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NEW LEARNING AND EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR DESK



Join the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention for a series of inspiring and informative webinars. POPs Webinars offer a new way to share information and knowledge on the key areas of the Convention. They offer direct and tailored support to government officials and observers in the implementation of the Convention.

The POPs Webinars primarily target the following audience:

- Government representatives involved in the implementation of the Convention, e.g. Official Contact Points and National Focal Points,
- Stakeholders, such as NGOs, academia and the private sector, concerned with the implementation of the Convention.

An initial 3-month webinar schedule has been developed, covering various themes that are priority for the current implementation of the Convention. For instance, webinars will be organised on the reporting requirements under the Convention as well as on issues pertaining to the new amend-

ments, such as registering for exemptions, and the process for reviewing and updating national implementation plans. Coming closer to the dates of 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (25-29 April), the webinars will offer information on the items to be presented and discussed at the meeting.

As such, three different types of webinars will be offered, a first one to prepare the discussions on Endosulfan, a second one focusing on the organisational and procedural aspects of a meeting of the Conference of the Parties (targeting new delegates), and a third one giving an overview of all the items to be discussed at the meeting.

New webinars will be developed based on the input received from participants and advertised three months in advance on the website. Please regularly visit the Convention website for updates.

POPs Webinars are scheduled for one hour, connecting the Secretariat to participants that have previously registered for a specific topic and a given time slot. Webinars will be offered to a maximum of 15 attendees at once. For effective webinars, please ensure that you have good and reliable internet connection and headsets with a high-quality microphone.

A schedule for the webinars as well as that of other training activities can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

For additional information on the webinars please visit our website.

MERCURY INC2 MEETING IN JAPAN

The Second session of the Intergovernmental negotiating Committee to prepare a legally binding instrument on mercury met 24 – 28 January in Chiba, Japan. The meeting which was attended by over 600 representatives from Governments, governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, achieved a first reading of the draft elements paper prepared by

the Secretariat. Throughout the week references to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions were made, delegates highlighted in particular the lessons learned from those Conventions.

The third session of the Mercury INC is expected to be held in Burkina Faso in October 2011.

PEN THEMATIC GROUP MEETING IN PANAMA



Participants attending the workshop and meeting

The regional training workshop on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of POPs wastes and PCBs for Spanish-speaking countries in Central America and the Caribbean was held back to back with the first meeting of the PEN Thematic group on maintenance of PCB-containing equipment on 15 to 18 February 2011 in Panama City, Panama. Participants of the meeting included representatives from 11 Parties, several Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention Regional Centres, non-governmental organizations and industry. The organization of the meeting was supported by the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for capacity building and

technology transfer for the Latin America and the Caribbean region located in Panama City.

The main objectives of the meeting were to enhance capacity of Parties for the ESM of POPs and PCB wastes and to promote the participation of stakeholders in the activities of the PCB Elimination Network (PEN). Participants were introduced to the POPs Social Network and its potential to be a powerful tool for information exchange for the PEN. Participants also discussed the elaboration of the draft guidance on the maintenance of PCB equipment and agreed to provide substantive input towards its further development. A field trip to a PCB waste management facility operated by an electricity company and to an interim storage site for obsolete pesticides provided insight into the practical aspects of the ESM of POPs wastes.

On the issue of PCB and POPs waste, one of the main concerns among participants was the absence of adequate treatment and disposal facilities in the region. This factor, in conjunction with legal barriers to the movement of hazardous wastes across national boundaries in the region, leaves many countries with no option other than to ship these wastes to Europe at prohibitively high costs. On the issue of POPs wastes, participants highlighted the need for awareness raising on the presence of newly listed POPs such as brominated flame retardants in products and articles, namely in electrical and electronic equipment, and for developing appropriate regulatory strategies to manage such articles and their trade. Further recommendations from the workshop are posted on the Stockholm Convention website.

PEN AWARDS 2011

**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**The Polychlorinated Biphenyls
Elimination Network (PEN)**



Final Call for Nominations
PEN Awards — submission
deadline extended to 11 March!

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention requests nominations for the 2011 Stockholm Convention's PEN Awards. The purpose of these awards is to honour outstanding achievements in the environmentally-sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN) is an equal partnership for stakeholders from different sectors with an interest in the environmentally sound management (ESM) of

PCBs. To join the PEN, simply sign up from the PEN's website at www.pops.int/pen and you will be activated in the PEN information tool. Nomination forms are also available on the PEN web site in all six UN languages. All Official Contact Points (OCPs) and National Focal Points (NFP) of the Stockholm Convention are already members of the PEN.

Awards will be handed out during the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. All members of the PCBs Elimination Network (PEN) are eligible for nomination and have the opportunity to receive the awards. The Secretariat accepts nominations by PEN members until 11 March 2011.

Up to seven awards will be selected by combining electronic voting on the PEN Information Tool by PEN members and a vote by members of the Advisory Committee of the PEN. PEN members will receive an electronic invitation to participate in the vote. One additional Award will be selected by the Secretariat.

Please send all nomination material to the PEN Secretary:

email: pen@pops.int or fax: +41 22 917 8098.

PREPARING FOR THE 5TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will be held from 25 to 29 April 2011 at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Conference of the Parties will consider among others the following issues:

- whether to amend the Convention to list the pesticide endosulfan in its Annex A with specific exemptions;
- a procedure for updating the guidance on best available techniques and best available practices for unintentionally produced POPs;
- a six-year process evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention;
- new ways of facilitating the work of the financial mechanism of the Convention and possible establishment of compliance procedures under the Convention.
- The endorsement of the 6 currently nominated Stockholm Convention Centres as Stockholm Convention Regional Centres for Capacity-building and the transfer of technology.

The Conference is also expected to take a decision on synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions that will include approval of the joint activities among the three Conventions, possible agreement on modifications to the organizational structure of the three secretariats and adoption of terms of references for two complementary processes to review the effectiveness of measures taken to enhance synergies. Substantively identical synergies decisions would likely be adopted sequentially by the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Basel Conventions to be held later in 2011.

On the Monday 25 April, during the lunch break, a finance roundtable is planned with the attendance of Ms. Monique Barbut, CEO of the Global Environment Facility, and in the evening the first assembly meeting of the Global Alliance to develop and deploy alternatives to DDT will be held.

Side events focusing on the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention -looking back on the achievements and ahead to opportunities to eliminate POPs, will be held during the lunch break throughout the week . For further information please visit: www.pops.int



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF POPS CONTAMINATED SITES

The Stockholm Convention regional centre in São Paulo which is located in the Companhia Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo—CETESB, hosted an international training course on the management of POPs from 21 to 24 February 2011. The course was attended by representatives from 11 Latin American countries from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as representatives from several Brazilian states.

The course aimed at transferring technical and practical knowledge on the management of POPs contaminated sites, including prevention techniques, diagnostic and remediation of such sites. The training for the different modules was conducted by experts from CETESB.

This course is the outcome of a grant awarded to the Regional Centre by Stockholm Convention's Small Grant Programme.

Opening session of the course

SYNERGIES PROJECT PROPOSALS UNDER THE SGP

The Regional centres under the Basel and the Stockholm Conventions were invited to submit project proposals under the Small Grants programme of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat to assist eligible Parties in implementing their obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in a synergistic manner. A total of 16 proposals from 12 regional centres were received by 31st October 2010 and as an outcome the following two proposals were selected for funding by the intersecretariat committee set up for this purpose.

1. Capacity building for minimization of BFR emissions from e-waste: The proposal was submitted by the Stockholm Convention regional centre for capacity building and the transfer of technology located in Beijing, China which is also a Basel Convention Regional Centre. The project aims at organizing a regional workshop to exchange the disposal situation of electronic waste specially the BFR emission from e-waste, enhancing the technology or knowledge on analysis and capacity building in sampling, pre-treatment and detecting technologies, and to develop a regional action plan for envi-

ronmentally sound management of BFR. The project aims to provide direct benefit to the relevant stakeholders of Cambodia, China, India, Philippines, and Vietnam

2. Regional Training Workshop on integrated vector management (IVM) as an alternative approach to use of DDT for malaria control: The proposal was submitted by the Nominated Stockholm Convention centre for English Speaking African countries in Kenya. In order to promote alternatives to DDT the project aims at reviewing NIPs of the involved Parties, their current vector control policies and institutional arrangements, and eventually provide technology transfer. In addition the project also intends to develop action plans for IVM implementation by each participating country, with the centre undertaking the follow up to evaluate the implementation of the IVM action plans at the national level. The Parties involved in the project are: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2011

WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE
29-31 March	International workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electronic and electrical products , organized by the Basel Convention jointly with UNIDO and the Stockholm Secretariat.	Vienna, Austria
March-April TBC	Regional Synergies Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Cairo, Egypt
25-29 April	Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	Geneva, Switzerland
22-24 May	Recetox POPs workshop: "Identifying the research needs in the global assessment of POPs ten years after the signature of the Stockholm Convention"	Brno, Czech Republic
23-26 May	Regional awareness raising workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for French-speaking Africa	Dakar—Senegal

WEBINARS

Topic	Date / Time (Geneva time)	Registration deadline
Complying with the reporting requirements	16 Feb / 4-5 pm 18 Feb / 10-11 am	14 Feb
Registering exemptions	23 Feb / 4-5 pm 25 Feb / 10-11 am 2 March / 4-5 pm 4 March / 10-11 am	14 Feb 21 Feb
Becoming familiar with the Process for reviewing and updating NIPs	9 March / 4-5 pm 11 March /10-11 am	1 March
Preparing for Stockholm Convention COP-5: Endosulfan	16 March / 4-5 pm 18 March /10-11 am 23 March/ 4-5 pm 25 March /10-11 am	7 March 14 March
Preparing for Stockholm Convention COP-5: Procedural and organizational aspects	30 March / 4-5 pm 1 April / 10-11 am	21 March
Briefing on Stockholm Convention COP-5	6 April / 4-5 pm 8 April / 10-11 am 13 April/ 4-5 pm 15 April/ 10-11 am	28 March 4 April

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FOR WORKSHOPS

Registrations to participate in the workshops organised by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention must be submitted through the **official contact points** designated by Parties for the performance of administrative functions and formal communication under the Convention or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For further information on the activities organized by the Secretariat, please visit us at www.pops.int. To request assistance, please send a message to: TA@pops.int

