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CELEBRATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AMENDMENTS

Last 26 August 2010, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention celebrated the entry into force of the amendments adopted at the 4th Conference of the Parties in May 2009 with a simultaneous press conference, connecting the Palais des Nations in Geneva and the Sea Dragon boat, docked in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This scientific monitoring vessel set sail for a half year-long voyage to document the extent of drifting plastic pollution and monitor deepwater fish for their POPs levels in the South Atlantic Ocean. The press conference, convening representatives from the Brazilian government, the 5 Gyres Institute, the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Sao Paulo and the Convention's Secretariat was an opportunity to discuss the impact of the amendments in the global effort to rid the world of POPs and the challenges facing Brazil and other countries in the region in their implementation, as well as the impacts to human health of POPs that bioaccumulate in the marine environment.

The press conference led way to a reception, opened by official speeches by Mr. Pierre Le Loarer, President of United Nations Office at the Geneva Cultural Affairs Committee, on behalf of Sergeï Ordzhonikidze, Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva; Mr. Christophe Bouvier, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, on behalf of Mr. Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention and Mr. Alexandre Parola, Chargé d'Affaires from the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The speakers highlighted the need to mobilize financial resources to eliminate these



The press conference seen from the Sea Dragon

chemicals and acknowledged the efforts accomplished since the Rio Conference in 1992. A short film (5Gyres) was projected thereafter, presenting the Sea Dragon expedition to monitor drift plastics and the bioaccumulation of POPs in marine life. The evening culminated with a moving concert given by Jeanai and Giacomo La Vita, an Italian-American duo who performed operatic songs and solo guitar works on the theme of humanity's reverence for nature.



Jeanai and Giacomo La Vita performing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva



THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WORKSHOPS IN NIGERIA

A regional capacity-building workshop for English-speaking African countries was held in Ibadan, Nigeria from 16 to 19 August 2010. The workshop was co-organized in collaboration with the Basel Convention regional centre in Nigeria and attracted 41 participants representing 12 countries.

The main outcomes of the workshop highlight the need for the region to access guidance for the identification of new POPs in products and articles, as well as for carrying out inventories. Furthermore, it was noted that there is a continued need for funding concrete activities like the destruction of PCBs, disposal of obsolete pesticides and remediation of contaminated sites.

The issue of strengthening the relevant Focal Points at the country level following the Montreal Protocol Model was also raised as one of prior importance in order to ensure better cooperation among stakeholders. The need for financial support was also stressed. It was noted that the region was lagging behind in the development of project proposals in order to access funds under GEF-5, therefore the participants agreed that there was a need to come up with a comprehensive strategy to enable African countries to access these funds.

The regional workshop was followed by a national workshop on the nine new POPs and implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Nigeria held in Abuja, from 23 to 24 August



Group picture of the participants attending the regional workshop

2010. The workshop was attended by Nigerian government officials from the relevant Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations, including Farmers Association, Women's groups, and other stakeholders on chemicals and POPs issues. An international expert clarified the obligations pertaining to new POPs and their possible implications at the national level, provided guidance on alternative technology, and conducted a preliminary training on how to identify information on new POPs contained in products, wastes and articles for recycling, stockpiles, and contaminated sites.

THEMATIC GROUP ON COST EFFECTIVENESS ON DDT

The first meeting of the core-team on cost-effectiveness of alternatives to DDT was held in Geneva on 26 and 27 August. The meeting was very successful as the team established the plan of action, including a time-bound roadmap for its implementation. In vector control intervention, the disease endemic countries often base their decisions on financial cost components due to lack of information and skill to consider the broader cost-effectiveness approach, which takes into account economic costs and externalities, where feasible.

The main focus of the core team was to identify and implement interventions that initiate and facilitate strengthening of the knowledge base available in disease endemic countries to inform policy formulation and decision-making on vector control programmes.

While establishing the plan, the team highlighted the need to use best practices to assess both effectiveness and cost-effectiveness when considering DDT and alternative vector control methods.

The core team consists of eight experts representing the key stakeholders related to the subject including the Party countries, World Health Organization, research and academic community, and the pesticide industry.



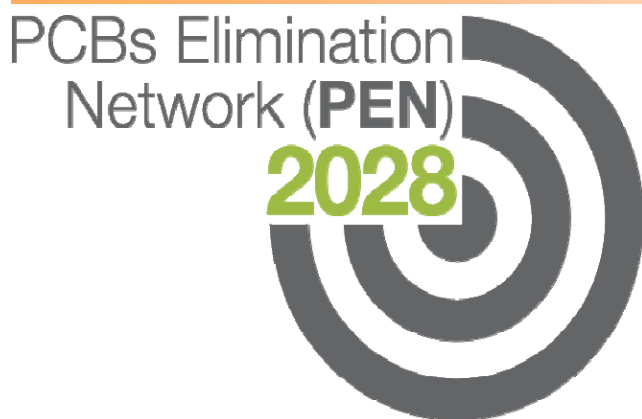
The goal of the Global Alliance for alternatives to DDT is to develop and deploy alternative products, methods and strategies to facilitate reduce reliance on DDT in vector control while

assuring reduced malaria disease burden. The work is implemented under five specific themes: cost-effectiveness of alternatives to DDT; strengthening of in-country decision-making on IVM; malaria vector resistance patterns and mechanisms; reducing barriers to bring new chemicals and products to market; and new non-chemical products into use.



The core team having a roundtable deliberation

NEWS FROM THE PEN



Are Parties to the Stockholm Convention obliged to destroy all PCBs by 2028? Can "PCB-free" labeled transformers contain PCBs? Do PCB test kits provide a reliable indication of PCB content?

Answers to these questions and clarification on many other myths related to the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs will be given in the PEN magazine. The first issue of this yearly journal will be published in all six UN languages in November 2010. Articles prepared by PEN members on the topic of PCB inventories will include national experiences and lessons learned, regional overviews, step-by-step approaches on inventories, project updates and a contact list of PEN members.

If you wish to receive paper copies of the magazine or contribute to the next issue of the PEN Magazine, please contact: pen@pops.int.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR CUSTOMS

Illegal international trade in toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes can seriously undermine the effectiveness of chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Building the capacity of enforcement offices like customs, who are at the forefront of every country's efforts to combat illegal trade, is vital.

For this reason the Stockholm Convention is an active partner in the Green Customs Initiative (GCI), which comprises 13 different organizations including the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements (Basel Convention, Cartagena Protocol, CITES, Montreal Protocol, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions).

The objective of GCI is to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade under the framework of partner MEAs.

GCI's ongoing efforts to train customs officers are structured through the organization of regional and national meetings.



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Stack of freight containers

Two regional meetings are scheduled for 2010; in the SADC region, Malawi, 13-15 September 2010; and in the ECA region, Turkmenistan, 11-13 October 2010. For more information, please consult: www.greencustoms.org.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES AND BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES IN WEST ASIAN COUNTRIES



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View of the Stockholm Convention regional centre in Kuwait

As part of its activities for enhancing capacities of Parties in West Asia to effectively address PCBs, POPs wastes and unintentional releases of POPs, Secretariat is organizing a regional workshop in Kuwait on 17-21 October 2010.

Building on the expertise of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), a Stockholm Convention regional centre, the workshop aims at sharing experiences related to the successful introduction of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP), as well as environmentally sound practices for the management of PCBs and POPs wastes. Practical training will also take place during the one-day field trip scheduled to visit a number of relevant BAT and BEP, PCBs and POPs waste sites in Kuwait. For more information, please kindly consult: www.pops.int.

REGIONAL CENTERS WORKSHOP IN BARCELONA

In order to foster collaboration among the different partners providing services in the field of chemicals and wastes to Parties at the regional level, and with the aim to promote and enhance synergies in the delivery of technical assistance programmes as called for in the synergies decision, a workshop is being organized jointly by the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions from 27 to 30 September 2010, in Barcelona, Spain. The workshop -that will bring together representatives from the Stockholm and Basel Convention regional centres, FAO and UNEP regional offices -will,

among others, assess the progress made by the centres in delivering technical assistance activities to Parties and will provide an opportunity for them to share their work plans. Further discussions will take place on how to enhance coordination among these entities in providing capacity-building and transferring technology for the future. For further information please visit our website: www.pops.int.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2010

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE	TARGET AUDIENCE
13-15 September	Regional Green Customs Workshop for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region	Lilongwe, Malawi	Customs Authorities
27-30 September	Joint workshop for Stockholm and Basel Conventions Regional Centre	Barcelona, Spain	Regional Centres
5 October	Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	Geneva, Switzerland	COP Bureau Members
11-13 October	Regional Green Customs Workshop for Eastern and Central Asian Region (ECA)	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Customs Authorities
11-15 October	Sixth Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee (POPRC)	Geneva, Switzerland	Members and Observers
17-21 October	Regional awareness-raising workshop on the guidelines on BAT and BEP and the environmentally sound management of PCBs and POPs wastes	Kuwait City, Kuwait	OCPs and FPs from Arabic-speaking Parties
1-4 November	Regional workshop on new POPs, the process for reviewing and updating National Implementation Plans, reporting requirements under Article 15	Dakar, Senegal	OCPs and FPs from French-speaking Africa
2-4 November <i>(please note change of dates)</i>	Regional synergies workshops on enhancing cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Bratislava, Slovakia	OCPs and FPs from Central and Eastern Europe
23-26 November	Regional workshop on new POPs, the process for reviewing and updating National Implementation Plans, reporting requirements under Article 15	Bangkok, Thailand	OCPs and FPs from Asia
6-8 December	Regional synergies workshops on enhancing cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	San Salvador, El Salvador	OCPs, DNAs, FPs from Central America and the Caribbean

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

