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CONTACTING THE SECRETARIAT

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UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL



The 3 Conventions in the display area

The sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes was included in agenda for the 26th session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum that was held from 21-24 February 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya.

One of the decisions adopted by Governing Council (GC), among other things, requests UNEP to work with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the SAICM and other stakeholders in efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination for the chemicals and wastes-related agenda and to facilitate and support an inclusive, country-driven, consultative process on the challenges to and options for further en-

hancing long-term cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster.

The need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and wastes agenda was also recalled. The Governing Council acknowledged the progress made and work carried out on the Consultative Process on Financing Options for Chemicals and Wastes and requested UNEP to continue supporting the process.

During the Governing Council session, UNEP and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariats jointly organized a side event on "Identifying Solutions - Addressing the Challenges of Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes". The objective of the event was to increase the awareness of the threats posed by chemicals and hazardous wastes and solutions to address the challenges of sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes from a sustainable development perspective and in preparation of the Rio +20 in June 2012.

GET READY FOR COP-5

Please visit the COP-5 webpage where the following documents and information are now available: the meeting agenda, all working documents, the information documents and as soon as they are available, information for participants and the schedule of side events.

The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will

take place from 25 to 29 April 2011 at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) in Geneva, Switzerland. Please note that the meeting will be paperless, therefore delegates are encouraged to bring their own laptops to access the wireless intranet, where documents and in-sessions documents will be uploaded. For further information please visit: www.pops.int.

ADVANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CHEMICALS AND WASTES OBJECTIVES



Panel on chemical management

The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) of the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19) took place at the UN headquarters in New York on 28 February-4 March 2011.

The IPM's role was to provide a forum to discuss policy options to foster progress in the five thematic issues under consideration and produce a draft negotiating text to be adopted at CSD-19 on 2-13

May 2011 in New York. Two of the thematic issues being reviewed are chemicals and wastes and relate directly to the work of the Secretariats of the Basel; Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

During the session on chemicals, Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention and co-Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention, highlighted four key sustainable solutions in this field: strengthening the governance framework, including promoting a more unified international framework, following the example of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, mainstreaming sound chemicals management into development agendas, promoting SCP; and public-private partnerships.

In the margins of IPM, the Conventions organised a side-event on Promoting Economic and Social Benefits of Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes, in partnership with UNEP Chemicals and UNDP. The panelists highlighted the benefits for countries of investing in this field and presented several pathways to leverage financial resources.



Panel during the side event organised by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (Courtesy of ENB)

MEETING OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE GLOBAL MONITORING PLAN

The meeting of the global coordination group for the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was held in Geneva from 8 to 10 March 2011 to finalize the revision of the guidance document on the GMP and discuss the implementation of the second phase of the plan. The preliminary revised guidance on the GMP, including consideration of long-range transport, climate effects, specimen banking and the impact of listing nine new chemicals under the Convention, will be submitted to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in April 2011. The coordination group also discussed the strategy, process and structure of regional monitoring reports to accommodate the requirements for the second and future effectiveness evaluations of the Convention. The arrangements for the second phase of the GMP and timelines for activities to facilitate the preparation of regional monitoring reports were established and agreed by the members of the global coordination group.



Meeting at the International Environment House, Geneva

POPS-FREE INITIATIVE



Head-lice combs

Articles 9 and 10 of the Stockholm Convention call for the exchange of information on alternatives and substitutes to POPs, including by industry and professional users and through a broad range of different means of communication. In order to assist Parties in meeting these obligations, the Secretariat launched an initiative on POPs-free products and processes.

The initiative seeks to encourage manufacturers and retailers to provide information on POPs-free products, and on related alternatives and substitutes.

In a pilot project, two entities have agreed on a voluntary basis, to test products through a laboratory hosted by the Environment Agency of Austria. The key criteria for being a POPs-free product was that such a product did not contain or consist of chemicals listed in Annex A, B or C of the Stockholm Convention. POPs-free was defined specifically for the pilot project and was not to be used as a definition outside of the project.

The results of the analysis determined that the products of the following two manufacturers are POPs-free:

- The National Pediculosis Association®, Inc., a nonprofit

organization from the United States, submitted the LiceMeister® comb. The comb is an U.S. Food and Drug Administration cleared medical device to screen, detect and remove head lice and their eggs (nits). This combing tool is used instead of applying pesticides to the hair and scalp. Of particular relevance to the Convention, the LiceMeister comb could then be considered as an alternative to pharmaceutical applications containing lindane, listed under annex A of the Convention with a specific exemption.

- A flame retardant system, entitled Paxymer™ and developed by PP Polymer AB, a Swedish company, is under testing as well. The system controls the burning process, limits the impact on mechanical and



Paxymer™ flame-retardant system

processing properties and does not contain brominated flame retardants and POPs listed in Annex A, B or C of the Convention.

In light of positive feedback received from different stakeholders, including governmental authorities and a wide range of companies, the Secretariat will continue consultations with stakeholders on the identification of POPs-free products and information exchanges on alternatives and substitutes. For more information, you may please contact us by email (SSC@pops.int).

VIENNA WORKSHOP ON HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

The international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electronic and electrical products will take place in Vienna, Austria on 29 to 31 March 2011.

The workshop has been organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in response to Resolution II/4 on emerging policy issue, of the Second International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM2). The

main objectives of the workshop are to offer a platform to key public and private stakeholders to present their perspectives, to promote concrete programmatic synergies among the chemicals and waste conventions and programmes and to identify where action is required to support or enhance existing efforts towards the sound management of harmful chemicals in EEE. An important outcome of the workshop will be a set of recommendations for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group of SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) in 2011 and by ICCM 3 in 2012.

VOTE FOR THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION'S PEN AWARDS

The Secretariat is organizing the Stockholm Convention's PEN Awards 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.

Six awards will be selected by combining electronic voting by PEN members and a vote by members of the PEN Advisory Committee. We received twenty-seven nominations for these six awards.

PEN members receive an electronic invitation to participate in the vote. To join the PEN, simply sign the PEN's membership form available at www.pops.int/pen. All Official Contact Points (OCPs) and National Focal Points (NFP) of the Stockholm Convention are

already members of the PEN.

Two additional awards will be selected by the Secretariat. All eight awards will be handed out during the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

The vote will be open until 1 April 2011, so join now and you can vote! PEN Secretary email: pen@pops.int.



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 (GMT) (Duration 1 hour)	Registration deadline
Preparing for Stockholm Convention COP-5: Endosulfan	16 March 15.00 GMT 18 March 10.00 GMT	7 March
	23 March 15.00 GMT 25 March 10.00 GMT	14 March
Preparing for Stockholm Convention COP-5: Procedural and organizational aspects	30 March 15.00 GMT 1 April 10.00 GMT	21 March
	6 April 15.00 GMT 8 April 10.00 GMT	28 March
Briefing on Stockholm Convention COP-5	13 April 15.00 GMT 15 April 10.00 GMT	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

