodies.

It was decided that an activity-based Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be established between the two bodies. In addition to the MoU, it was agreed that there would

be a bi-annual letter of agreement to supplement the MoU with further details on work programmes and activities underway or to be initiated. The work of the Basel Convention covers not only the Partnership to be established on used and end-of-life computing equipment, PACE, but also the broader mandate of e-waste under the Nairobi Declaration and its decision VIII/2 on e-waste.

The next steps will be to collaborate on the legal models of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and that of the UNU. It is anticipated that the MoU might be signed at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or shortly thereafter.

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Interim Group on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

The sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group established an Interim Group on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE). The Interim Group was charged with the task of developing recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, at its ninth meeting. These recommendations include a draft work plan for the 2009–2010 biennium, terms of reference, with an outline for the proposed structure of the Partnership, and a declaration of commitment, to be signed by partners at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in June 2008. The OEWG also asked the Interim Group to identify other activities relevant to the work of the Partnership.

The Interim Group on PACE, which consists of 32 members (with representatives from personal computer manufacturers, recyclers, academia, international organisations, environmental groups and Governments), was also asked to facilitate the

balanced and diverse participation of private sector and other stakeholders in the Partnership. Mechanisms for providing sustainable and predictable financial support for the Partnership are also to be sought.

The Interim Group has operated through a series of teleconferences, emails and one physical meeting. It has effectively completed the terms of reference for the Partnership, the declaration of commitment and a work plan for PACE, which will be considered by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, along with the formal establishment of the Partnership by the Conference.

The final physical meeting will take place on 22 June 2008 in Bali, Indonesia. Following the meeting, there will be an open meeting of PACE to introduce the outcome of the Interim Group and the framework of this multi-stakeholder Partnership.

Initial outreach work has already begun to engage interest in and commitment to PACE. Interested stakeholders who would like to participate in this initiative are invited to contact:

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Update on the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative

Since the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) was launched, five Technical Guidelines were completed on awareness raising on design considerations, collection of used and end-of-life mobile phones, transboundary movement of collected mobile phones, refurbishment of used mobile phones, and material recovery/recycling of end-of-life mobile phones. These Guidelines have been tested in a facility type environment to review their application in practice in what is a rapidly changing field of technology. Reports have been completed or are nearly completed on each Guideline tested. These reports will be posted on the Basel Convention website following their approval by the Working Group on Mobile Phones.

On the basis of the Guidelines developed, an overall Guidance Document containing summaries and recommendations from all five Technical Guidelines was completed and was provisionally adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. The Guidance Document is now being submitted to the ninth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention for adoption.

Parties, Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres, industry, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders are currently using all five Guidelines and the Guidance Document. The Technical Guidelines and Guidance Document are also being used to raise awareness on the environmentally

sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones. The Technical Guidelines and the overall Guidance Document can be found at: <http://www.basel.int/industry/mppiwp/projects.html>

The Mobile Phone Working Group (MPWG) reviewed the MPPI, Decisions VI/32, VII/4, VIII/6, and the Declaration signed by industry partners in 2002, and believes that the Working Group has completed its tasks as assigned and successfully met its objectives. Bearing this in mind, the MPWG will request the ninth Conference of the Parties to cease its operation. It is requesting the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties that all remaining tasks to be carried out under the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative be carried out as part of an ad-hoc forum known as the *Partnership Updates on Mobile Phones*, with participation by interested Parties, Signatories, industry and non-governmental organizations.

The Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative was launched in 2002, during the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, at which twelve manufacturers (Alcatel, LG, Matsushita (Panasonic), Mitsubishi, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Philips, Samsung, Sharp, Siemens, Sony Ericsson) signed a Declaration entering into a sustainable partnership with the Basel Convention and in cooperation with other stakeholders, to develop and promote the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones. In July 2005, three telecom operators (Bell Canada, France Telecom/Orange, and Vodafone) signed a Declaration entering into the Partnership.

For more information, please contact:

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Towards a regional strategy to combat illegal traffic and dumping of hazardous wastes in Arab ports



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Representative from 16 Arabic countries, officials from four of the main Egyptian ports and representatives from non-governmental organizations attended the workshop on a regional strategy to combat illegal traffic and dumping of

hazardous wastes in Arab ports, which was organized by the Basel Convention Regional Office located in Cairo, UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia and Mediterranean Action Plan, and the League of the Arab States.

The workshop focused on the illegal traffic and dumping of hazardous wastes across ports, international and regional legal frameworks and national practical experience in the region. Presentations about the Basel and related Conventions, the Green Custom Initiative, and the Mediterranean Protocol were given.

Following the workshop, a consultative meeting took place on a prospective strategy for effective collaboration between and among Arab states to combat illegal traffic and dumping of hazardous wastes through Arab ports. Recommendations on capacity building, financial resources, legal, technical and political collaboration, as well as regional and international collaboration were addressed.

The workshop was covered by Egyptian media. More information can be obtained from <http://www.baselegypt.org>. Please also contact Mr. Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Email: Nelson.Sabogal@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 12

Strengthening of the collaboration between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the International Lead Management Centre

ILMC and the SBC are collaborating for the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention in the field of environmentally sound management (ESM) of used lead acid batteries (ULAB) and the reduction of exposure to lead contamination, in particular for most exposed populations such as women and children. Both organizations are committed to building on their joint experience in developing, with all stakeholders, field-based methodologies for the ESM of ULAB, and expand their involvement in all regions where Parties to the Basel Convention have expressed interest to receive assistance. In the light of increasing globalization of trade in commodities and hazardous waste and consequent complexities for regional trade, there is a need to develop monitoring mechanisms for the environmentally sound collection, transport and recovery of used lead acid batteries that would be in compliance with the objectives, principles and standards of the convention. In this context, the forthcoming phases of this collaboration include:

- i. Support to the implementation of the (2006) Regional Strategy for the ESM of ULAB in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States;
- ii. Undertaking of ULAB country assessments in Parties

- to the Basel Convention and preparation of national actions plans;
- iii. Assistance to the development of regional strategies for the ESM of ULAB;
- iv. Further development of guidance and information material on the ESM of ULAB and the prevention of exposure to lead contamination, in particular for women and children;
- v. Setting up of regional monitoring schemes for the ESM of ULAB and the environmentally sound recovery of lead.

Note: The ILMC, LLC, is a lead risk reduction project administered by the International Lead Zinc Research Organization (ILZRO) and supported by the Lead Development Association International (LDAI). ILMC has been an active contributor to the development of the Technical Guidelines for the ESM of ULAB that were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2002. Moreover, ILMC has assisted the secretariat in various pilot programs for the ESM of ULAB and the development of regional strategies. ILMC is based in Durham, North Carolina, USA.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Email: Nelson.Sabogal@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 12



Strategy on the management of the biomedical (healthcare) waste for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR of Macedonia)

A strategy on the management of biomedical (healthcare) waste was developed for the territory of the FYR of Macedonia enabled through the support of the Basel Convention Regional Centre located in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) and UNEP. This project is in line with

the needs expressed by the national authorities (the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning – MEPP in particular), along with the objectives of the Business Plan of BCRC for 2005-2006.

The strategy addresses the following issues: 1) development of the legal framework for health care waste management (HCWM), 2) rationalization of the HCWM practices in the hospitals in the country, 3) analysis of specific financial resources dedicated to HCWM, 4) awareness, 5) capacity building and training measures, 6) recommendations for improvement, 7) a monitoring plan.

The final project report of the strategy is available on www.basel.int and www.sazp.sk/bcrc

Please also contact Mr. Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Email: Nelson.Sabogal@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 12

Demonstration of a regional approach to environmentally sound management of PCB liquid wastes and transformers and capacitors containing PCBs in West Africa

The medium-size project approved in 2006 has been successfully implemented by the UNEP-GEF Unit and executed by BCRC-Dakar with technical and institutional support from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. A detailed Project Identification Fiche (PIF) for the full-size project was submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in March 2008 and a comprehensive project proposal (PD) is under preparation. The project included such activities as;

- the consolidation and refinement of national inventories in a regional context,
- consultations with the main stakeholders in the region, including national electricity companies and the West African Power Pool,
- the development of a detailed business plan with industrial partners for the establishment and operation of a regional facility for the decontamination of PCB containing equipment,
- the development of a regional capacity building programme to support the sound management of equipment in use,
- the collection, storage and transport of PCB containing equipment to a regional decontamination centre,
- the shipping of liquid PCBs to Europe for final disposal

Subject to approval by the GEF and other stakeholders, the full-size project implemented by UNEP is proposed to be co-executed by BCRC-Dakar and another UN agency with the technical and institutional support of other national and regional institutions and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The West African Power Pool is expected to play an important role. Activities are

expected to start in 2009. The budget would be distributed as follows (in USD); 1) GEF: 5,928'714 2) regional developing banks and bilateral agencies: 5,795'434 3) industry: 3,025'159 and income from other sources, including from metal recovery activities.

The need to address the environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCBs by pooling together the limited capacity and resources of individual countries via a sub-regional approach has been given priority in the Environment Action Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In his opening speech on the occasion of the Second Partners Conference on the NEPAD Environment Action Plan held in Dakar in March 2003, the President of Senegal, H.E. Mr. A. Wade, made a specific reference to the present NEPAD project proposal on the development of a regional approach for managing PCBs and PCB containing equipment. The approach of this project is to encourage the introduction of ESM regimes at the national level within a regionally harmonized framework. This approach builds on existing regional structures, including the Basel Convention Regional Centres and the West Africa Power Pool, to provide a regional market opportunity for service providers to deliver cost-effective ESM for PCB oils, equipment and wastes, whilst building national and regional capacities.

The approach of the business plan under preparation represents a considerable cash investment by the private sector and a cash contribution in the form of 'profit foregone' to support the establishment and operation, of a treatment centre in the region. The experience of the use of soft technologies for the decontamination of equipment at the regional treatment facility will help build regional capacity and know-how while the engagement with a destruction technology trial will demonstrate the feasibility of, and establish criteria for, the ESM and co-processing of PCB wastes in compliance with the technical standards of the Stockholm and the Basel Conventions.

For more information, please contact:

Mr Vincent Jugault, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Email: Vincent.Jugault@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 23



Best practices of PCB management in the mining sector in South America

The UNEP-GEF Unit, several countries in South America, together with industry associations and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) have developed a sub-regional project for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCBs in the mining sector. A Project Identification Fiche (PIF) has been submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for possible co-funding (USD 1.6 Million). The project is due to start in 2009 and would be implemented in Chile and Peru. BCRC-Argentina will be the executing agency for this project.

This GEF funded medium-size project will address PCB management issues related to the life cycle of PCB management, focusing in one priority sector (mining sector) in the participating countries. It will assist Governments and industries to address the regulatory, analytical and monitoring aspects of PCB life-cycle management. One of the initial actions of the project will be to refine the inventories, by following the relevant Basel Convention guidance material, with a view to obtaining accurate data and information on PCB waste containing equipment. Proper PCB analysis and validation schemes will be available. A key component of this project will be the development of partnerships with national and, if possible, international mining associations, in order to maximize the impact of the project outputs and to promote wide take up of best practices in compliance with the Stockholm Convention and internal regulations and guidelines from the national Governments and the mining sector.

The on-line reporting database of the Basel Convention

The on-line reporting database of the Basel Convention is now accessible to Parties and others through the Convention website (<http://www.basel.int/natreporting/index.html>). The database provides access to data and information contained in the national reports, transmitted by Parties to the Secretariat, pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 13 of the Basel Convention. The reporting database of the Basel Convention, which is the basis for its online version, was designed and developed, for the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, by the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE).

The purpose of the database is to efficiently manage, process and retrieve data and information contained in the national reports transmitted by Parties, annually, to the Secretariat. The structure of the database is based on the format of the revised questionnaire on 'transmission of information', which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its sixth meeting (December 2002), to further facilitate national reporting by Parties.

The online reporting database allows users to access information contained in Part I (Questions 2-7; Tables 1-5) and Part II Section A (Tables 6, 7 and 8A), Section B (Tables 9-10) of the revised questionnaire on "transmission of information".

The Basel Technical Guidelines do not prescribe a specific analytical method to determine low POP contents. They refer to the application of national and international standards. Therefore, existing laboratories in each country will be trained in the methodologies to perform PCB analysis following internationally prescribed standards for the matrices of interest, namely oils from electrical, electronic or hydraulic equipment and technical matrices such as contaminated materials, e.g. soil, concrete, remediation equipment.

This project will address these challenges by conducting a detailed study on PCB regulations in each participating country and will identify existing gaps and places where regulations may be enhanced in the mining sector. It will also encourage public-private partnerships for the development of detailed PCB life-cycle management plans, at the facility and industry association level and it will identify and disseminate lessons learned and good practices in PCB management, at the industry and Government level. The coordinated approach developed by this project on regulations, analytical capacities, public-private sector involvement, and good practices will be replicated by Governments and industry. The regional coordination of regulatory frameworks may also allow countries to facilitate the exchange of expertise and the development of coordinated schemes for the ESM of PCB management.

For more information, please contact:

Mr Vincent Jugault, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Email: Vincent.Jugault@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 23

By accessing *Questions 2-7*, information, as transmitted by Parties, can be retrieved concerning wastes controlled for the purpose of transboundary movement; restrictions on the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes; control procedures of the transboundary movements of waste; reduction and/or elimination of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes; reduction of the amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes subject to the transboundary movement and; effects on the human health and environment.

Table 4. Sources of Technical Assistance
2004. Western Europe and Others. (Parties which did not report are not listed).

Country	Name and address of institutions	Notifications	HS & USE	Technology	Assessment	Monitoring	Emergency	Illegal traffic
Andorra	Department of Environment (Ministeri d'Agricultura i Medi Ambient, Caserí del Rei, s/n, 02-04, Andorra la Vella, tel. (376) 875-757, fax: (376) 899-832, e-mail: mediambient@andorra.ad gemma_labaua@andorra.ad	X	X	-	X	X	-	-
Australia	See remarks / sources	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	See remarks / sources	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belgium	See remarks / sources	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada	Director, Waste Management Division, Pollution Prevention Directorate, Environment Canada, Place Montparnasse, 20 Coleman St., 6th Floor, Ottawa, Québec, K1A 0K4, Tel: (1-813) 937-3377, Fax: (1-813) 937-3968	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Finland	See remarks / sources	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	ADEME (Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie), 2 square Lafayette, BP 406, 49004 Angers Cedex	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
France	INERIS, Parc Technologique Alata, BP 2, 60550 Verneuil-en-Halatte	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
France	IRISA-POLDEX, BP 2132 Villeurbanne Cedex	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
France	BRGM, BP 6009, 45060 Orléans Cedex 2	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
Germany	Competent authorities pursuant to Art. 5 (see Annex 5 in particular the Fiscal Point)	X	X	-	X	X	-	X
Germany	Universities	-	X	X	-	-	-	-
Germany	Chambers of Trade and Commerce	-	X	X	-	-	-	-
Germany	Customs	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Germany	Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Germany	Technisches Hilfswerk (Federal Disaster Relief Organization)	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
Greece	No assistance available	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



Tables 1-5 provide access to information, as transmitted by Parties, concerning bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements; disposal facilities operated within the national jurisdiction; recovery facilities operated within the national jurisdiction; sources of technical assistance and; sources of financial assistance.

Tables 6, 7 and 8A provide access to data, as transmitted by Parties, on generation and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

Tables 9 and 10 of Part II, Section B provide access to information, as transmitted by Parties, concerning disposals which did not proceed as intended and; accidents occurring during the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

Currently, the reporting database provides access to data and information transmitted by Parties, for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004. For the years 2005 and 2006, the information contained in Part I and Part II Section B of the revised questionnaires received as of 21 April 2008 is entered into the database and data contained in Part II Section A on generation and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes is being entered.

For more information, please contact:

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From the Rotterdam Convention: chemical experts recommend adding two more pesticides to trade “watch list”



The Chemical Review Committee, at its fourth meeting in March 2008, has recommended that two additional pesticides – alachlor and aldicarb – be included in the Prior Informed Consent, or PIC procedure, under the Rotterdam Convention.

The PIC procedure of the Rotterdam Convention provides an early warning system that empowers countries to take informed

decisions on the import of hazardous chemicals in order to minimize the risks posed to human health and the environment. At present there are 28 pesticides and 11 industrial chemicals subject to the PIC procedure.

Many pesticides which are banned or severely restricted in industrialized countries are still traded and used in developing countries. Too often, such pesticides are sold to farmers who lack the equipment and knowledge to use them safely, resulting in large numbers of injuries and even deaths.

Similarly, industrial chemicals, such as lead additives used to boost octane levels in gasoline, are still used in certain regions, resulting in the build up of lead in the environment and adverse health impacts, harming especially the intellectual development of children.

The recommendation to add alachlor and aldicarb to the PIC procedure is based on a review of regulatory decisions to ban

the use of these chemicals taken in several countries due to unacceptable risks to human health or the environment.

The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, meeting in Rome on 27-31 October 2008, will decide on whether to accept prior recommendations of the Chemical Review Committee to include two pesticides, tributyl tin compounds and endosulfan, in the PIC procedure and adopt decision guidance documents for these chemicals. It will also further consider the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos.

The full report of the meeting, including more details on the Chemical Review Committee and conclusions is available at

[http://www.pic.int/INCS/ReportCRCs/D11\)/English/K0840494%20CRC-4%20Report%20-%20reissued%20for%20technical%20reasons.pdf](http://www.pic.int/INCS/ReportCRCs/D11)/English/K0840494%20CRC-4%20Report%20-%20reissued%20for%20technical%20reasons.pdf).

The **fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (COP4)** will take place in Rome on 27-31 October 2008. The high-level segment will take place on 30-31 October and will discuss the theme of "Sound Chemicals Management: Relieving the Burden on Public Health". For the provisional agenda of COP4, please go to www.pic.int

Share Responsibility



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Joint Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention staff retreat

The first ever joint retreat of Secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions was held 6-7 May 2008 at Glion sur Montreux, Switzerland. The retreat addressed issues of: optimizing roles and contributions of staff; ensuring better synergy between technical programs and support functions; improving technical delivery; enhancing cooperation between the two conventions in facilitating assistance to Parties for convention implementation; and strengthening management. For each area, the desired situation was described, obstacles were identified that get in the way of realizing it, and actions were proposed for overcoming the obstacles and reaching the desired level of performance. A recurring theme throughout was the need to think in new and different ways in order to be dramatically more effective. At the close of the retreat, Don Cooper, Executive Secretary of



the Stockholm Convention and co-Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention elaborated the plan for the joint services unit of the two Conventions within which administration, information technology, conference services and resource mobilization functions will be housed. The Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention participated in the first day of the retreat.

For information on upcoming meetings and capacity building events of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions please consult the following websites:
www.basel.int – www.pic.int – www.pops.int

Stockholm Convention launches clearing house mechanism



The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants launched its new clearing house mechanism for exchange of information on persistent organic pollutants including sound measures and valuable experiences in implementing the Convention on 19 May 2008.

The POPs clearing house mechanism will help countries and other stakeholders to make better decisions about how to reduce or eliminate the release of these highly dangerous chemicals into the environment. It does this by empowering its users with the means to contribute and access up-to-date information in a transparent, neutral, efficient and user friendly manner.

The clearing house contains information on the initial POPs covered by the Convention: nine pesticides (aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex and toxaphene); two

industrial chemicals (PCBs as well as hexachlorobenzene, also used as a pesticide); and unintentional by-products, most importantly dioxins and furans. It will include the Technical Guidelines on POPs adopted by the Basel Convention. It also includes information on eleven other chemicals currently under consideration by the POPs Review Committee for possible addition to the Stockholm Convention.

A special section of the clearing house will be devoted to information on DDT and alternatives to its use in controlling malaria and other disease vectors.

Another section will include information generated through the global monitoring plan of the Stockholm Convention, on levels of POPs present in the environment, which is used to determining the effectiveness of the Convention in meeting its goal of protecting human health and the environment from POPs. The clearing house is a tool that will increase humanity's collective knowledge of the risks posed by POPs and the means to address them. Present and future generations will be the beneficiaries.

For more information, please contact: Mr. Osmany Pereira at opereira@pops.int; tel.: +41 22 917 81 94



Basel Convention Compliance Committee meetings

The Basel Convention Compliance Committee met twice over the last biennium, on 8-9 September 2007 and 28-29 February 2008. The Committee took the opportunity to monitor the implementation of their 2007-2008 work programme, which includes the development of a guide of best practices in national reporting, and a directory of training institutions offering activities aimed at improving capacity for the detection, prevention and prosecution of cases of illegal traffic. The Committee also developed a proposal for its future work programme, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.



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.

For comments about the Basel Convention Bulletin or to obtain further copies, please contact Ms. Nicole Dawe, Information Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Email: Nicole.Dawe@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 20

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

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

21. Tuvalu
22. United States of America
23. Vanuatu
24. Zimbabwe



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, Ms. Nicole Dawe, Information Officer, Email: Nicole.Dawe@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 20 and consult

www.basel.int

The Basel Convention public information material includes;

1. Information leaflets and brochures

- The Basel Convention at a Glance
- The Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres at a Glance
- The Environmentally Sound Management of Electronic and Electrical Waste in Asia Pacific
- The Global Programme for Sustainable Ship Recycling
- The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment Our Sustainable Future: the Role of the Basel Convention
- The Basel Convention Partnership Programme (updated and reprinted)
- Illegal Traffic under the Basel Convention (updated and reprinted)
- PCBs and other POPs in the context of the Basel Convention
- National Reporting
- The online reporting database of the Basel Convention
- The Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (new version of the brochure)
- The Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative

2. CD-Roms

- CD-rom with all SBC publications and information material

3. Posters

- The "Basel Convention at a Glance" poster.
- Special poster exhibition about the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (series of 14 posters).
- Exhibition structures and poster on "Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood".

4. Basel Convention Bulletin

5. Press Releases on www.basel.int (<http://www.basel.int/press/press.html>)



BASEL CONVENTION
the world environmental agreement on wastes

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