



BASEL CONVENTION

the world environmental agreement on wastes

BASEL CONVENTION *bulletin*

November 2006

Editorial-Basel Convention Bulletin November 2006

Dear Readers,

It is only a few weeks until the next important event for the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will take place at UNEP's Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, from 27 November to 1 December 2006. Hosted by the Government of Kenya, it is the first time a Basel Convention COP takes place in Africa.

I am pleased to inform you that the theme of COP8 will be "Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes". In this context, electronic wastes include, in particular, end-of-life computers, including printers and accessories and television sets. The theme was suggested because individuals and corporations, in many parts of the world, are buying great quantities of computers and television sets, which are often replaced after a short lifespan with new models as technology advances. On the one hand, the problem is how to deal with large new waste streams containing lead, cadmium, mercury and other hazardous materials. On the other, the issue offers an important and focused opportunity for raising awareness about the environmentally sound management of wastes and the integrated life-cycle approach.

For Parties, end-of-life computer equipment offers a timely opportunity for demonstrating the Convention's existing toolkit, from technical guidelines and best practices to contributions of Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCs) and partnerships, while exploring further the potential for improving the management of e-wastes globally. Relevant issues include the definition of goods vs. wastes and the classification of

specific waste components as hazardous or not; changing patterns in international flows of materials, including the growth of North-South and South-South and intra-regional trade; and the need to expand international cooperation on recycling and materials recovery.

As part of the high-level segment of COP8, we will be convening a world forum on e-waste with the participation of eminent persons, which is tasked with discussing matters relating to the theme. The panel will be composed of high-level representatives from Government, Inter-Governmental Organisations, civil society and industry and will be chaired by Mr Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP. The discussion, which will be held in plenary on 30th November, will be interactive and open to questions and comments from other delegates and stakeholders present. The outcome of the discussions could be the adoption of a global strategy to address e-wastes, set in the broader context of end-of-life equipment, environmentally sound management and the Millennium Development Goals.

Many other key issues of immediate concern will be discussed at the COP, such as the budget, the status of the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to implement the Strategic Plan and sustainable and predictable voluntary financial mechanisms mentioned in Article 14 of the Convention, the adoption of the budget for the programme of work for 2007-2008, and the Basel Convention Partnership Programme. The role and activities of Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCs) as the Basel Convention Regional Network (BCON) in the implementation of the Convention and related agreements and in the environmentally sound management of priority waste streams will also be on the agenda.

Further to decision OEWG-V/8, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention has created a special section on the issue of ship dismantling on the Basel Convention website to serve as a reference tool for stakeholders, grouping relevant activities of the Basel Convention, initiatives for co-operation between international organizations, relevant case law and a compilation of practical information from a wide range of sources.

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention invites submissions for this website, pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision OEWG-V/8, of relevant practical information and documents on the environmentally sound management of ships recycling to serve as a reference tool for stakeholders. Please see: <http://www.basel.int/ships/index.html>.

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New ship dismantling section on Basel Convention Website

Further, issues of synergies within the chemicals and waste clusters of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, ships destined for dismantling or recycling, including the cooperation and review of the on-going work in the International Maritime Organization to develop a new international convention to regulate ship recycling will be discussed.

Finally, the COP will also review and possibly adopt amendments to the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (POPs), the guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs), and the possible adoption of the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of (i) 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, (ii) wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)ethane (DDT), and (iii) wastes containing or contaminated with unintentionally produced polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs), hexachlorobenzene (HCB) or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) ("unintentionally produced POPs").



Dr. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto

I look forward to seeing you at the COP and hope our fruitful discussions will help turn it into a successful event.

Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto
Executive Secretary
Basel Convention

For any information related to COP8, please go to <http://cop8.basel.int/> or send an email to BaselCOP8@unep.ch.

Third Regional Latin American and Caribbean Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention participated in the Third Regional Latin American and Caribbean Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 20-30 June 2006 as a presenter. The workshop was organized by UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and is part of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building. It was organized for the Spanish speaking countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region, including Brazil and financed by Spain.

The workshop was designed to build the capacity of the participants in environmental law and policy development and application, and to promote interest in the compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as the Basel Convention. The participants, who came from all related sectors, represented the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras,

Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO).

A detailed presentation about the Basel Convention was given and related issues of relevance to the region were addressed. As a follow up to the training workshop, a special website was set up to allow participants to further interact on the development and implementation of environmental law in Latin America and the Caribbean (please check www.unep.org/DPDL).

For more information, please contact:
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Call for submissions of bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements entered into by Parties concerning transboundary movements of hazardous waste

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention maintains a collection of Bilateral, Multilateral and Regional Agreements and Arrangements which Parties have entered into with other Parties or non-Parties regarding transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes. These can be found on the Basel Convention website at the following URL: <http://www.basel.int/article11/index.html>. (Some texts are only available in the national language of the country concerned).

Such information is a valuable source of information for businesses and other entities engaged in the shipment of hazardous and other wastes between States, and the provision of relevant information to the Secretariat can help to ensure that the rules of each State, as well as Basel Convention rules, are complied with. This is particularly important concerning shipments between Parties and non-Parties to the Convention, as there must be an Article 11 agreement between the States concerned for such shipments to be in compliance with the Convention.

Furthermore, the notification of such agreements and arrangements to the Secretariat is a requirement under Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Basel Convention. Noting this requirement, Decision VII/36 adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2004, reminded Parties to transmit relevant agreements to the Secretariat.

At the beginning of June 2006 the Secretariat sent a request to all Focal Points and Competent Authorities, asking every Party to transmit texts of bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements. However, to date, few Parties have responded to this appeal.

Please send texts of bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements or arrangements to:
Sophie Schlingemann
Legal Consultant to the Secretariat
of the Basel Convention
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Fellowship Programme on International and Comparative Environmental Law by UNITAR

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention participated in the Fellowship Programme on International and Comparative Environmental Law from 17 July to 4 August 2006 as a presenter. The workshop was organized by The UN's Institute for Training and Research. The overall objective of the Programme was to provide intensive theoretical and practical knowledge of international and comparative environmental law to the participants. The Programme was also aimed at providing in-depth knowledge of major environmental conventions; stimulating the discussion and comparative analysis of environmental issues; enhancing negotiations skills; and promoting knowledge sharing and exchange of experience.

Participants included civil servants, NGO staff, academics, lawyers, private sector professionals, and advanced students in the field of environmental law, international relations and international politics. An in-depth presentation about the Basel Convention was given and participants analysed a case study related to its implementation.

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Africa Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The directors of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres in Egypt, Senegal, South Africa and Nigeria participated in the Africa Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management held in Cairo, Egypt, on 11-14 September 2006. This first regional meeting was organized by the SAICM Secretariat in collaboration with the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency, Ministry of State for the Environment, Egypt.

The aims were to facilitate the transition from negotiation to implementation, to catalyze regional and national planning for SAICM implementation and to maintain the political momentum that was generated by the September 2005 World Summit, the successful adoption of SAICM at the first session of the ICCM and endorsements by the governing bodies of International during 2006.

For more information, please contact sbc@unep.ch

Basel Convention Upcoming Events

The Basel Convention Regional Centre in Cairo is organising a workshop on the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation on 30 October and 1 November 2006.

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, COP8, will be hosted by the Government of Kenya and will take place in the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 27 November to 1 December 2006.

The theme of the meeting will be "Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes."

In this context, electronic wastes include end-of-life computers, including printers and accessories and television sets.



For any information related to COP8, please go to <http://cop8.basel.int/> or send an email to BaselCOP8@unep.ch.

Background Analysis for Development and Establishment of a Lubricating Oil Management System

In July 2006, the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia, in co-operation with the Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) and UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) finalized a project entitled "Background Analysis for Development and Establishment of a Lubricating Oil Management System". The project was carried out with the financial support of UNEP/MAP and professional support from SBC.

Questionnaires were distributed to 1), manufacturers, importers, distributors and exporters of lubricants, 2), institutions keeping records of some basic lubricant streams, 3), major users of lubricants oils such as industry, the mining, transport, forestry and agricultural sectors, workshops for cars and vehicles, 4) public sector users of lubricants oils such as the state Ministries of Defence or Internal Affairs, the Police, EUFOR, the European Union Armed Forces based in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The project findings confirmed that source separation of used oils does not exist in most of the cases and a vast majority of used oils is burned improperly as a cheap alternative fuel. Burning used oils in cement kilns seems to be a probable alternative while local regeneration revival is not likely.

A database was developed within this project and handed over to the Federal Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment. A regulation based on waste management permits and the obligatory annual reporting on compliance with the conditions set by the waste management permit is in the pipeline.

Follow-up activities to the project would be as follows:

1. development and implementation of relevant legislation (implementing regulations)
2. preparation and distribution of guidelines on ESM in used oils
3. establishment of efficient reporting, monitoring and inspection system



4. organisation and provision of necessary training of key personnel
5. public awareness programmes

For more information, please contact Mr. Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer, Tel. +41 22 917 82 18, Fax + 41 22 979 34 54, Email: Nelson.Sabogal@unep.ch

Update on the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative

Mobile Phone Working Group has finalized the overall Guidance Document on environmentally sound management of end-of-life mobile phones and submitted it to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for adoption, as per decision VII/4.

The Project group dealing with collection and transboundary movement of used and end-of-life mobile phones finalized recommendation on transboundary movement which have been incorporated in the overall Guidance Document.

Next steps under MPPI will be to disseminate the information via workshops and Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres and to initiate two pilot projects on collection used mobile phones in selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

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NGO Awareness Raising Workshop about the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions at COP8 of the Basel Convention

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean is convening the third meeting of the Steering Committee on the Finalization of the Regional Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Lead Acid Batteries in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States on 27-28 September 2006 in Trinidad and Tobago. On 3-5 October 2006, the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Bratislava and TAIEX, the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit of the European Commission, will hold a workshop on Illegal Traffic of Hazardous and other Wastes, in Bratislava.

The third meeting of the Expanded Bureau of COP7 will take place on 6-7 October 2006 in Geneva. On 26 October 2006, an ambassadorial briefing on matters pertaining to eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention will take place in Geneva.



The Basel Convention Regional Centre in Cairo is organising a workshop on the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation on 30 October and 1 November 2006. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, COP8, will be hosted by the Government of Kenya and will take place in the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 27 November to 1 December 2006.

The theme of the meeting will be "Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes." In this context, electronic wastes include end-of-life computers, including printers and accessories and television sets.

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Funding E-waste Projects in Asia and Pacific

COUNTRY/BCRC	TITLE OF PROJECT	SCOPE	AMOUNT (US \$)	TIME TABLE
China	Feasibility Analysis to Develop a Centre of Excellence of Information on the ESM of E-waste in BCRC in Beijing, China 5 April 2006	Regional	65,000	March-April 2006
SPREP, Samoa	Pilot inventory of e-Waste in 10 Pacific Countries	Regional	50,000	Aug 2006-April 2007
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	30,000	Aug – Dec 2006
BCRC SEA, Jakarta	Training Workshop on ESM of E-waste	Regional	55,000	Early 2007
Sri Lanka	Development of national implementation plan for e-waste management	National	50,000	Aug – Dec 2006
Indian NGO	Facilitating partnerships for ESM of E-waste in India (NGO project): Phase I	National	90,000	Aug – Dec 2006
Indonesia	Preliminary inventory of e-waste	National	25,000	Aug – Dec 2006
TOTAL			365,000	

E-waste Project Activities Kick-off in Asia Pacific

The regional programme of action for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of electronic and electrical wastes (e-wastes) which was launched on 25 November 2005 in Tokyo, Japan (see related report on Dec. 05 – Jan. 06 issue of the Basel Bulletin) kicked off with its first initial activities in March 2006. Utilising the initial contributions of CD\$ 75,000 (approx. US\$65,000) and US\$500,000 from the governments of Canada and Japan, respectively, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) and countries participating in this regional project agreed on the pilot activities to be implemented in 2006 and 2007 (see table). Activities involving detailed inventories of e-waste in Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam will also be carried out following

the finalization of consultations between the SBC and the Government of Japan regarding the distribution of funds to these countries.

The goal of the programme is to enhance the capacity of countries in the Asia and Pacific region to manage e-waste in the environmentally sound manner through the building of public private partnerships and to prevent the illegal traffic of hazardous e-waste.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Programme Officer (Technical) Tel. 41 22 9178636, Fax. 41 22 7973454, Email: ibrahim.shafii@unep.ch

Hazardous Waste Management by Small and Medium Enterprises in Jordan

The project "Hazardous Waste Management in Industry with the Context of Integrated Life Cycle of Materials" was carried out by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of Jordan, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Sustainable Business Associates (SBA) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. It was funded under the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention with additional financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC).

The project addressed the problem of hazardous waste management in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Jordan. The majority of the SMEs are concerned with the production of hazardous wastes as part of their operating procedures. A guide was produced based on on-site tests in selected companies. The guide, with its case studies, will be used as a tool by SMEs to effectively manage hazardous materials and wastes by supporting identification processes among others. The guide is available in Arabic, English and French and on the websites of the participating organizations.

More information is available on:
<http://www.basel.int/centers/projects.html>
 Please also contact Mr. Nelson Sabogal, Senior Programme Officer,
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Preparation of a Set of Tools for the Selection, Design and Operation of Hazardous Waste Landfills in Hyper-dry Areas

With the objectives to meet the needs of Arab States to plan, construct and operate hazardous waste landfills in an environmentally sound manner, and with the financial and technical support from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), the BCRC-Egypt completed a hitherto related project in November 2005.

The project's main objective was to prepare and disseminate technical knowledge in the form of guidelines on setting up and managing, in an environmentally sound manner, hazardous waste landfills in hyper-dry areas of the Arab region. Three expert group meetings convened during the project's implementation with experts from 14 Arab states. The following guidelines were prepared and published:

- 'Guidelines for hazardous waste landfill site selection and EIA in hyper-dry areas';
- 'Guidelines for hazardous waste landfill site design in hyper-dry areas';
- 'Guidelines for hazardous waste landfill site operation, monitoring and aftercare in hyper-dry areas'.

These guidelines are comprehensive and can be considered as a reference for environ-

mental planners and technicians. In addition, BCRC-Egypt prepared (in Arabic) a reference guide to be used by field officers as related to the selection of landfill sites, the design and management as well as the monitoring aspects of the landfill facilities throughout their lifetime.

The BCRC-Egypt also produced a glossary for the technical terms that were used in the guidelines to assist junior technicians.

A training programme on hazardous waste management in landfills was held in Bahrain at the end of the project, using the guidelines and the experience gained by the BCRC-Egypt from the project. Fifteen participants from 8 Arab states and from Bahrain attended the training programme.

The total cost of the project was US\$ 135,541 from the Trust Fund of the Basel Convention in addition to about US\$ 30,000 provided by the participating countries.

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Status of Ratifications

The Basel Convention has 168 Parties. The number of ratifications to the Ban Amendment is of 62. The number of Contracting Parties to the Protocol on Liability and Compensation is of 7.

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

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 14. Sao Tomé & Príncipe |
| 2. Angola | 15. Sierra Leone |
| 3. Congo (Republic of the -) | 16. Solomon Islands |
| 4. Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 17. Somalia |
| 5. Fiji | 18. Suriname |
| 6. Gabon | 19. Tajikistan |
| 7. Grenada | 20. Timor-Leste |
| 8. Haïti | 21. Tonga |
| 9. Iraq | 22. Tuvalu |
| 10. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 23. United States |
| 11. Myanmar | 24. Vanuatu |
| 12. Palau | 25. Zimbabwe |
| 13. San Marino | |

Preparation of National Inventories and National Action Plans for the Environmentally sound management of PCB in Central America.

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) is about to finalize one of its largest regional projects on the preparation of national inventories and national action plans for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCBs and PCB containing equipment in Central America with a total budget of US\$ 650,000.

The governments of the USA and Finland and the Parties to the Basel Convention (BD Fund) financed the project. All Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama) participated in the project aiming at paving the ground for regional disposal activities for PCBs in Central America.

The project is one of a series of projects successfully implemented by UNEP/Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP's Chemicals Branch and the SBC to support Parties in the implementation of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions in a coordinated manner at the national and regional level.

At the fourth and final workshop, which took place from 12 to 14 July 2006 in San

Salvador, El Salvador, all participating countries presented their national inventories and national actions plans, as related to the ESM of PCBs and PCB containing equipment, as well as the assessment of hitherto related national legislation in Central American countries with regard to chemicals and waste management, as linked to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Based on the results of the national inventories, action plans and legislative assessments, participants also contributed to and commented on an overarching regional strategy around six modules aimed at building the necessary capacity and carrying out activities for ESM of PCBs: legislation and enforcement, administration and strengthening of national entities, infrastructure and technology, protection of human health, control of illegal traffic and transboundary movement, programme for follow-up and control of the implementation of the regional strategy.

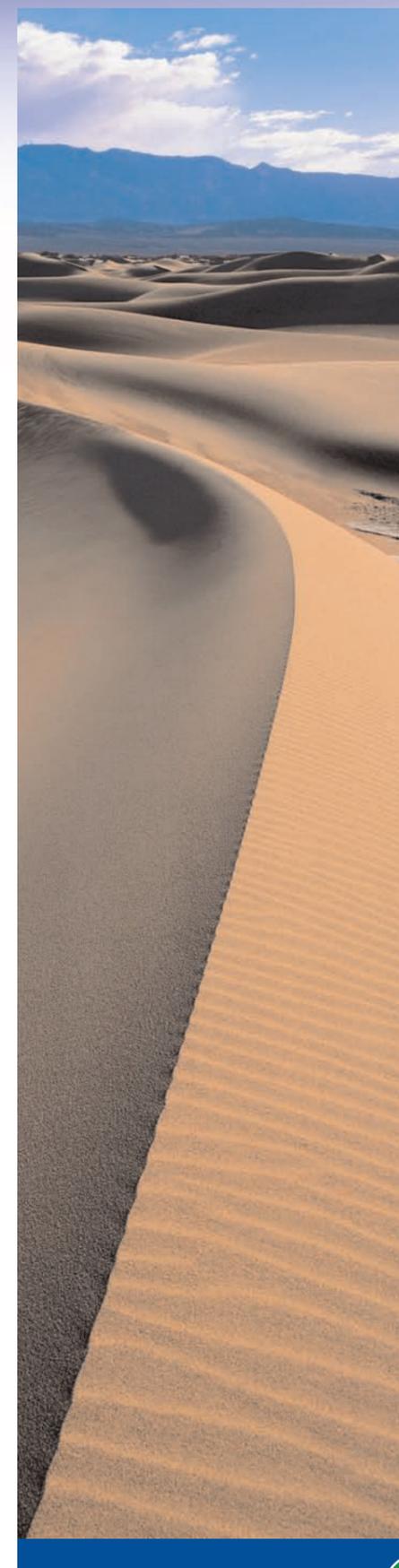
The external evaluation of the project is underway and follow up projects, based on the above-mentioned modules, are being formulated for funding requests. Of particular interest, in the work related to the pro-

Awareness Raising Project with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to start a project aimed at enhancing public awareness about the Basel Convention. An over-arching aim of the project is to increase civil society interactions with the Basel Convention for a two-way purpose; spreading knowledge about the Convention and obtaining information from them about expectations related to the Basel Convention. Another aim is to reach as many stakeholders as possible, across all sectors, including the general public, while engaging, promoting and enhancing the image and role of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres in the process.

A first draft project paper has been produced and is currently under discussion. The next steps will be the formulation and implementation of activities, preceded by joint fundraising efforts.

For more information, please contact
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One World, Don't Waste It

ject, was the successful public-private partnerships, namely between the countries and the energy-providing companies, which have formed a basis for further cooperation in the ESM of PCBs and PCB containing equipment.

For more information, please contact Mr. Andreas Arlt, programme officer, technical unit, SBC, Tel. +41 22 917 8364, Fax +41 22 797 35 54, Email: Andreas.Arlt@unep.ch, www.basel.int



Production of Vital Waste Graphics II for COP8

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention and UNEP-Grid Arendal, with the financial support of UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions, are preparing the publication "Vital Waste Graphics II", to be released in November 2006 at COP8 of the Basel Convention. This publication follows the production and distribution of "Vital Waste Graphics" in 2004, which was well received and is now out of print.

The objective of the publication is to compile a synthesis of global waste issues, showing global trends in and impacts of global waste generation and management in a user-friendly format of graphics, maps and texts.

The target audiences for the publication are Governments, policy makers, the waste management community (private sector and civil society), the media and donor community and the general public.

The publication is expected to fill a need for comprehensive data on waste issues globally and on the impacts and trends of global waste generation and management.

For more information, please contact Ms. Nicole Dawe, Information Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Tel. +41 22 917 82 20, Fax +41 22 797 34 54, Email: Nicole.Dawe@unep.ch



Basel Convention Bulletin

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