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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Third meeting**

Dakar, 30 April–4 May 2007

Item 5 (g) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the
Conference of the Parties: technical assistance**

**Compilation of submissions received by the Secretariat on the
provision of technical assistance and transfer of technology to
developing countries to assist implementation of their
implementation plans and other obligations under the
Convention****

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its decision SC-2/9, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and relevant international and non-governmental organizations to provide information to the Secretariat on their experiences in providing technical assistance and transfer of technology to developing countries to assist implementation of their respective national implementation plans and other obligations under the Convention and in accordance with the guidance on technical assistance set out in its decision SC-1/15.
2. In response to that invitation the Secretariat received submissions from the following Parties to the Convention: Brazil, Burundi, Czech Republic, Finland and Slovakia. Those submissions have been reproduced in annex to the present note without formal editing.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1.

** Stockholm Convention, Article 12; reports on the work of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/15 and on the work at its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/9.

Annex

Submission by Brazil

Subject: Follow up to decision SC-2/9 on technical assistance

Country: Brazil

Considering the request from the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention for information on technical assistance, included in its letter of 22 June 2006 - Follow up to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its second meeting – Request 2, the Brazilian Government sends herewith information on its experience in technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer of CETESB – Companhia de Tecnologia de Saneamento Ambiental (Environmental Sanitation Technology Company – the São Paulo State Environment Agency).

CETESB is the State of São Paulo environmental agency responsible for the control, supervision and monitoring of polluting activities. It has 37 years and approximately 2,000 employees, mostly highly trained, who go through permanent improvement and capacity building programs and have English and Spanish language skills.

The main objectives of the Agency are:

- *Promote achievement of environmental quality standards in the State, in compliance with the current legislation;*
- *Publish technical material related to environmental quality and pollution sources;*
- *Define environmental indicators and standards;*
- *Establish and develop partnerships, for technical, scientific and financial cooperation with public and private sectors, as well as national and international entities.*

To reach these objectives, CETESB undertakes the following main activities:

- *Supervision of fixed and mobile sources;*
- *Research to improve existing technologies, including pollution prevention techniques;*
- *Programs for control, supervision and monitoring of the environmental quality of water, air and soil;*
- *Proposals and revisions of environmental regulations;*
- *Laboratory analysis to support the private sector;*
- *Public awareness activities;*
- *Technical assistance to other environmental agencies in Brazil and Latin America.*

CETESB's organizational structure is as follows:

- *35 environmental agencies distributed strategically in the main cities of State of São Paulo;*
- *12 laboratories, accredited by the National Standard and Quality Institution (INMETRO), carrying out analyses of car emissions, organic pollutants (including POPs), water sampling, microbiology, parasitology, mutagenicity, cytotoxicity, and bioassays in aquatic organisms. Five of these laboratories are located in main cities of the State of São Paulo - Ribeirão Preto, Campinas, Marília, Cubatão and Taubaté. The others seven are located in the city of São Paulo;*
- *The CETESB's labs perform more than 150,000 analyses per year, been equipped with modern instruments such as high resolutions microscopes, atomic absorption spectrometers, gas chromatograph coupled to mass spectrometer and high performance liquid chromatograph, among others;*
- *A laboratory for dioxin and furan analysis will be completed in the first half of 2007, and will be the first state laboratory in Latin America and the Caribbean with this capacity.*

Examples of CETESB's activities with POPs:

- *Monitoring decontamination of transformers, capacitors and askarel oil by thermal destruction: especially PCB, Dioxin and Furan emissions from sources used for decontamination, to verify achievement of the established emission limits;*
- *Monitoring sources that are used for thermal decontamination of soil contaminated with POPs, metals, particulate material, acid gases and dangerous organic substances, to establish emission limits and develop actions to reduce these emissions;*
- *Monitoring of all procedures related to operation of incinerators for industrial wastes, health services wastes and co-processing of industrial wastes and tires in clinker ovens production. Monitoring dioxin and furan emissions proceeding from these types of sources, to verify if the established emission limits are being followed and to develop actions when these limits are not being met;*
- *Environmental monitoring of Carapicuíba Lagoon (Brazil) - evaluation of the contamination of Carapicuíba Lagoon, since it was used as a disposal for the sediment dragged from the Tietê River;*
- *Carrying out sediment analysis of São Paulo State rivers and reservoirs. Evaluating the quality of sediments in rivers and reservoirs in the State of São Paulo, to check for the presence of POPs and other pollutants;*
- *Carrying out analysis of POPs in water, sediment and biota, in Bertioga, São Paulo State, Brazil. Evaluating basal values of environmental contamination in the city of Bertioga, within the Santos, Cubatão and São Vicente (Brazil) area of influence, by means of an integrated study in water, sediments and aquatic organisms;*
- *Inventorying contaminated areas in the State of São Paulo (all chemicals).*

Moreover, due to the fact that the State of Sao Paulo has the largest industrial conglomerate of Latin America (about 200,000 industries registered) as well as the 40,000 technical inspections carried out every year on the industries of the State, CETESB's technical staff has well diversified experience.

CETESB is one of the 16 UN reference centers for environmental issues, working closely with other member countries. It is also one of the five WHO institutions for issues of water supply and sanitation and is a UNDP reference body for hazardous wastes issues in Latin America.

The Agency has large experience on courses and training that aim to updating, recycling and disseminating knowledge about: environmental diagnose, control and management; clean production; preparedness, prevention and response for chemical emergencies; environmental licensing and legislation; among others. The courses and trainings have different level (medium; operational-medium, medium-high; high) and are under the responsibility of CETESB or invited specialists. The Agency has the capacity for providing these training sessions, with its own computers, telephones and other basic means of communication, suitable meeting rooms and an excellent library. Foreign bodies such as EPA - Environmental Protection Agency (United States), Environmental Canada, KfW - Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Germany) and JICA - Japan International Cooperation Agency, recognize CETESB as one of the main training institutions in its areas of expertise in South America.

In relation to hazardous wastes, the Agency has many training activities related to stocking, transport and final disposal and, in addition, CETESB has practice in the identification, inventorying and cleaning of contaminated areas, particularly those contaminated by POPs.

Cleaner Production

CETESB has many activities aiming at encouraging businesses to adopt Cleaner Production (CP) practices, on a strictly voluntary basis. These actions involve edition and publishing of CP-specific documents, sponsorship of courses and workshops. In 1996 CETESB instituted a new specialized CP unit that includes: technical support; joint work in partnership with several productive sector organizations - such as trade associations and technical schools; publication of CP "case studies", among others.

Chemical Emergency

CETESB became, as from 1992, a Collaborating Reference Center of the Pan-American Health Organization for preparedness and responses to chemical accidents in Latin America. This means that the UN agency delegated to CETESB the responsibility for training and passing on know how on responses to environmental emergencies to other countries in Latin America. As a result, CETESB's staff has already trained about 200 technicians from different countries in the last 10 years, supporting several actions in other countries and Brazilian states as well.

CETESB keeps the register of all environmental accidents in which the Company was set in motion. It created the CADAC – Environmental Accidents Register, the only database of this type in the country. Many accidents became reference for emergencies performance, leading to new actions of prevention.

Composed of a multidisciplinary team, which encompasses chemists, biologists, engineers and technicians in labour safety and media professionals, CETESB's Unit of Emergency Operations involves six operators in the control center and twelve technicians for responding the emergencies. Each technician has 10-12 years of experience, in average, which reinforces the team spirit and the partnership among them, nicknamed "environmental firemen".

The main result of CETESB's work is a gradual reduction in the number of environmental accidents in sectors where the incidence was higher at the beginning of its operation. Nowadays, out of the 600 emergencies recorded per year, 6% are in maritime transportation, 3% in pipe-lines, 1% in railroad transportation and 1% in air transportation. A preventive work is being made for terrestrial transportation of hazardous substances – definition of norms and performances for the sector -, in collaboration with road agents, firemen and other of state and federal civil defense entities. In April 2006, the emergency team got the ISO 9001 certification for services in prevention and minimization of environmental accident risks.

*Examples of CETESB's courses and training (year 2006):***1. Environmental diagnosis****1.1. Basis**

Environmental microbiology

1.2. Sample Collection and Preservation Procedures

Collection and preservation of water samples

Collection, preservation and preparation of hydrobiological samples – emphasis on freshwater systems

Sampling techniques for industrial and domestic waste water, and aquifers

1.3. Environmental Quality EvaluationAnalysis of *clorofila a* as a monitoring tool

Water microbiological analysis

Determination of metal presence by Spectrometry of Atomic Absortion – Chama: Environmental Samples

Spectrometry of Atomic Absortion – Chama

Management of water quality in coastal zones

Management of superficial water resources quality: technical and institutional aspects

Identification and counting of cyanobacteria

Identification and counting of cyanobacteria, advanced level

Biological indicators for the protection of aquactic life in continental waters

Evaluation methods of toxicity of pollutants of aquactics organisms

Counting and identification methods of zooplankton in freshwater

Basic notion of identification and counting of algae - Fitoplancton of freshwater

Prevention and control of soil and aquifer pollution

Techniques for water bacteriological analysis : filtering membrane

Techniques for investigating contaminated areas

1.4. Management of Laboratories Analytical Quality

Control of analytical quality of water microbiology analysis laboratories

Planning of testing and treatment of analytical data applied to a laboratorial quality system – Introduction

2. Environmental Control

2.1. Water for Human Consumption

Basic actions for protection, clean-up and disinfection of freshwater reservatories

Pool water treatment

2.2. Waste Water

Ecotoxicological control of waste water

Microbiology of activated mud

Waste water treatment in galvanoplastic plants

2.3. Gas Emissions

Air pollution technology control for particulates, gases, vapors and systems verification

2.4. Solid Wastes and Soil

Evaluation, classification, treatment and disposal of industrial solid wastes techniques

2.5. Noise and Vibration

Noise and vibration levels evaluation – Basic notions

3. Cleaner production

Consumption environmental management

4. Prevention, preparedness and responses to chemical accidents

Risk analysis, evaluation and management

Response to chemical emergencies

Oil spills in the ocean: prevention and correction aspects

Prevention, control and rehabilitation for oil spills in gas stations and fuel distributing systems

5. Environmental Licensing and Legislation

Introduction to Contemporary Environmental Policies

Environmental Legislation in the State of São Paulo

Environmental Licensing in the State of São Paulo

Submission by Burundi

REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI

**Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par la Conférence des Parties à la
Convention de Stockholm lors de sa 2^{ème} réunion**

Demande 2 relative à la décision SC-2/9, paragraphe 1

- Information concernant les expériences des Parties quant à la prestation d'assistance technique et du transfert de technologie aux pays en développement (§1 de la décision SC-2/9)

Réponse: Le Burundi est un des pays en développement qui devrait bénéficier de l'assistance technique et du transfert de technologie.

Submission by the Czech Republic

***Ing. Karel Bláha, CSc.
Deputy Minister***

Prague, December 22 , 2006

Ref: 91236 /ENV/06

Dear Mr. Younes,

Following the decision SC-2/9 let me send you in the enclosure description of bilateral and multilateral activities of Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology (RECETOX), Masaryk University in Brno, serving as National Centre for Persistent Organic Pollutants of the Czech Republic, in the field described by Decision SC-1/15

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Maged Younes
Acting Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 chemin des Anémones
Geneva

Submission based on Request 2 (decision SC-2/9: Technical Assistance)**Description of bilateral and multilateral activities of Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology (RECETOX), Masaryk University in Brno, serving as National Centre for Persistent Organic Pollutants of the Czech Republic, in the field described by Decision SC-1/15**

RECETOX was responsible for development of the Czech National implementation plan. The Czech National POPs Centre, which is a part of the RECETOX structure, is responsible national body for the realisation of the Czech NIP conclusions. Based on the experience from the activities of the European POPs Expert Network and long term activities in the field of POPs, Masaryk University Brno and Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic established in September 2005 Central and Eastern European Centre for Persistent Organic Pollutants (CEEPOPsCTR) which will be offered to serve as a centre for the Stockholm Convention.

RECETOX and CEEPOPsCTR participated in the development and training activities connected with the NIP preparation in Armenia, Croatia, Egypt, Hungary, Macedonia, Oman, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia.

RECETOX/CEEPOPsCTR is a very active participant in the BAT/BEP Expert group. In co-operation with the Secretariat of the SC it organized the Regional workshop to raise awareness on the revised draft Guidelines on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices in Brno (02-04 October, 2006).

RECETOX/CEEPOPsCTR gained an experience in coordination of international scientific activities in the frames of 5th Framework Programme APOPSBAL where it was a manager and coordinator of the joint project of Czech Republic, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in frames of 5th Framework Programme Centre of Excellence focused on scientific networking in European region.

Professional training in the field of environmental analytical chemistry was provided to the scientists from Armenia (activity supported by the Czech Government) and Serbia (part of the APOPSBAL project). Post docs and Ph.D. students from Bulgaria and Belarus are a part of the RECETOX team. Annual summer school attracts the international students from many countries including the Southern and Eastern Europe.

RECETOX also co-operates with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat – POPsRC, BAT/BET Expert Group, TWG of Effectiveness Evaluation.

Starting in 2005 passive air samplers have been employed to develop the long term monitoring network in Central and Eastern Europe. Polyurethane foam passive samplers were applied in 50 sites in the Czech Republic in 2005, a first phase of the pilot study in the Central and Eastern European countries was performed in Estonia (5 sampling sites), Latvia (5), Lithuania (5), Slovakia (11), Romania (15), and Serbia (7) in 2006. Second phase is planned on 2007 – Armenia, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Moldova – the number of sites will be specified in March, 2007.

RECETOX and Central and Eastern European POPs Centre have organized together with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention the 1st Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Effectiveness Evaluation (09-12 October, 2006, Brno, CR).

Professional training in the field of environmental analytical chemistry provided to the scientists from Armenia (activity supported by the Czech Government) and Serbia (part of the APOPSBAL project).

RECETOX Centre was awarded a title of EU Research Centre of Excellence in Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology. Centre was/is a principal investigator of 8 international (UNEP Chemicals, UNIDO, EC, USA, Canada, Belgium, Norway) and more than 40 national grants and projects since 1990, predominantly concerning the topics suggested in this research plan.

- ✚ Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substance - European Regional Report. UNEP Chemicals. Project GF/CP/4030-00-20, subproject: GF/XG/4030-00-86, 2001 – 2002.
- ✚ Project GF/CEH/01/003: Enabling activities to facilitate early action in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs Convention) in Czech Republic. 2002 – 2004.
- ✚ EC DG Research 5th Framework Programme - Centre of Excellence for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, 2002-2005.
- ✚ EC DG Research 5th Framework Programme – Project APOPSBAL - Assessment of the selected POPs (PCBs, PCDDs/Fs, OCPs) in the atmosphere and water ecosystems from the waste materials generated by warfare in former Yugoslavia, 2002 – 2005.
- ✚ EC DG Research 6th Framework Programme – Project ECODIS - Dynamic Sensing of Chemical Pollution Disasters and Predictive Modelling of their Spread and Ecological Impact” with acronym “”.
- ✚ Polar Programme Norway - Expedition Svalborg - The Photochemistry of PBT Compounds in Ice, 2001 - 2002

Co-operation with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat – POPsRC, BAT/BET Expert Group, TWG of Effectiveness Evaluation

Submission by Finland

Helsinki 22 December 2006

24.11.2006

Finland's Financial and Technical Assistance for Developing Countries Related to the Implementation of Their Obligations under the Stockholm Convention

Finland's assistance towards the implementation of developing countries' Stockholm Convention obligations can be divided to three parts. A major part of the support is channelled through multilateral financing. Finland has also supported developing countries' participation in Stockholm Convention negotiations and other international meetings relevant to convention. In Finland's bilateral development cooperation there are several projects that primarily support the Stockholm Convention or can be seen as otherwise related to its goals.

Multilateral financing

Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention. Finland's total funding for GEF for years 2002-2006 is 31 120 000 €. In 2004, 2 % of GEFs funds were allocated for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) projects. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Managements (SAICM) was approved in February 2006. Finland's contribution to SAICM Quick Start Program to support capacity building and implementation activities in developing and transition economy countries in 2006 was 200 000 €. The same annual contribution is allocated for years 2007-2010, adding up to 1 000 000 €.

Developing country participation in Convention meetings

Finland has supported the developing country participation in Stockholm Convention meetings with 58 866 € in 1999, with 17 000 € in 2001 and with 20 000 € in 2002. Finland has supported the developing countries in preparation of SAICM with 100 000 € in year 2004.

Projects related to the Convention

The Conference of Parties' Decision SC-1/15 on technical assistance states the priorities for technical assistance. Finland's development cooperation has specifically contributed to the following areas: training of people responsible for issues related to the Convention, including POPs identification, development of legislation and management of PCB (10.c), strengthening research capacity on development of alternatives for POPs (10.d.i) and the identification and disposal of POP wastes (10.g).

During the years 1999 and 2000 POP chemicals were transported from Nicaragua to Finland to be destroyed in a specialized facility (911 300 €). In a similar project in 2002-2003, implemented by FAO within the Africa Stockpiles Program, obsolete pesticides in Ethiopia were identified and transported to Finland with Finnish support of 1 000 000 €. Project also aimed to develop agricultural policy to prevent the generation of new dangerous wastes. Finland has supported the OSCE and NATO joint project on hazardous chemicals in Moldova for 50000 € in 2006. The project aims to collect the obsolete pesticides and dangerous chemicals to 30 locations in the country to be analyzed and destroyed.

African Insect Science for Food and Health (ICIPE) is a Nairobi-based research organization for insect research with effects on food security, health and environment. During the years 2000-2003 Finland supported the organization specifically on insect research with a total sum of 672 752 €. This support has relevance to the Stockholm Convention through the seeking of alternatives of POP chemicals, specifically through reducing the need for the exemption on DDT.

Finland has supported the founding and work of Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer (BCRCs), which also have a relevance for management of POP chemicals. The BCRC for Central America and Panama has received support specifically for the treatment of PCB waste. Finland's support during years 2002-2003 aimed at training the responsible authorities in organizing the waste management to prevent the environmental pollution caused by PCB (200 000 €). BCRC for the Arab States in Egypt has received 672 752€ during the years 2005-2006 and 336 373 € is projected for 2007. The contribution aims to support the functions of the centre and to utilize the synergy with the hazardous waste management project in Alexandria.

While not specific to POPs, Finland's Hazardous waste management project in Alexandria in Egypt supported the aims of Stockholm Convention by developing the hazardous waste management and building capacity for the authorities and industry to implement the environmental regulations. Industrial waste has been examined for POP content, though none were found. A temporary storage and an incinerating facility capable of destroying organic pollutants were developed: these maybe used for POP waste in the future. The project was originally launched in 1999 and continued with a second phase from 2003 to 2006. The total funds contributed for the second phase were 1 199 772 €.

Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) organizes analytical training for chemists and administrative training for officials from developing countries related to the chemicals covered by the Chemical Weapons Convention. While POPs have not been specifically addressed, the analysis methods learnt during the courses can be applied to the POPs as well. Also the administrative training on chemical databases may be applied for POPs information. Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland has supported the institution since it's establishment in 1994. The total contribution for the transferring the know-how of the verification of the chemical weapons to the developing countries is 1 351 480 € for the last four years.

There is currently a project proposal to develop a software tool for monitoring PCB waste and PCB containing equipment. The project supports the national action plans and national profiles envisaged by the Stockholm Convention, and improves and builds capacity of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm Conventions for the monitoring of PCB. Finnish contribution of 100 000 € has been applied for the project, but no final decision has been made.

Table. Finland's support to developing countries regarding Stockholm convention 2003-2006 (€)

Project	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
GEF (2% of total)	155600	155600	155600	155600	622400
SAICM				200000	200000
SAICM preparations		100000			100000
Moldova Dangerous wastes				50000	50000
Basel Center Arab States			336376	336376	672752
Basel Center Central America	200000				200000
Egypt Hazardous Waste I	417174	111256			528430
Egypt Hazardous Waste II	4519	352363	235889	607001	1199772
VERIFIN	97987	321229	650693	281571	1351480
ICIPE	168188				168188
Total	1043468	1040448	1378558	1630548	5093022

Note: Excluding GEF, there are no reliable estimates on the percentage of funding within projects specifically related to Stockholm Convention. Therefore the amounts represent the total funds disbursed for the projects.

Submission by Slovakia

**MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC**

Environmental Risk Management Department
Nám. Ľudovíta Štúra 1, 812 35 BRATISLAVA 1

Ms. Maged Younes
Mr. David Ogden

ssc@pops.int

Your letter/from	Our number	Prepared by/link	Bratislava
Letter/22.6.2006	43489/2006	Ing.Fratričová/+421-2-59562385	12.12.2006

Issue

Implementation of the Stockholm convention on POPs – answer regarding Request 2

Dear colleagues,

On the base your letter from 22 June 2006 regarding the next work based on the COP-2 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in conjunction with your request 2 focused in the field of the experiences in the provision of technical assistance and transfer of technology according to the guidance on technical assistance in decision SC-1/15 to developing countries in order to assist implementation of their respective national implementation plans and other obligations under the Convention we would like to advice you following statement:

Slovakia has prepared National Implementation Plan, which was approved by the Slovak Republic Government on 10 May 2006 in its resolution No. 415/2006. The transmission to the Conference of the Parties will be ensured after the translation of this document in English language. The official announcement regarding this issue was the subject of the special letter of the Ministry of the MoE of the SR No. 5732/2006-min from the 15 May 2006 which was sent to Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.

The base for this document was the result of the GEF project “Initial assistance to the Slovak Republic to meet its obligations under the Stockholm Convention on POPs“ which was finished in 2004. More information is available at website www.shmu.sk in the part called project in which is also the Project document in English. Thanks this project we are able to prepare the implementation of this Convention. But there is still a need to ensure enough money. We try to use the European support funds for the time period 2007 – 2013.

Nowadays is ongoing the GEF project “Demonstration of Viability and Removal of Barriers that Impede Adoption and Effective Implementation of Available, Non-combustion Technologies”. Basic information is at the website www.non-combustion.sk.

With best regards

RNDr. Darina Kobzová, CSc.
Head of the department