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THE BUREAU PAVES THE WAY FOR A PAPERLESS COP

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) met in Geneva on 5 October 2010 to discuss the preparation and approve the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the new activities that will be proposed for consideration of the COP next April. Activities, such as the Brokering Service - a programme destined to facilitate and coordinate access of eligible Parties to capacity assistance - and the joint capacity building activities between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions will provide an important impetus to the technical assistance activities under the Convention.

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Mr. Dehghani, President of COP 4

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OVERVIEW OF THE POPRC 6

At its sixth meeting, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 October 2010, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee adopted a dozen decisions. Among these, it adopted the risk management evaluation for endosulfan and recommended listing the chemical in Annex A of the Convention, with specific exemptions, a move that would lead to its elimination from the global market.

The Committee also adopted the risk profile on hexabromocyclododecane, a flame retardant, and decided it should proceed to develop a risk management evaluation. The decision-making on short-chained chlorinated paraffins was postponed until its eighth meeting in 2012, in order to gather more information on the industrial chemical's health effects and trends of levels in the environment.

In addition, the Committee reviewed information on the nine POPs that were listed in the Convention in May 2009, and made recommendations to the COP on the elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers from the waste stream and on the risk reduction for PFOS.

The Committee also finalized its guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sul-



Experts during a plenary session

fonates (PFOS), and agreed to conduct a study on toxic interactions of multiple chemicals, and to strengthen chemicals science on climate change and POPs. Recognizing the knowledge gap and the needs for enhancing capacity in collecting relevant information in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the Committee decided to continue the activities to support effective participation of Parties in the review process.

POPRC will report its conclusions and recommendations to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP5), to be held from 25 to 29 April 2011 in Geneva.



THE BROKERING TOOL

The lack of financial means and technical capacity is a key barrier that hampers countries to implement their national priorities under the Stockholm Convention. Experiences gained in the past years in the implementation of the Convention suggest that a large number of countries still have essential capacity assistance needs and hence may not be able to make full use of funds provided under the financial mechanism of the Convention.

Developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition have therefore requested the provision of further capacity assistance from countries in a position to do so. While capacity assistance activities are readily offered for a broad range of chemical issues, many recipient countries may not be aware of the full spectrum of activities provided at the global, regional and national level.

A likely reason for this shortcoming is a lack of knowledge on existing capacity assistance programmes and difficulties in accessing such information. At the same time, donor countries often lack more detailed information on the particular capacity assistance needs of recipient countries.

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, in cooperation with the Secretariats of the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, has responded to these needs by implementing a new initiative to overcome these barriers.

The brokering tool aims at facilitating the provision of capacity assistance and at improving the communication between

Goals of the Brokering Tool

Enhancing the communication among stakeholders, such as recipients and donors, donors and donors, as well as recipients and recipients

Facilitation of partnerships

Providing advice

Enhanced dissemination of good practices and lessons learned

Foster regional and global cooperation

The brokering tool aims at facilitating the provision of capacity assistance and at improving the communication between countries that request capacity assistance.

countries that request capacity assistance and respective providers, by matching the demand for capacity assistance in developing countries and countries with economies in transition with the respective providers of such assistance.

THE BUREAU PAVES THE WAY FOR A PAPERLESS COP

(Continued from page 1)

Following the successful experience of other MEAs COPs, the Bureau decided to conduct the next COP meeting as a paperless meeting. In-session documents will not be available in hard copies, however electronic versions will be available through a wireless intranet set up for the meeting or in memory sticks. Delegates are highly encouraged to bring their own laptop computers to the meeting.

The Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP 5) will be held from 25 to 29 April 2011, at the Geneva International Conference Centre, 15 rue de Varembé, Geneva, Switzerland. For further information please visit: www.pops.int

GLOBAL MONITORING PLAN MEETING IN GENEVA



Expert group in the International Environment House conference room

The second meeting of the expert group to update the guidance on the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) for POPs was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 4 to 6 October 2010. Discussions focused on the ongoing revisions of a number of technical/analytical aspects of the guidance document reflecting the recent listing of nine new persistent organic pollutants in the annexes A, B and C to the Stockholm Convention.

Among the most prominent topics were the current activities on the analysis of perfluorinated chemicals in breast milk and serum, guidance on sampling of HCHs and PFOS in open ocean waters and large lakes, environmental specimen banking, and issues related to long range transport and climate effects on air sampling of POPs.

The revised guidance will be further submitted for consideration to the next meeting of the GMP global coordination group.

CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

The meeting of experts on climate change and persistent organic pollutants was held from 6 to 8 October 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. Twenty internationally recognized experts, including two members of the GMP global coordination group, participated in the discussions on the ongoing study that reviews recent scientific findings on the interlinkages between climate change and POPs, including releases into the environment, long range transport and environmental fate, human and environmental exposure and effects, as well as co-benefits of mitigation strategies for climate change and POPs emission reduction measures.

The meeting was also aimed at formulating policy recommendations to address coupled effects of climate change and POPs on the environment and human health. The final report of the expert group will be submitted to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention to support the work on the effectiveness evaluation and the global monitoring plan for POPs.



Presentations during the meeting

OUTCOMES OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN KUWAIT

A regional workshop on the practical use of the guidelines on Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and POPs wastes for Arabic-speaking countries as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, organised in cooperation with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), a Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, was held in Kuwait City, Kuwait from 17 to 21 October 2010. Forty participants from governments, inter-governmental organisations (IGOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector attended the regional workshop.

The workshop aimed at enhancing the exchange of experience among countries of the region on challenges encountered and measures undertaken at the national level to implement BAT and BEP to reduce unintentional releases of POPs and manage PCBs and POPs wastes.

Participants also had the opportunity to visit a steel mill plant and a medical waste incinerator which have introduced BAT and BEP successfully. The steel manufacturing plant

featured quality control of ferrous scrap, adequate off-gas treatment including post-combustion afterburners, followed by rapid quench of off-gases. Other measures included adsorbent injection (activated carbon) and high-level dedusting with fabric filters. The plant indicated that 10% of its total investment costs have been dedicated to greening the manufacturing process. Rapid return on investment is expected by ensuring high quality products.

The medical waste incinerator was also characterised by BAT and BEP through the segregation of different types of medical waste at the source. Appropriate treatment of bottom ashes and residues from flue gas cleaning was also performed.

Participants welcomed the opportunity given to experience a practical on-site training presenting practices and processes that constitute BAT and BEP as listed in the guidelines to reduce releases of unintentional POPs adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

For further information on the outcomes of the workshop, please visit : www.pops.int



Participants visiting the steel manufacturing plant



(a) United Steel, Kuwait

Electric arc furnace where steel is smelted at a temperature up to 2,000 °C

SYNERGIES WORKSHOP IN SAN SALVADOR

As part of the joint activities currently being implemented in light of the Synergies decision, the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in collaboration with the Basel regional centre in El Salvador are organizing a regional workshop for Central America and the Caribbean to be held 6-9 December in San Salvador.

The objective of the workshop is to offer a holistic approach to the three Conventions, including enhancing cooperation and coordination when implementing the Conventions. Among others the workshop will provide training on resource mobilization, focusing on how to use the guidance on resource mobilization developed by UNITAR in collaboration with the Rotterdam Secretariat.

Nominations to participate in the workshop must be submitted to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat through the official channels as soon as possible but **no later than 10 November 2010**.

Photo courtesy of M. Araujo



View from San Salvador

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE	TARGET AUDIENCE
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 NFPs from French-speaking Africa
2-4 November	Regional synergies workshop on enhancing cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Bratislava, Slovakia	OCPs and NFPs from Central and Eastern Europe
9-10 November	Nominated Regional Centre workshop on Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs	Tehran, Iran	For further information: www.bcrc.ir
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 NFPs from Asia
1-3 December	Expert meeting on the Standardized toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan releases	Geneva, Switzerland	Nominated and invited experts
6-9 December	Regional synergies workshop on enhancing cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	San Salvador, El Salvador	OCPs, DNAs and NFPs from Central America and the Caribbean
15-17 December	The 5 th International Conference on Waste Management and Technology	Beijing, China	Further information: http://sc.bcrc.cn
12-14 January	Joint workshop of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions for the effective participation of Parties in the work of the POPs Review Committee and Chemicals Review Committee for the Asian region	Colombo, Sri Lanka	CRC and POPRC experts, DNAs, OCPs, NFPs and stakeholders

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.

