



BASEL CONVENTION
the world environmental
agreement on wastes



UNEP

Basel Convention Bulletin

May 2009

Editorial

Dear Readers,

As this issue of the Bulletin is being published, the successful conclusion of the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) last June in Bali may seem to many but a distant memory. However, the outcomes of COP9 have shaped the development of the Basel Convention over the past 10 months, and continue to do so. Looking back to COP9, I recall a strong sense of new shared dynamism in a constructive and positive atmosphere, which paved the way for focusing on new challenges facing the Basel Convention, and efficient ways to address them. The Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, as the key outcome of the High-Level Forum, has placed waste management firmly on the international political and development agenda. The notion of linking waste management to the achievement of the MDGs related to health and poverty reduction has since been taken up by other important policy statements, notably the Libreville Declaration adopted by the WHO/ UNEP African Conference on Environment and Human Health in August 2008, and Decision 25/8 on Waste Management of the UNEP Governing Council/GMEF in February 2009, referencing and building upon the Bali Declaration. Such express

recognition of the fact that environmentally sound waste management protects public health and livelihood in very concrete ways will hopefully give our work the political and financial support it clearly merits.

COP9 also saw the first frank and open discussion in many years on a possible way forward on the Ban Amendment, under the personal leadership of the COP9 President, H.E. Rachmat Witoelar, State Minister for the Environment of the Republic of Indonesia. Based on this discussion, Indonesia and Switzerland have jointly launched on a Country-Led Initiative that will hopefully result in a concrete proposal to COP10 in 2011. Further, COP9 was the first of the governing bodies of the three global conventions on chemicals and wastes to adopt a decision on enhanced cooperation and coordination between the three conventions, possibly a model for future similar efforts in other environmental areas. Finally, COP9 endorsed a clear linkage between the budget and the work programme by adopting a Costed Programme of Work for the next triennium,



Katharina Kummer Peiry

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thus providing a realistic and predictable basis for work under the Convention.*

I would like to highlight a few key activities related to the implementation of the COP9 Decisions and work programme, on which you will find more information in this issue of the Bulletin:

- Efforts are being made to continue building on the Bali Declaration to obtain stronger political and financial support for waste management through the linkage with related Millennium Development Goals. As a notable example, Indonesia is working to introduce the contribution of waste management to human health and livelihood into the debate of the World Health Assembly in May 2009, in accordance with the Bali Declaration;
- In the summer of 2009, Indonesia and Switzerland will convene a first round of informal discussions in Bali as part of their joint Country-Led Initiative on the Ban Amendment, with the aim of conducting an analysis of the problem;
- The Secretariat is participating in two important meetings in May 2009, namely the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, and the second meeting of ICCM. Follow-up activities are being mapped out for future cooperation and coordination with the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, together with the Secretariats of the two Conventions and with the support of UNEP, after adoption of the relevant decision by COP4 of the Stockholm Convention.

We also look forward to developments at ICCM2, particularly in areas of interest for the Basel Convention, most notably e-waste management.

- Preparatory work for the development of a new Strategic Framework for the next decade is underway, taking into account the Report on the implementation of the current Strategic Plan, which has recently been posted on the Secretariat's website.

Before I close, I should highlight a number of internal changes in the Secretariat in recent months. We have had the pleasure of welcoming new colleagues, while other staff members have left the Secretariat. Some structural changes have also been introduced, following the adoption of the programme of work for the triennium 2009-2011 by COP9, taking into account the future cooperation and coordination process with the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The relevant changes are shown on page 7-8 of the Bulletin.

I very much look forward to continuing efforts to further the objectives of the Basel Convention, under the guidance and with the active involvement of Parties and in cooperation with stakeholders. I thank you for your continued support and interest in the Convention.

*Katharina Kummer Peiry,
Executive Secretary,
Secretariat of the Basel Convention*

* The full report of COP9 can be consulted on <http://www.basel.int/meetings/frsetmain.php>

Country-Led Initiative on the Ban Amendment

At COP9, the COP9 Presidency (the Government of Indonesia) issued a Statement calling upon all Parties to the Convention to expedite ratification of the Ban Amendment so as to facilitate its entry into force to allow the achievement of the objectives of the Amendment: to protect those vulnerable countries without adequate capacity to manage hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner, and to ensure the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes. The Statement also called on Parties to create enabling conditions through country-led initiatives which might encourage ratification of the Amendment. Such country-led initiatives could

include activities to address national enforcement capacity to monitor, detect and control illegal traffic, through such means as establishing criteria for clear characterization of such wastes, in case of doubt to as to the hazardousness of certain materials, to require a prior informed consent procedure and the use of the precise custom codes, the capacity to monitor and trace shipments of hazardous wastes, and the transportation of the objectives of the Ban Amendment into national legislation. The need was stressed for capacity building activities and global partnerships. Switzerland and Indonesia, supported by a majority of Parties, offered to jointly initiate a follow up process through a Country-Led Initiative. This process is expected to contribute to the substantive discussion on the issue with a view to being considered by COP10.

Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, hosted by the Government of Indonesia, adopted

the Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood in June 2008.

In the Bali Declaration, the negotiation of which was facilitated by the Government of Indonesia as part of its Presidency of the meeting, Parties to the Convention reaffirm their commitment to the fundamental objective of the Convention to protect,

by strict control, human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, transboundary movement and management of hazardous and other wastes. Parties also underline their conviction that the implementation of the Basel Convention contributes to achieving sustainable development and the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. Through the implementation of the Basel Convention, Parties indicate that progress can be made in the areas of poverty eradication, health, education, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

In the Declaration, Parties to the Convention invite the World Health Assembly to consider a resolution on the improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management. It also proposes concrete action to Parties, public and private organizations, including international and regional organizations and programmes in support of the sound implementation of the Convention. Further, the Declaration recalls the importance of the role played by the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres in enhancing the implementation of the Convention.

Report on Basel Convention (2002-2011) Strategic Plan now available

The report on the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention is now available and can be consulted on <http://www.basel.int/stratplan/index.html>.

The Strategic Plan, adopted by Parties in 2002, was established to implement the 1999 Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management. It set priorities in terms of policy and programmes, and selected priority waste streams and projects. COP9, in June 2008, decided to extend its implementation until a new Strategic Framework is adopted by COP10 in 2011. Therefore, decision IX/3 set up a system to develop the new Strategic Framework, driven by Parties, and requested Parties, Signatories, the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres and others to submit comments on developments and obstacles in the implementation of the current Strategic Plan to the Secretariat. This will facilitate the preparation of the new Strategic Framework.

For more information, please contact Mr. Nelson Sabgoal, Chief, Convention Services and Governance Unit, SBC, email: Nelson.Sabogal@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 12.

Launch of Africa Institute for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste and other Wastes

The Africa Institute for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste and Other Wastes has been launched in Pretoria, South Africa, followed by its first Council meeting in November 2008. The Africa Institute is an Inter-Governmental Organization and part of an Africa-wide and global network of regional and coordinating centres affiliated to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Status of ratifications (since June 2008):

The Basel Convention welcomes the following new Parties: Democratic People's Republic of Korea (10.07.08) and Gabon (06.06.08).

Italy recently ratified the Ban Amendment (03.03.09) and Colombia ratified the Protocol on Liability and Compensation on 22.07.08.



The current member States of the Institute are Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nigeria, Namibia, Tanzania and South Africa. The objective of the Africa Institute is to strengthen the capacity of the countries it serves in the area of environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, including the minimization of their generation, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel and Bamako Conventions. The Africa Institute will provide training, technology transfer, information exchange, consulting, awareness raising, research, and guidance on management of hazardous wastes and other wastes for members.

For more information, please contact Mr. Nelson Sabgoal, Chief, Convention Services and Governance Unit, SBC, email: Nelson.Sabogal@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 12 and Mr. Moneedi Kgweenyane, Chair of the Council, email: mkweenyane@gov.bw

Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (20 MOP).

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) participated in the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and in the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (20 MOP), in Doha, Qatar, from 16 to 20 November 2008, mainly focusing on the discussion on the environmentally sound destruction of ozone depleting substances (ODS). The main issues discussed were the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund, destruction of ODS, and essential uses of metered dose inhalers.

A statement was delivered by SBC to the high-level segment on the environmentally sound management and destruction of ODS, drawing attention to the synergies' process between the chemicals and waste-related Conventions, and stating SBC's

interest in pursuing its interactions with Parties to the Montreal Convention and the Ozone Secretariat

The SBC also co-chaired an information-sharing side-event on the transboundary movement of ODS waste, together with Mr. Martin Sirois, Co-chair of the Destruction Contact Group at which the Basel Convention's scope and activities were presented.

For more information, please contact Mr. Nelson Sabgoal, Chief, Convention Services and Governance Unit, SBC, email: Nelson.Sabgoal@unep.ch, tel. +41 22 917 82 12.

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.

As of 9 March 2009, 152 Parties have designated a Competent Authority and 163 Parties have designated a Focal Point.

Asia 3R High-Level Seminar

The SBC participated in the Asia 3R High-Level Seminar on 9 March 2009, Tokyo, Japan, which was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Japan and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (please see previous issues of the Basel Convention Bulletin for background information about the 3R process). The seminar was attended by senior government officials from eleven countries in Asia, international organizations as well as other prominent experts. The event was a prelude to a senior

official meeting to discuss the needs for the proposed launch of a Regional 3R Forum in Asia in the summer of 2009.

The seminar provided an update on the progress made by countries in the region in the promotion of 3R related programmes and activities. Progress has been made in the participating countries in terms of awareness on the benefits of 3R.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Chief, Programme Support Unit, SBC, email: Ibrahim.Shafii@unep.ch, tel. +41 (22) 917 86 36.

Asia Regional Seminar for Sustainable Resource Management

The SBC participated in the Asia Regional Seminar for Sustainable Resource Management on 10 March 2009 in, Tokyo, Japan, which was organized by the Ministry of Environment Japan, UNEP and Asia Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED). The seminar was attended by

senior governmental officials from eleven countries in Asia, international organizations, members of UNEP International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management. The discussions focused on three themes: a) Decoupling of economic and environmental degradation and prioritization of products and resources from an environmental sustainability point of view, b) Metal resources and recycling, c) Biomass and bio fuels.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Chief, Programme Support Unit, SBC, email: Ibrahim.Shafii@unep.ch, tel. +41 (22) 917 86 36.

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Waste Management Partnership Area Meeting

The SBC participated in the first UNEP Global Mercury Waste Management Partnership Area Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, on 12-13 March 2009. The objectives of the meeting were to share information about activities under the Mercury Waste Management Partnership Area, to discuss the issues for this

area and to seek inputs for the Advisory Group meeting held at the end of March 2009 in Geneva. Another aim was the promotion of an effective Partnership through exchanging information on relevant activities and discussing future strategies. Twenty participants attended the meeting from eight countries, as well as UNEP Chemicals, UNITAR, UNIDO and SBC, representatives from civil society and observers from the public and private sectors in Japan. Professor Masaru Tanaka of Tottori University of Environmental Studies, Japan, the lead of the Waste Management Partnership Area, chaired the meeting.

Participants shared information on the status of mercury waste projects. The SBC presented an outline of mercury waste-related activities under the Basel Convention, including the development of technical guidelines on environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury waste, the implementation of pilot projects on ESM technologies and awareness raising, and

the development of capacity building and technical programmes to reduce and prevent pollution from mercury waste.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Chief, Programme Support Unit, SBC, email: Ibrahim.Shafii@unep.ch, tel. +41 (22) 917 86 36.

TAIEX Regional Workshop on Assessment of the Waste of Electronic and Electrical Equipments

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention participated in a regional workshop (in Ankara, Turkey, on 16-17 March 2009) on the assessment of waste electronic and electrical equipment in the South Eastern countries of the Mediterranean. The workshop was aimed at sharing experiences in the transposition and implementation of the WEEE Directive in old and new EU member countries. It also looked at the environmentally sound management of e-waste and the Partnership Programme under the Basel Convention. It was financed and organized by the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument

(TAIEX) of the European Commission (Directorate General for Enlargement) in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey.

Participants heard presentations on the status of e-waste legislation, national actions to transpose the EU WEEE Directive, and cases of related implementation experience in older EU countries. Presentations were also made by TAIEX on its capacity building activities. The Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia presented its regional e-waste activities and SBC presented the management of the e-waste under Basel Convention, e-waste related activities, the Basel Convention Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI), and the Partnership for Action in Computing Equipment (PACE).

For more information, please contact Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Chief, Programme Support Unit, SBC, email: Ibrahim.Shafii@unep.ch, tel. +41 (22) 917 86 36.

Seventh Session of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee

The seventh session of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee will take place on 25-26 June 2009. The Committee will pursue its consideration of the 2007-2008 work programme, in particular, the elaboration of a guidance document on improving national reporting by Parties and the elaboration of a directory of institutions offering training programmes at the national, regional and international levels on how to detect, prevent and prosecute illegal transboundary

movements of hazardous wastes. It will also initiate consideration of its 2009-2011 work programme, adopted at COP9. At COP9, the Committee was given the mandate to review general issues of compliance and is expected to monitor, assess and facilitate reporting under Article 13 as well as review the implementation of, and compliance with, specific obligations under the Basel Convention. In accordance with the COP decision, the Committee shall give priority to dealing with specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance. The eighth session of the Committee will take place before COP10.

For more information, please contact Ms. Juliette Voinov Kohler, Policy and Legal Adviser, SBC, e-mail: Juliette.Kohler@unep.ch, tel. +41 (0) 22 917 82 19.

Capacity Building for Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean

The project on "Strengthening the capacity of small island developing states in the Caribbean in implementing their obligations under the Basel Convention and, as appropriate, the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions", submitted by the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago¹, was granted funding of US\$ 178,794 by the Implementation Committee of the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Managements (SAICM). On 28 September 2008, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention was confirmed as the executing

agency of this project and steps have been taken to start its implementation which will take place over an 18-month period. A series of three regional workshops will be conducted to assist in the development of training materials, the first one for competent authorities and focal points, the second one for the legal profession, and the third one for security and enforcement agencies.

Among the expected outcomes of this project are: 1. an analysis of the legislative and institutional gaps and needs, taking into account life-cycle aspects of waste management, 2. the preparation of guidance, measures and tools to address these gaps and needs, and 3. the development of training materials for national agencies involved in implementation and enforcement aspects of the environmental sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes.

For more information, please contact Ms. Voinov Kohler, Policy and Legal Adviser, SBC, e-mail: Juliette.Kohler@unep.ch, tel. +41 (0) 22 917 82 19.

¹ The project will benefit 11 other countries in the Caribbean region (Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, The Republic of Cuba, The Commonwealth of Dominica, The Dominican Republic, The Republic of Guyana, Jamaica, Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

The Basel Convention: Key Instrument in addressing the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste at ICCM2.

The Basel Convention is participating in the Second International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM2) in May 2009 and aims at assisting it in the deliberation on the agenda on e-waste. The Convention regulates those categories of e-wastes that are contaminated or contain components such as accumulators and other batteries, heavy metals, plastics, etc. Since 2002, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Basel Convention recognized e-waste as a priority issue and adopted measures to address them including through a unique public private partnership programme on mobile phones. Pilot activities for the ESM of e-waste were also undertaken including

in Asia Pacific, Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa. At COP8 in 2006, the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste and decision VIII/2 were adopted by the Conference of the Parties that mandated more structured and enhanced efforts towards achieving solutions for e-waste problems globally. At COP9 in June 2008, the work plan on e-waste was adopted and a new Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) was also agreed. The Basel Convention, although not equipped to handle electronic and electrical products fully from its life-cycle approach, is the most relevant existing global instrument to address international efforts to deal with the e-waste challenge especially with regard to waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) going for recycling, recovery and disposal. Through the available financial mechanism existing under SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP), Parties to the Convention could benefit from more concerted efforts in solving the ever-growing influx of nationally generated and imported e-waste.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Chief, Programme Support Unit, SBC, email: Ibrahim.Shafii@unep.ch, tel. +41 (22) 917 86 36.

First PACE Face-to-Face Meeting

In June 2008, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted Decision IX/9 on the establishment of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE). The PACE Working Group was officially established on 14 January 2009, as the operational body of the Partnership, under the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention. The Working Group has discussed its Terms of Reference, 2009-2010 work programme,

and financial arrangements. The first face-to-face meeting will be held on 18-19 May 2009 in Geneva, to discuss general partnership issues, cooperation with other international organizations and e-waste related initiatives, and to review the work plans of project groups on (a) environmentally sound refurbishment/repair of used computing equipment, and (b) environmentally sound material recovery/recycling of end-of-life computing equipment. If you are interested to become a member of the partnership and/or to participate in one or more of the PACE project groups, please contact Mr. Matthias Kern, Chief of the Implementation and Capacity Building Unit, SBC, email: Matthias.Kern@unep.ch, tel. +41 (0) 22 917 87 67.

The SBC welcomes new colleagues

Mr. Matthias Kern joins SBC as Chief of the Implementation and Capacity Building Unit

Matthias Kern is a German national who studied biology, biochemistry, organic chemistry and plant protection in Germany and the UK. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Science from the University of Goettingen, Germany. He started his professional career as Research Associate at the Plant Protection Institute in Goettingen before he joined the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in 1986, where he worked in the regulation and management of pesticides and industrial chemicals, and technical assistance for the implementation of international chemicals conventions. Since 2005 he served the UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility (GEF) Coordination for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) as Senior Programme Officer where he coordinated the UNEP GEF projects related to toxic substances.



Ms. Juliette Voinov Kohler joins SBC as Legal and Policy Advisor in the Convention Services and Governance Unit.

Ms. Voinov Kohler joined SBC on a temporary basis pending formal recruitment for the post. She is a barrister with legal qualifications from the University of Geneva and the London School of Economics and Political Science and a specialist in Public International Law. Prior to joining the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Ms. Voinov Kohler was Senior Programme Officer in Kofi Annan's Global Humanitarian Forum. Prior to this, she worked as the deputy convener of the Chicago-based Responsibility to Protect Coalition, as a consultant on international environmental issues, as advisor on humanitarian affairs to the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York, as a civil servant and as a barrister. She wrote her PhD thesis on the Compliance Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the United



Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She is also an author and principal editor of "Responsibility to Protect - The Global Moral Compact for the 21st Century". Ms. Voinov Kohler is French.

Matters relating to the Implementation and Compliance Committee, the Protocol on Liability and Compensation as well as legal matters with policy implications should be directed to Ms. Voinov Kohler who can be contacted by e-mail at Juliette.Kohler@unep.ch, and by telephone on +41 (0) 22 917 82 19.

Mr. Dadan Wardhana joins SBC as Programme Officer in the Implementation and Capacity Unit.

A national of Indonesia, Mr. Wardhana is an environmental engineer by training and has qualifications in environmental engineering and environmental studies from University of Indonesia and from the Bandung Institute of Technology. Before joining the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, he served as Senior Technical Advisor in the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia, based in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he worked on strategic, managerial and technical aspects of the Centre's operations. He previously served as Managing Partner and Principal Consultant for PT Amar Binaya Karsa, a research, consulting and training firm specialized in environmental safety and health management. He also worked for PT Prasadha Limbah Industri, a subsidiary of Modern Asia Environmental, and for PT Neville-Clarke Indonesia. Mr. Wardhana, who joins the

Secretariat during the secondment of Mr. Vincent Jugault to the International Labour Organization in Bangkok, will be working on technical and managerial aspects of projects on electrical and electronic waste or PCBs for example, among others. Mr. Wardhana's email is: Dadan.Wardhana@unep.ch

Ms. Yvonne Ewang joins SBC as Associate Legal Officer in the Programme Support Unit.

Ms. Yvonne Ewang has qualifications in European languages and law from University of the West of England, Bristol (UK), and qualified as a solicitor (England and Wales) in 2005. Since moving to Switzerland in 2006, she worked for several non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, including the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, in various legal fields, including commercial, corporate, public and private international law.

Ms. Ewang, of Cameroonian origin, joins the Secretariat as Associate Legal Officer on temporary assignment, pending conclusion of the recruitment process for the post. Her responsibilities relate to providing support to consultations on the Ban Amendment; supporting and facilitating implementation of decision V/32; collecting and updating of national legislation, among other measures adopted by Parties to implement the Convention. She also provides legal guidance.

Ms. Ewang can be reached on email: Yvonne.Ewang@unep.ch and tel. +41 (0) 22 917 81 12

Farewell

The SBC wishes to express its profound gratitude to Ms. Donata Rugarabamu, former Senior Legal Officer, who left SBC in November 2008 after five years of outstanding service. Ms. Rugarabamu has joined the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as Senior Legal Officer.

The SBC also wishes to sincerely thank Mr. Vincent Jugault, former Programme Officer at SBC, for his remarkable contribution to the

Basel Convention after serving the Convention since its very early years. Mr. Jugault is on inter-agency loan to the International Labour Office in Bangkok, Thailand.

Ms. Claudia Fénérol, former Senior Programme Officer for Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, left SBC in December 2008 and returned to her home country, the USA. She greatly contributed to the development of the partnership programme, especially the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative.

New Internal Structure for SBC

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has adopted a new internal structure, following the adoption of the programme of work for the triennium 2009-2011 by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

Headed by the Office of the Executive Secretary, the Secretariat is now formed of four units^{*}:

These are;

1. Programme Support Unit
2. Implementation and Capacity Building Unit
3. Convention Services and Governance Unit
4. Administrative Unit

The areas of work of the Units are:

**Office of the Executive Secretary:
Executive leadership and management**

Programme Support Unit:

Cross-cutting substantive and strategic support

- Strategic Plan of Implementation, Strategic Framework
- Ban Amendment
- Technical Support, incl.
 - Technical Guidelines
 - E-wastes
- National Reporting
- Legal Support

Implementation and Capacity Building Unit:

Assistance to Parties and other actors in implementing the Convention at national/regional levels

- Projects (incl. ship dismantling)
- Project support to BCRCs
- Partnerships (incl. e-wastes, climate, ozone)
- Bali Declaration Implementation

^{*} Adjustments may be made following the adoption of the Decision on "Synergies" by COP4 of the Stockholm Convention in May 2009.

- Enforcement / implementation support
- Resource Mobilization
- Relations with Industry

Convention Services and Governance Unit:
Core Secretariat functions: Assistance to the institutions of the Convention in carrying out their functions, communication, institutional relations

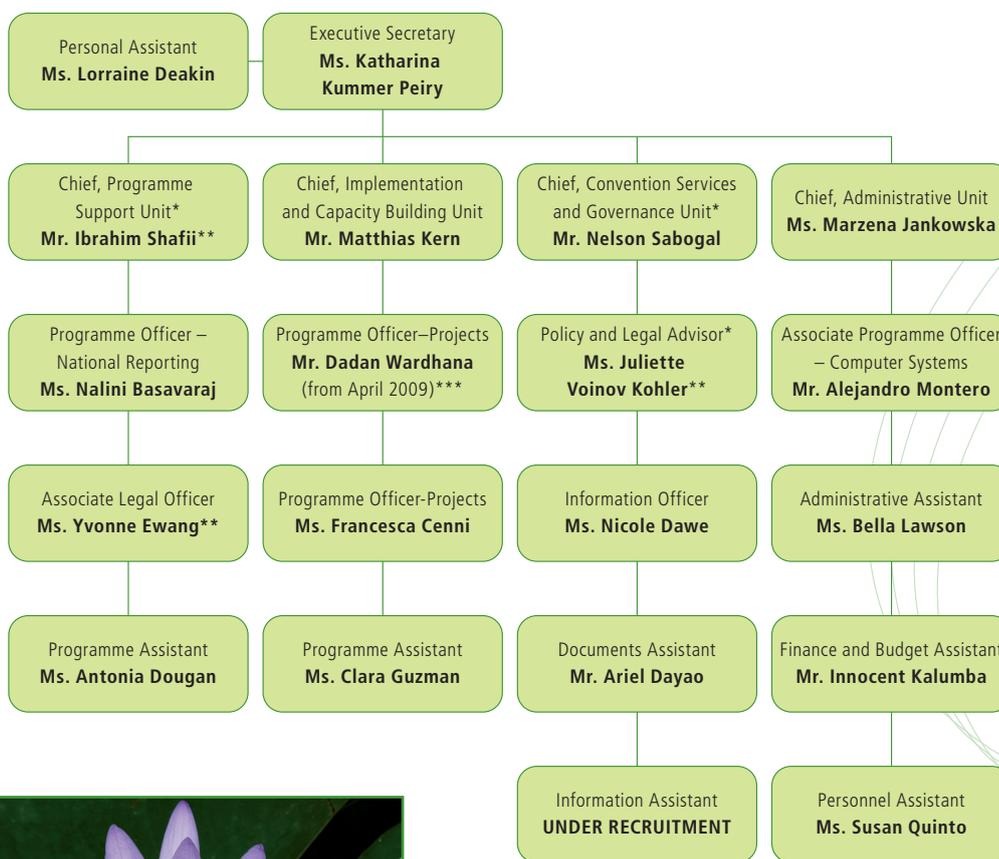
- Institutional and meeting support (substantive)
 - Conference of the Parties
 - Open-ended Working Group
 - Expanded Bureau
 - Compliance Committee
 - Liability Protocol
- Institutional support to BCRCs
- Synergies BC, RC, SC
- Relations with UNEP

- Cooperation with other organizations (WTO, WCO, IMO, IMPEL, UNFCCC, Montreal Protocol)
- PR, media, events, publications
- Library
- Documents management (incl. registration, filing system)

Administrative Unit:
Administrative and logistic support

- Finance, budget
- IT support
- Logistics, administration
- Meeting support (organizational)
- Travel (staff, delegates)
- Personnel issues
- Liaison with UNOG/UNON

SBC Organigramme



* post being reclassified to reflect revised functions
 ** temporary assignment pending formal recruitment procedure
 *** incumbent of post on inter-agency loan to ILO, to be replaced on a temporary basis



The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was signed on 22 March 1989 and came into force in 1992. The Convention therefore celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Information

on celebrations later this year will be disseminated shortly. In the meantime, should any stakeholders wish to use the logo of the 20th anniversary of the Basel Convention, please contact Ms. Nicole Dawe, Information Officer, on Nicole.Dawe@unep.ch

Article from the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention

Geneva, Switzerland,
4-8 May 2009

Meeting the Challenges of a POPs free Future



The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from dangerous, long-lasting chemicals by restricting and ultimately eliminating their production, use, trade, release and storage.

Until now, the so-called "dirty dozen" were targeted: 12 hazardous pesticides and industrial chemicals that can harm people, damage the nervous and immune systems, cause cancer and reproductive disorders and disrupt normal infant and child development.

The COP marks a new chapter in the history of the Convention. For the first time, nine new chemicals are proposed for listing: Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane; Beta hexachlorocyclohexane; Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether; Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether; Chlordane; Hexabromobiphenyl; Lindane; Pentachlorobenzene; Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride.

The 20th century led to the invention and worldwide use of thousands of synthetic chemicals in agriculture and industry. Although these chemicals have contributed to our general well-being, exposure to them can also cause serious health problems. POPs remain intact in the environment for long periods. Today,

chemicals have a truly international reach. Their chemical footprint has accumulated in almost every living thing, including humans.

POPs are in our homes, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. Found in pesticides, paint additives, heat exchange fluids, transformers, sealants and plastics; they are in industry and hospital waste. Some are also released as unintended by-products of combustion and industrial processes.

The dramatic growth in chemical production and trade over the past three decades has caused international concern about the risks posed by hazardous chemicals and pesticides. Today, there are some 70,000 chemicals available on world markets. Over 1,500 new ones are created every year. Increasingly, the global proportion of chemical production and use is shifting from developed to developing countries.

As developing countries and those with transitional economies strive to industrialize and raise farming yields, they often rely on chemicals. However, these require special technology to handle safely and an adequate infrastructure to monitor production, use, import and export. Countries lacking such mechanisms are particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of these chemicals on human health and the environment.

Meeting the challenges of a POPs free future will result in minimizing human suffering and the global cost of responding to the human health and environmental problems caused by POPs. This is particularly important to vulnerable populations that suffer the most from exposure to POPs particularly children, women, and the poor. There are four distinct challenges:

- **Challenge #1:** moving away from the production and use of POPs towards safer alternatives and to reach the goal of eliminating the release of unintentionally produced POPs.
- **Challenge #2:** identifying new POPs that put human health and environment at risk.
- **Challenge #3:** ensuring that technical and financial resources are made available for all countries to meet their obligations under the Convention.
- **Challenge #4:** continuing to ensure the Convention meets its goal of protecting human health and the environment from POPs.

The Stockholm Convention leads the way towards meeting the challenges of a POPs-free future.

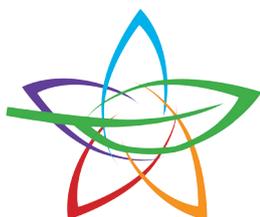
www.pops.int

Article from the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

Fifth Session of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention

The fifth meeting of the Rotterdam Convention Chemical Review Committee took place from 23-27 March 2009 at FAO in Rome, Italy. The meeting was attended by 29 government-designated experts, and 66 observers from countries, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Share Responsibility



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Under the Convention, each Party that has adopted a final regulatory action in its territory to ban or severely restrict a chemical for health or environmental reasons shall prepare a notification to be forwarded to the Chemical Review Committee. When notifications from two Parties in two different Prior Informed Consent (PIC) regions regarding a specific chemical are received, the Committee reviews these notifications and considers recommending the chemical for inclusion in Annex III

of the Convention, which lists chemicals covered under the Convention.

The candidate pesticides and industrial chemicals sent to the Committee at its fifth session included: endosulfan, azinphos-methyl, methyl parathion, mirex, paraquat, phorate, hexachlorobenzene and hexachlorobutadiene.

The Committee reviewed the notifications for these chemicals and the supporting information provided by Parties and concluded that only one notification met the criteria for inclusion in Annex III of the Convention for azinphos-methyl, endosulfan, phorate, hexachlorobenzene and hexachlorobutadiene. The Committee decided to establish groups to draft rationales on how the notifications for azinphos-methyl, endosulfan, phorate, hexachlorobenzene and hexachlorobutadiene met the criteria for inclusion in annex III of the Convention. The Committee subsequently adopted these rationales.

Regarding endosulfan, the Committee was unable to reach consensus on the notifications submitted by the Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) due to differing views on whether all the required criteria had been met. The Committee adopted a decision on endosulfan, the rationale for that decision and a timetable for preparing a decision guidance document (DGD) inter-sessionally, based on the notifications submitted by the Sahelian countries and the EU. The draft DGD will be reviewed at CRC-6 and any unresolved issues.

The Committee also considered and approved the draft decision guidance documents on alachlor and aldicarb that had been prepared inter-sessionally by the task groups. The Committee decided to send the recommendations to include alachlor and aldicarb into Annex III of the Convention together with the draft DGDs to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

For more information please consult: www.pic.int



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Article from UNEP Chemicals

Mercury is on the map!

The twenty-fifth Governing Council meeting in February 2009 marked a major shift in the view of governments as to the best way to manage the global challenge posed by mercury. Long recognized as a heavy metal causing problems globally, until this year, governments had been divided about the best way to manage it. Governing Council decided to begin negotiations to elaborate a global legally binding instrument on mercury, which may include both legal and voluntary mechanisms. UNEP and its partners were commended for progress in relation to the Global Mercury Partnership, and UNEP is asked to continue and strengthen activities in the interim period.



A major part of the work underway is to build on inventories developed in a number of countries which characterize the extent of their mercury problem and to work with them to develop environmentally

sound management of mercury waste. This work, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel Convention, is being delivered in a number of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The results of this pilot project will provide input into the guidance on the sound management of mercury containing waste.

Another major activity underway is a project, based in two regions, to investigate options for the sound storage of mercury. As products and processes using mercury are phased out, the excess mercury will need to be stored, and a number of possible options for storage are being considered. The removal of mercury from the supply chain should help to promote the use of alternatives.

Other areas of significant activity include work with the artisanal and small scale mining sector, and in the coal sector. Both of these areas are responsible for major emissions of mercury, and significant work is needed to explore possible options to reduce emissions. Work to decrease supply of mercury is also underway with the last mercury mine known to export mercury (located in Kyrgyzstan).

Information at: www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/

Upcoming Basel Convention Meetings

23-24 June 2009: first meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Geneva, Switzerland.

25-26 June 2009: seventh session of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee, Geneva, Switzerland.

Simultaneous extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (early 2010, in coordination with the 11th special session of the UNEP Governing Council).

Seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, 10-14 May 2010, Geneva, Switzerland.

For more information, please go to www.basel.int

Regional distribution of national reports transmitted by Parties to the Basel Convention for the year 2006

Parties to the Basel Convention are required to transmit through the Secretariat, to the Conference of the Parties, before the end of each calendar year, a report on the previous calendar year, containing information on items listed under paragraph 3 of article 13 of the Convention. As of 5 February 2009, 87 Parties to the Basel Convention (53% of the 165 Parties¹, as at 31 December 2005²) have transmitted their national reports to the Secretariat. The distribution of these reports among the United Nations regional groups is as follows:

Africa: 16 reports, equal to 18% of the total reports received and 37% of the Parties in the region.

Asia-Pacific: 17 reports, equal to 20% of the total reports received and 41% of the Parties in the region.

GRULAC: 17 reports, equal to 20% of the total reports received and 55% of the Parties in the region.

CEE: 16 reports, equal to 18% of the total reports received and 73% of the Parties in that region.

WEOG: 21 reports, equal to 24% of the total reports received and 78% of the Parties in that group.

Lists of Parties that reported for the year 2006 and for the previous years could be accessed at the Basel Convention website (<http://www.basel.int/natreporting/stat-report/1999-2006.doc>). Information contained in these reports can be accessed through the online reporting database of the Convention (<http://www.basel.int/natreporting/questables/frsetmain.html>). Also compilations of information contained in these reports are posted on the website of the Convention at <http://www.basel.int/natreporting/compPI.html> and <http://www.basel.int/natreporting/compPII.html>, respectively.

¹ European Community is excluded.

² Though Montenegro was not a Party as at 31 December 2005, it transmitted its report for 2006 and it is thus among the 87 Parties referred herein.

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention, together with the Secretariat of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, has recently finalized a joint information kit about the three

Conventions. The kit is composed of a poster, information leaflets and a folder. If you wish to receive the kit, please contact SBC at the address at the bottom of this page.

The Conventions

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have a common purpose: to protect people and the environment from exposure to hazardous chemicals and wastes, throughout their lifecycle from production to final disposal.

Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

The Basel Convention was created to protect people and the environment from the negative effects of the inappropriate management of hazardous wastes worldwide. It is considered the most comprehensive global treaty dealing with hazardous waste materials throughout their lifecycles, from production and transport to final use and disposal.

www.basel.int

Rotterdam Convention
on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Rotterdam Convention provides Parties with a first line of defence against hazardous chemicals. It promotes international efforts to protect human health and the environment as well as enabling countries to decide if they want to import hazardous chemicals and pesticides listed in the Convention.

www.pic.int

Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

The Stockholm Convention on POPs is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from highly dangerous, long-lasting chemicals by restricting and ultimately eliminating their production, use, trade, release and storage.

www.pops.int



BASEL CONVENTION
the world environmental agreement on wastes

Basel Convention Bulletin
Secretariat of the Basel Convention

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