



BASEL CONVENTION

the world environmental agreement on wastes

BASEL CONVENTION *bulletin*

COP8

Editorial-Basel Convention Bulletin COP8

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this special COP8 edition of the Basel Convention Bulletin. And welcome to Nairobi on the occasion of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, which is hosted by the Government of Kenya.

I am pleased to announce the theme of COP8, "Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes", which was endorsed by the Expanded Bureau. 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 waste reduction and resource recovery through 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 with industry and civil society, 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 in

North-South, 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 are convening a World Forum on E-waste on 30th November with the participation of Prof. Wangari Maathai, Founder of the Green Belt Movement and Nobel Peace Laureate, Ministers of the Environment from the five UN regions, supported by a panel of eminent persons, to discuss matters relating to the theme. The panel is 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 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 the environmentally sound management of end-of-life equipment, and the Millennium Development Goals. Please consult the special information leaflet produced about the World Forum on E-waste.

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 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 Operational 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, issues of synergies between the che-

Following the recommendation of the Committee for Administering the Mechanism for Promoting the Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention (the Compliance Committee) the Secretariat of the Basel Convention has further improved the accessibility of the web page containing the national legislation by adding a special entry point for selecting the national legislation by language, as some of the texts are available only in the national language of the country concerned. The Secretariat hopes that this new organization will facilitate the use of the database as a resource tool for Parties and invites you to visit this web page at:

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

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UNEP

Texts of National Legislation on the Convention website

micals and waste clusters of Multilateral Environmental Agreements will be discussed. Ships destined for dismantling or recycling, including the on-going work in the International Maritime Organization to develop a new international convention to regulate ship recycling, will be reviewed.

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").

Again, welcome to Nairobi and I wish you a successful and fruitful meeting.



Dr. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto

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.

Creating Innovative Solutions Through the Basel Convention for the Environmentally sound Management of Electronic Wastes - World Forum on E-Waste 30 November 2006

Programme

The World Forum on E-waste will take place during the high-level segment of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It is an open forum meant to promote an interactive discussion among Parties and other stakeholders on the theme of the Conference, focusing on the challenges and solutions for the environmentally sound management of electronic and electrical wastes with particular emphasis on used or end-of-life personal computers and their accessories, and television sets.

Morning

- 10.00 hrs Opening of the high-level segment of the Conference by the designated President, H. E. Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya.
- 10.10 hrs Opening of the World Forum on E-wastes by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, and Chair the Forum
- 10.20 hrs Keynote address by Prof. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Laureate
- 10:40 hrs Address by the following Ministers on the challenges posed by E-wastes and their perspective on the issue:

- H.E. Chief Helen V. Esuene, Minister, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria
- H.E. Mr. Mariano Arana, Minister, Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment, Uruguay
- H.E. Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, State Minister for the Environment, Indonesia

- 11.10 hrs Contributions by the Panel of Eminent Persons. The Panellists are:

- Dr. Helge Wendenburg, Head of Department of Water Supply and Distribution, Waste Management, Soil Conservation, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- Mr. Timo Mäkelä, Director, Directorate on Sustainable Development and Integration, Environment DG, European Commission
- Mr. Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, DOWA Holdings Co., Ltd., Chairman, Japan Mining Industry Association
- Mr. Kirsi Sormunen, Vice President and Head of Environmental Affairs, NOKIA
- Mr. Klaus Hieronymi, Director of Environmental Business Management at Hewlett Packard for Europe, the Middle East and Africa
- Professor Adil Najam, Professor of International Negotiation and Diplomacy, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Canada

- 11.50 hrs Floor opened for discussion on the challenges
- 13.00 hrs Presentations by a number of Panellists on their activities (English only)
- 13.45 hrs Adjournment

Afternoon

- 15.00 hrs Opening of the session by the Chair of the Forum and sum up of the morning session

- 15.15 hrs Address by the following Ministers on the solutions for the environmentally sound management of electronic and electrical wastes and their perspective on the issue

- H. E. Ms. Sulfina Barbu, Minister for the Environment, Romania (to be confirmed)
- Mr. Stefan Wallin, Secretary of State, Finland

- 15.45 hrs Contributions by the members of the Panel
- 16.15 hrs Floor opened for discussion on the solutions and possible actions by the Conference of the Parties
- 17.45 hrs The Chair sums up the afternoon discussion, report on progress made in the making of decisions for action and proceed to the closure of the Forum.
- 18.00 hrs Closure of the Forum.

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

A week-long awareness raising workshop for non-governmental organizations is taking place during COP8 of the Basel Convention from 27 November to 1 December 2006. With funding from Norway, the project is being implemented by UNEP/Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Pretoria with support from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

Participants from well-established environmental, health and community organizations, selected following the recommendations of key organisations in the waste and chemicals management fields, are learning about the three conventions and discussing how these agreements could be useful for their work. As the workshop is taking

place during COP8 of the Basel Convention, participants are benefitting additionally from a direct experience with relevant UN negotiations. All NGO participants are accredited to the COP as observers.

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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 | |

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

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.

Lubricating oils, in particular used oils, represent one of the most hazardous categories of environmental pollutants. Their short and long-term impact on the environment is dangerous if they are not disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. Their natural degradation can take several years. In addition, the open air burning of used oils, which is a widely spread practice in Bosnia and Herzegovina, leads to emissions of air pollutants. Currently there is no management system for used oils in Bosnia and Herzegovina. All the aspects of such a management system, including the legal framework as well as reporting and monitoring mechanisms, are yet to be developed and implemented. The level of public awareness regarding the environmental impacts of used lubricating oils is very low and figures on used oils are not up to date. The project was composed of the analysis of the current situation and the assessment of current environmental impacts and risks.

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

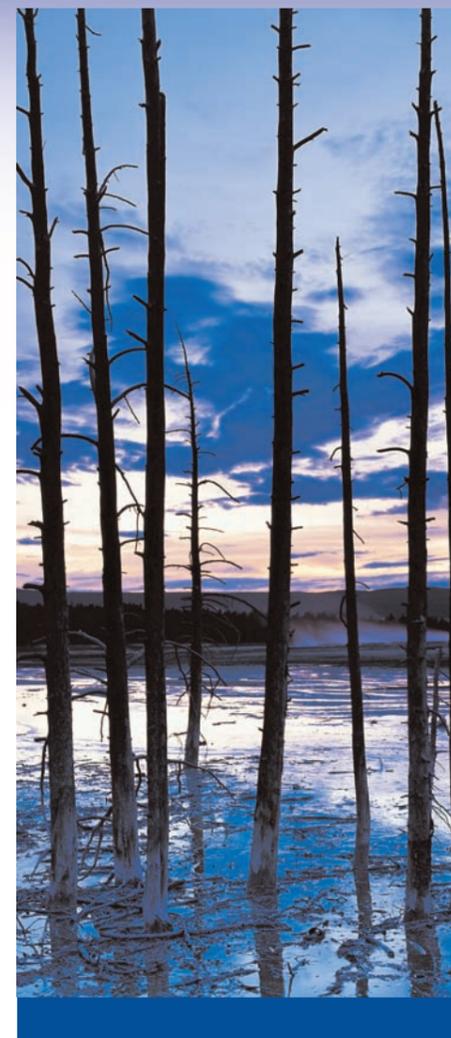
Mobile Phone Working Group has finalized the overall Guidance Document on environmentally sound management of end-of-life mobile phones and submitted it to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for adoption, as per decision VII/4.

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.

For more information, please contact :

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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 | |

Latest Publications and Information Material from the Basel Convention Secretariat

- Vital Waste Graphics II
- Information leaflet on Illegal Traffic under the Basel Convention
- Information leaflet on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme
- Brochure on the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres
- Brochure on the Compliance Mechanism of the Basel Convention
- CD-Rom with Basel Convention Publications
- Basel Convention document folder
- Basel Convention 2007 calendar
- Basel Convention portable exhibition structure
- Basel Convention posters

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 environmental 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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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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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
International Environment House
Chemin des Anémones 15
1219 Chatelaine – Geneva - Switzerland
 Email: sophie.schlingemann@unep.ch
 Tel. + 41 22 917 83 41

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-



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

Management of Used Lead Acid Batteries in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States

The Caribbean Island States, the States of Central America, Columbia and Venezuela ("The Wider Caribbean Region") have agreed on a harmonized strategy for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of used-lead acid batteries in their region. The strategy was finalized during a regional meeting in Trinidad and Tobago on 27-28 September 2006, organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Trinidad and Tobago. The strategy is the pioneering result of an intensive assessment and discussion process over a 5-year period, driven by the collaboration between governmental, industrial, academic and international organizations in the region. The goal of the strategy is to achieve the environmentally sound management of ULAB in the long term.

The project was financed by the Basel Convention Cooperation Trust Fund, Environment Canada (in-kind support), the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Venezuela.

The Regional Strategy addresses both regional and national needs and is based on the following nine strategic goals:

1. secure commitment from relevant stakeholders to promote ESM for ULAB;
2. assess the degree to which the ESM of ULAB is supported;
3. ensure national laws and compliance programs are sufficient to ensure ESM of ULAB;
4. implement national programs (in a regional context) to recover ULAB for ESM;
5. implement financial mechanisms to support the delivery and effectiveness of national ULAB recovery and recycling programs;
6. support the transition of workers from informal ULAB facilities and operations to the formal ULAB recovery and recycling sector;
7. raise public awareness;
8. identify contaminated sites;
9. promote technical assistance, including capacity building and technology transfer to enhance the ESM of ULAB in the region.

In addition, the representatives from 15 countries adopted a declaration of intent to implement the regional strategy in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States ("Declaration of Chaguaramas").

For more information, please contact Mr. Andreas Arlt, Programme Officer, (technical), SBC, Tel. +41 22 917 83 64, Fax: +41 22 797 35 54, www.basel.int Email: Andreas.Arlt@unep.ch



Production of Vital Waste Graphics II for COP8

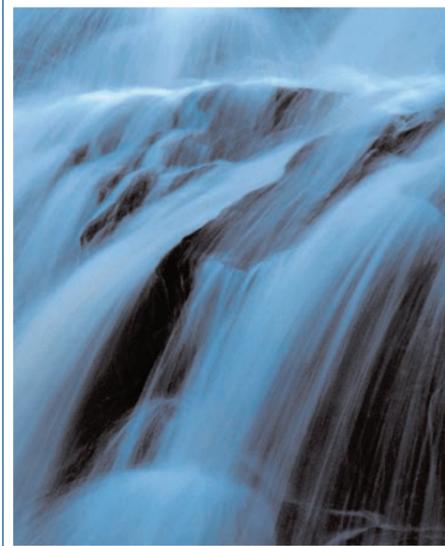
The Secretariat of the Basel Convention and UNEP-Grid Arendal, with the financial support of UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions, are preparing the publication "Vital Waste Graphics II", to be released in November 2006 at COP8 of the Basel Convention. This publication follows the production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

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Regional Workshop to Promote the Ratification of the Basel Convention Protocol on Liability and Compensation in Indonesia

A Regional Workshop aimed at Promoting the ratification of the Basel Convention Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal took place in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 16-18 May 2006. The workshop was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia, and was supported by the Federal Office of the Environment of Switzerland.

The workshop was attended by 36 participants from Parties to the Basel Convention, other States and institutions from the region. So far none of the countries in the South-East Asia region have ratified the Liability Protocol and the delegates were invited to identify the difficulties they faced in this respect, in order to make recommendations for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

Some of the difficulties as described by delegates were the following:

-uncertainty or lack of clarity of institutional capacity regarding the rights and obligations

under the Protocol; lack of legislation to implement the Protocol or other legal and administrative measures to meet the requirements of the Protocol;
-difficulties in achieving the insurance or financial guarantee requirements;
-lack of technical capacity to assess and restore the damage to the environment according to the provisions of the Protocol.

Among the many actions recommended by the workshop were the following:

-capacity building should be undertaken by the State concerned to understand the text and the rights and obligations under the Protocol for government officials, judiciary, insurance industry and waste generators;
-SBC, BCRC, donor countries and Parties should organize further workshops and seminars to clarify the rights and obligations under the Protocol;
-interested Parties together with SBC, BCRC and donor countries should facilitate sessions with those countries which have already acceded to the Protocol to provide an opportunity to share experiences and information as well as the procedures and requirements developed by them;
-the provision of post-incident/accident expertise in dealing with the effects of an



incident/accident by SBC and other relevant international and regional organizations.

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New Ship Dismantling Section on Basel Convention Website

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. It serves 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.

Please see: <http://www.basel.int/ships/index.html>.



Regional Workshop on Illegal traffic for Central and Eastern Europe

A regional workshop on Illegal Traffic for Central and Eastern Europe took place in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, from 3-5 October 2006. It was aimed at strengthening the capacity of custom and enforcement officers at the national level to prevent, identify, monitor and manage illegal traffic of hazardous and other wastes. The workshop was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Bratislava and the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX). At the workshop, the "Training Manual for the Enforcement of Laws Implementing the Basel Convention: Guidance for Safe and Effective Detection, Investigation and Prosecution of Illegal Traffic in Hazardous and other Wastes" was introduced. The manual, which was adopted at the fifth session of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention in April 2006, is intended to form a basis for training of law enforcement agencies and custom officers on all aspects of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes. The participants recognized the importance of international cooperation and the timely exchange of information in dealing with illegal traffic of wastes. Furthermore, the need was stressed to improve cooperation and coordination between the various agencies involved, especially with a view to the changing nature of border controls within the enlarged European Union.

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Asia 3R Conference in Tokyo, Japan

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention Secretariat participated in the Asia 3R Conference was held in Tokyo, Japan on 30 October and 1 November 2006 and was hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Environment. Twenty Asian countries and six G-8 countries participated in the meeting, including eight international organizations and networks. The Asia 3R Conference was a follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on 3R Initiative held in Tokyo in April 2005, which formally launched the 3R Initiative agreed upon by the G8 leaders at the Sea Island Summit (please see previous Basel Convention Bulletins).

The meeting heard presentations by countries and international organizations on the progress, problems encountered and activities undertaken to implement 3R in the respective countries and organizations. Working in four Working Groups, the Conference considered the following issues:

- Partnership and international cooperation for the promotion of 3Rs
- Medical waste management
- Municipal organic waste management
- Electronic and electrical waste management

In its presentation, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention emphasized that the environmentally sound management of waste should be applied to all wastes, whether hazardous or non-hazardous, in particular when it involves north-south trade although south-south trade is also becoming more

important. It highlighted that there is a growing concern over the increasing generation of hazardous waste and end-of-life products in developing countries. In order to address this issue, the Basel Convention promotes public-private partnerships to develop guidelines, including end-of-life products such as e-wastes and mobile phones, and thematic projects for the environmentally sound management of used lead batteries, medical waste, e-wastes and used oils.

At the Working Group on E-waste Management, the progress of the Asia Pacific E-waste Project was presented by the Secretariat and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for SEA in Jakarta.

The Conference facilitated the exchange of information and experiences for the promotion of 3R and recognized the different levels in development and needs of countries in the implementation of the concept. The delegates supported the continuation of the process while international organizations announced various activities to jointly promote 3R, including sub-regional policy dialogues, the creation of knowledge hubs on 3R and the support of several countries in Asia to develop national 3R strategies.

For more information on 3R Initiatives:
<http://www.3rinitiative.jp> and at the SBC:
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such a Forum. The preamble also notes the need to use human and financial resources efficiently and to avoid duplication of functions and work areas in order to enhance the implementation of SAICM.

On the topic of electronic waste, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and other countries (US, Germany and Switzerland) highlighted that work has begun under the Basel Convention on this topic and underlined that the theme of COP8 of Basel Convention is on e-waste. Therefore, countries suggested that the Forum takes note of these developments. It was also highlighted that the topic has some similar elements to the discussion in IFCS on heavy metals e.g. lead, cadmium and mercury. The discussion on heavy metals and the

push by some countries to negotiate new legally binding instrument(s) is also an issue that should be of concern to Basel Convention Parties.

One of the outcomes of Forum V was the adoption of the The Budapest Statement on Mercury, Lead and Cadmium.

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MOU on Pilot Project on Transboundary Movement of End-of-Life Mobile Phones in SEA Countries Signed

On 1 November 2006, during the Asia 3R Conference which was held in Tokyo, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the implementation of the Pilot Project on Transboundary Movement of End-of-Life Mobile Phones in South East Asian Countries was signed between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South East Asia (SEA) based in Jakarta and the Dowa Eco-System Co., Ltd. Japan.

Under this Pilot Project, Dowa Eco-System Co. Ltd. will contribute 10 million Japanese Yen of seed money to cover the costs of activities for the first stage of the project during the 2006 financial year which finishes on 31 March 2007. The whole project will be implemented from 1 November 2006 until 31 March 2008.

The objective of the Pilot Project which would involve initially Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore, is to establish a scheme for the collection and environmentally sound management of end-of-life mobile phones from these three countries. As a first step, an investigation of the current status of end-of-life mobile phones will be conducted and at the second stage a pilot collection scheme for

collection and control transboundary movement of end-of-life mobile phones to Japan for recovery of precious metals will be carried out in an environmentally sound manner.

Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary of SBC said "the Pilot Project is a significant and ground breaking initiative between SBC, the BCRC SEA and a well-established Japanese precious metal smelting company towards ensuring proper management and resource recovery of materials from e-wastes". The Project will also provide an opportunity for the practical implementation of the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of mobile phones developed under the Basel Convention Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative. Dowa Eco-System Co., Ltd. said that if successful, the project would be expanded and implemented in other Asian countries and would include e-wastes such as personal computers and accessories.

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Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS V)

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention participated in the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS Forum V), Budapest, Hungary, on 23-30 September 2006.

A key issue was the discussion of the future role of the IFCS and scope of activities in view of the adoption of SAICM. In the final resolution on the future of IFCS, the preambular language notes the unique role that the Forum has played as a flexible, open and transparent brainstorming and bridge-building forum for governments, IGOs and NGOs, and recognizes the desirability of continuing



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).

One World, Don't Waste It

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).

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*the world environmental
agreement on wastes*