



## First update on the PCBs Elimination Network (PEN)

Dear Members of the PEN,

We are delighted to inform you about recent developments of the PCBs Elimination Network:

### 1. First meeting of the Advisory Committee of the PEN

From 18 to 20 January 2010, the Advisory Committee of the PEN met for its first meeting to provide direction and to establish the implementation of activities under the PEN. The Committee is composed of 16 representatives: ten of the members include two representatives of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention from each of the five UN regions, with the other members representing PCB experts, owners of PCBs, the industry, the donor community, Intergovernmental Organizations and NGOs. The Advisory Committee develops workplans and activities, establishes thematic groups and approves the budget of the PEN. The composition of the membership is available on the website of the Stockholm Convention at: [www.pops.int/pen](http://www.pops.int/pen).

The decisions of the first meeting are as follows:

1. The Advisory Committee endorsed the establishment of four Thematic Groups: Inventory of PCBs, Maintenance of PCBs equipment, Disposal of PCBs and PCBs in open applications. These Thematic Groups will be established over the next 3-4 months. Activities of the Thematic Groups will include information sharing on specific topics, the development of guidance material, raising awareness on PCBs and organizing capacity building activities.
2. A PEN magazine will be issued annually and will contain relevant information on the PEN and the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of PCBs. The magazine will be composed of articles provided by the members of the PEN and will be translated into the 6 UN languages. The Secretary of the PEN will contact all members to ask them to submit articles in due time.
3. In order to provide members of the PEN with an incentive to achieve ESM of PCBs and to raise awareness on successful activities, a PEN Awards event will be organized. The PEN Awards will be a global event, broadcast over the internet in the 6 UN languages. In order to reduce costs and make use of an existing global event, the PEN Awards ceremony will be held in conjunction with each meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. The PEN Awards will honour individual members of the PEN that have made exceptional effort in achieving the ESM of PCB oils and equipment within the areas of the four Thematic Groups. Further details on the PEN Awards will be presented soon.

### 2. Capacity building on PCBs

In 2008, capacity building activities on the ESM of PCBs started based on a request from the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention developed an electronic training tool on the Basel Convention technical guidelines on POPs wastes, including the guidelines on PCBs and introduced the tool through a series of training workshops for the English-speaking Caribbean region, the South American region, the English-speaking African region, the Asian region and for the Central and Eastern European region (all these already undertaken), the Francophone African Region, the Central American region and the North African and Mediterranean region.

These activities were accepted by the Parties at the fourth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in May 2009 and the remaining workshops are planned for 2010. At the concluded workshop, participants have found that the preparation of detailed inventories and the environmentally sound disposal of PCBs were the major challenges for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The next workshop will take place on 8 -11 March 2010 in Bamako, Mali, for Francophone African countries.

### 3. Other activities

- The Clearing House Mechanism for information exchange under the PEN is currently being developed by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and will be available in July 2010. In the interim, relevant information on PCBs and the PEN will be provided on the website of the Stockholm Convention under the Section "Programmes – PCBs". The new website will be the hub for information exchange in the PEN and will feature modern communication tools including a social network, forums, blogs and a members' data base. These tools will be available in the 6 UN languages.



- The PEN will be launched at the upcoming simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, which take place from 22 to 24 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council meeting. The launch will take place on Monday, 22 February 2010 during the lunch break.
- Promotional items, including custom designed pens, have been produced and will be distributed to all delegates and observers at the above mentioned meetings. Promotional leaflets will also be available at a stand in the exhibition area during the week. These promotional items will also be available to the members of the PEN and will be distributed within the next two months.

#### 4. Call for action

The PEN is a multi-stakeholder initiative and your input into its development is appreciated. You are cordially invited to:

- Promote the PEN among your colleagues and other interested entities; the application form in the 6 UN languages for membership is attached for that purpose.
- Distribute the attached information leaflet: please contact the Secretary if you wish to receive print-outs for distribution.
- Send us any kind of information or guidelines on the ESM of PCBs that you would like to publish on the PEN website
- Contact the Secretary if you wish to receive CDs containing the Training Tool on the Basel Convention technical guidelines on POPs wastes, including the technical guidelines on PCBs.
- Share in the forum on selected issues on PCBs that will be created through the website of the Stockholm Convention. All members will be informed in good time before the forum is launched and we encourage you to share your views and information on the topic. If you have particular issues that you would like to see discussed, please let us know by e-mail.

Thank you very much for your interest in the PEN and we look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Secretary of the PEN

February 2010:

[pen@pops.int](mailto:pen@pops.int)  
[www.pops.int/pen](http://www.pops.int/pen)