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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTACTING THE SECRETARIAT

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SIXTH TOOLKIT EXPERT MEETING IN GENEVA

The sixth meeting of the Toolkit expert group was held in Geneva, from 28 to 30 November 2011. The participants agreed on revisions to the Toolkit sections on Waste Incineration, Metal Industry, Power Generation and Heating, Mineral Production, Transport, and Open Burning Processes, and developed a workplan for the next intersessional period to fully finalize the revision of the Toolkit, by focusing on sources pertaining to the Chemicals and Consumer Goods sector, Miscellaneous sources, Disposal and Hot Spots.

Among the new information included in the Toolkit revision, additional guidance was added on estimating activity rates, data quality codes were assigned to emission factors,



Expert meeting in Geneva, November 2011

and example inventories were developed to illustrate the process for updating and revision of the PCDD/PCDF inventory, by focusing on source-specific issues.

The revised Toolkit guidance will be submitted to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in an interactive, electronic format.

PROGRESS MADE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE AND AWARENESS-RAISING MATERIAL ON PCBs

The Advisory Committee of the PCBs Elimination Network (PEN) met from 23 to 25 November 2011 in Lyon, France, to review the activities carried out by the PEN during the last year, develop workplans for the next year and discuss the transition of the PEN to another UN agency, as requested by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fifth meeting.

The Committee made good progress in reviewing the guidance and awareness raising materials that are currently under develop-

ment. The two guidance documents on inventory of PCBs and maintenance of PCB equipments are targeted to be practical, useful and based on lessons learned over the last years. They also provide an overview of further material available to support parties and stakeholders to achieve the environmentally sound management of PCBs. The guidance and awareness raising materials will be used for trainings and capacity building activities.

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The PEN Advisory Committee during its meeting in Lyon last November

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All PEN members are encouraged to participate and be involved more actively in the activities of the network. If you are interested in joining the network, please contact the Secretariat: pen@pops.int.

On the transition of the administration of the PEN, the Committee noted with appreciation the interest expressed by the

Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP Chemicals) to consider taking over the leadership of the network. A final discussion is pending more detailed discussions between the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and UNEP Chemicals on the arrangement of the hand-over.

The full report of the meeting is available on the PEN website: www.pops.int/pen

10TH ANNIVERSARY GLOBAL ART CONTEST: CZECH REPUBLIC IS FIRST COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE!



Some winners of the national art contest in the Czech Republic

The Stockholm Convention's 10th anniversary global art contest opened on 1 January 2012! It spans three art categories (drawings, photography and short videos) and aims at raising awareness about POPs and toxic chemicals among youths from 5 to 20 years old.

We look forward to receiving the entries from the Czech Republic, who organised a national contest during this autumn, and

made its final selection on 5 December 2011. We hope that many more countries will fall into the steps of the Czech Republic, who recognised that they "had to join, as the current goals of this contest meet three out of four goals set up for the International Year of Chemistry: increase the public appreciation of chemistry in meeting world needs; increase interest of young people; and generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry" (Kateřina Šebková, expert on chemicals at the Czech Republic's Ministry of Environment).

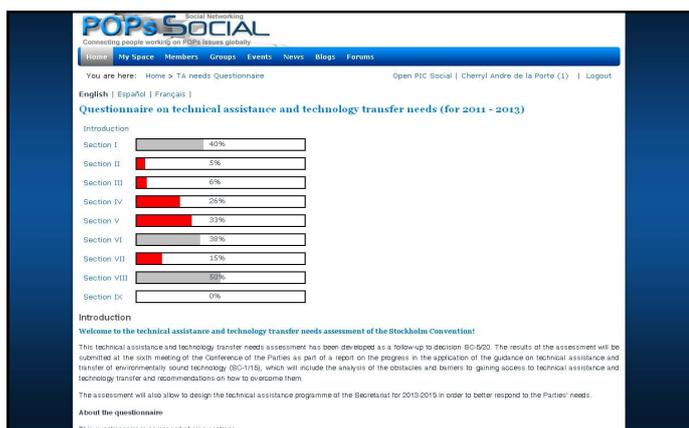
Details are provided on the contest's webpage (rules, technical guidelines, registration). Other resources include educational material explaining the issue of POPs to youth and the Czech Republic's experience in organising its national contest.

Less than 2 months left to participate !

The contest closes on 16 March 2012

Visit our [webpage](#) (in English, French and Spanish):
Educational material is now available !

SIGN UP TO OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Online Questionnaire on the POPs Social website

As a follow-up to Decision SC-5/20 adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its fifth meeting, we are inviting developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to provide us with information on their technical assistance and technology transfer needs in order to implement the convention, as well as the barriers and obstacles they face in that regard.

An online questionnaire on this topic was sent out to all Official Contact Points (or Permanent Missions), via the POPs Social interface. Please fill it **by 17/02/2012**. The results of this needs assessment will also allow us to prepare our new programme for 2012-2013.

CHINA HELD A COMMEMORATION MEETING OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Since becoming a Signatory of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in 2001, China has made tremendous efforts and achieved significant progress in implementing the Convention and controlling POPs pollution. Among others, China has banned production, sales, use, import and export of the nine POPs pesticides, achieving an interim target of the Convention.

To mark the important milestone of the 10th anniversary of the Stockholm Convention, China held a commemoration meeting on November 11th, 2011, to which key national stakeholders were invited, as well as important partners from the international community, including the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.

In his keynote speech Mr. Zhang Lijun, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Environment Protection, highlighted the successes achieved so far, including finalization of the baseline assessment. He ensured that China will stay committed to face the new challenges ahead; however, being a dynamically evolving economy, this will require further efforts throughout the country, a lot of financial resources and further support by the international community.

The Chinese government has published a sustainable development strategy consisting of 16 suggested measures to strengthen national environmental protection activities that includes enhanced chemical management. The document states that, under measure number 6, the "environmental protection authority should phase out, according to law, chemicals with high toxicity and environmental hazards or hard to degrade and



Speech of the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention during the event

constrain the production and use of chemicals with high environmental risk."

Further steps to be taken include a reduction in discharge of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and the promotion of eco-designed industrial products.

Other measures addressed by the document include emissions, environmental management systems, accidents and ecological conservation.

The commemoration meeting was followed by a series of workshops covering topics such as policy and capacity building, dioxin emission control, POPs waste disposal, management of contaminated sites and management of the newly listed POPs, to exchange international experience in POPs control, discuss emerging issues under the Convention and make suggestions on future work.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AND WORKSHOPS ON WASTE MANAGEMENT, RECYCLING AND BIOMASS HELD IN IRAN IN JANUARY 2012

After the Workshop on "Landfills Management" and "Co-processing of wastes under Basel & Stockholm Conventions in Cement Kilns" held in October 2011, the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Center in Iran, in cooperation with the Iranian Department of the Environment will hold the "First International Exhibition and Workshops on Waste Management, Recycling, and Biomass" at the Tehran International Exhibition Center from 8-11 January 2012. Also planned are a "Regional Workshop on Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Wastes with special reference on minimization PBDEs emission from E-wastes" and the "Introduction of Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions".

This internationally recognized event brings attention to one of

the biggest challenges that the countries in the region face today: an ever-increasing need to tackle wastes by making its management more effective and efficient. The exhibition and workshops provide a unique opportunity to share new methods, technologies, best practices, and future directions on waste management, recycling and biomass. Leading machinery manufactures, multinational companies, besides government officials, researchers, educators, consultants, managers, community leaders and others from all over the world will participate, from about 30 different countries.

For further information, please visit: www.wastemanagement@simatin.ir or contact us at ashiri@bcrc.ir (telephone: +98 21 88 23 31 44).

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS IN BRAZIL IN JANUARY 2012

The Environmental Company of the State of São Paulo in Brazil (CETESB), also Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), is launching a five-year training programme promoting the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

The project aims at strengthening the capacity of ten countries from GRULAC so as to comply with the obligations of the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

Each year and over a period of five weeks, the training will be structured around several technical modules, each of which targeting different professionals from decision-makers to technicians. The first course, taking place from 9 January to 9 February 2012, is divided into the three following modules: i) introduction to the environmentally sound management of POPs; ii) technical operations for POPs monitoring and sources of pollution relevant to the Stockholm Convention, iii) Determination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and organochlorinated pesticides in the environment. Spanish is the official training language. This first year of training is expected to train 60 professionals (30 GRULAC participants, 15 Brazilian States representatives and 15 technicians from CETESB).



The facilities of the CETESB in São Paulo, Brazil

The International Training Course on Environmentally Sound Management of POPs is part of the Japan-Brazil Partnership Program (JBPP). This partnership provides trilateral cooperation to developing countries in GRULAC through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the International Cooperation Agency of Japan (JICA).

For more information about the International Training Programme, please consult: <http://www.cetesb.sp.gov.br/>

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS

Date	Activity	Venue
8-11 January 2012	Workshops on "Waste Management, Recycling, and Biomass" and Regional Technical Workshop on Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste, undertaken by BCRC-Iran	Teheran, Iran
10-11 January 2012	Eighth Green Customs Partners' Meeting	The Hague, Netherlands
9 January -9 February 2012	International Training Course on Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, undertaken by SCRC-Brazil	Sao Paulo, Brazil
6-8 March 2012	National Green Customs Initiative workshop	Mexico City, Mexico

WEBINARS

Schedule of webinars for 2012 to be announced shortly.

INFORMATION

For further information on the activities organized by the Secretariat or its partners, including conditions for registering to workshops and webinars, please visit us at: www.pops.int.

To request assistance, please send a message to: TA@pops.int.

