



STOCKHOLM
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Over the past six months the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention has been actively implementing the technical assistance programme of work for the 2010-2011 biennium with the aim of strengthening the capacities of Parties to fully implement their obligations under the Convention in light of the amendments to Annexes A, B and C which will enter into force on 26 August 2010.

As a part of the programme and with the aim of keeping Parties informed on the activities and opportunities available to them, we have launched the Technical Assistance Newsletter which will be issued on a monthly basis and which we hope will be of interest to all our stakeholders. We look forward to receiving your feedback on this initiative.



Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention

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CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEM OF REPORTING UNDER ARTICLE 15

At its fourth meeting the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention decided that parties shall submit their second report pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention by 31 October 2010. Thus, in order to facilitate the process for reporting by Parties and to promote the use of the electronic system set up for that purpose, the Secretariat is undertaking a series of regional capacity-building workshops for the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.

Information received by the Secretariat through these reports is crucial as it serves as the foundation to several processes under the Convention, such as the effectiveness evaluation under Article 16.

Efforts are, therefore, being made by the Secretariat to ensure the highest turnover by encouraging the Parties in all possible ways to submit such reports during the second round of reporting. In addition to the training workshops, the Secretariat is also offering



Simulation exercise during the sub-regional workshop in Algiers

Parties online assistance and trouble-shooting services, "National Reporting Day" events and distance learning packages.

The workshop module consists of an introduction to the obligations on reporting and a brief overview on how to use the electronic system, followed by an interactive

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TRAINING ON STRENGTHENING COUNTRIES CAPACITIES TO IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED VECTOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME TOWARDS REDUCING RELIANCE ON DDT IN SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES



Period: from 7 to 11 June 2010

A training programme on implementing Integrated Vector Management (IVM) towards reduced reliance on DDT was conducted by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention with the technical support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and in collaboration with the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Nairobi, Kenya.

The initiative was designed to support implementation of the Global Alliance for the development and deployment of alternatives to DDT for disease vector control.

Thirteen public health and environmental health officers representing Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia participated at the training programme. The global core curriculum on IVM training recently drafted by the WHO was used for the training by resource persons from WHO/AFRO and research and academic institutes in Kenya.

The five-day training programme consisted of classroom sessions with one-day field visit to one of the IVM trail site of the ICIPE. During the field visit the trainee were exposed to basic elements of field implementation of the IVM approach. They also participated in a community empowerment initiative on environmental management and examined a malaria disease management program implemented by community health-clinic.

The participants presented a brief overview of their country status on diseases and vector control initiatives and developed a follow-up plan of action to undertake upon return to their respective countries.



Participants at the training programme in Nairobi



Participants discussions during the field visit

Training activities on DDT:

- In 2007, 4 regional workshops on compliance with the Stockholm Convention obligations on matters related to DDT production and use in disease vector control were organized, in collaboration with WHO (Swaziland, Morocco, Yemen and Thailand)
- In 2008, a workshop to support reporting on DDT production and use was organized in Asia (Bangkok, Thailand).

CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEM OF REPORTING UNDER ARTICLE 15 (PART 2)

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hands on group exercise. The presentation on the objectives, reporting requirements and different features of the electronic system of reporting sets the stage for the simulation exercise. During the simulation exercise participants are asked to prepare and submit their reports through the electronic system of reporting. While going through every question and examining all the options offered as potential answers, participants will have an opportunity to discuss and share information and experiences on how to address these questions.

In order to make the most of the experience participants are encouraged to use real relevant data available to them. In addition, they are also encouraged to use the users manual on the electronic system of reporting developed by the Secretariat.

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Stockholm Convention
on persistent organic
pollutants (POPs)

Electronic Reporting System
Pursuant to Article 15 of the
Convention



Instructions	Part A	Part B	Part C	Part D	Submit the National Report
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS NATIONAL REPORT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 15					
1. INFORMATION ON THE PARTY					
NAME OF PARTY		TEST Country			
DATE ON WHICH ITS INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION/ APPROVAL OR ACCEPTANCE WAS DEPOSITED:					
2. INFORMATION ON OFFICIAL CONTACT POINT					
3. INFORMATION ON NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF THE INFORMATION					

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON NEW POPs, THE PROCESS FOR REVIEWING AND UPDATING NIPs IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE (CEE)

The regional workshop in CEE is the fifth workshop of this kind organised as part of the series of workshops on new POPs and NIP review that have been rolled out by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention since November 2009.

Through presentations and discussions in plenary sessions followed by a simulation exercise on reviewing and updating a national implementation plan (NIP), participants have gained understanding of the nine new POPs, their chemical identity, their past and possible current uses; as well as having exchanged information on the potential remaining presence of those chemicals in the region.

Given the imminent entry into force of the amendments, extensive information has also been exchanged on how to comply with the new obligations, for instance how to update NIPs and how to register for an exemption and/or an acceptable purpose. For this undertaking, various guidance materials are now available to Parties, such as:

- Guidance on elaborated process of reviewing and updating national implementation plans
- Guidance for developing a national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention
- Guidance on information collection for the 9 new POPs
- Guidance on considerations related to alternatives and substitutes for listed persistent organic pollutants and candidate chemicals
- Guidance on feasible flame-retardant alternatives to Commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether
- Guidance document on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and its derivatives (*to be revised by POPRC-6*)
- Guidance manual for the establishment of new POPs inventories (*under development*)



Group discussions on the process for reviewing and updating NIPs.



The amendments to the Stockholm Convention will enter into force on 26 August 2010, adding 9 new POPs to the treaty. A short publication introducing these chemicals is available on the Convention's website in all 6 official languages (in the Media/Publications section or the New POPs/Publications section). This booklet gives an overview of the chemical identity and properties, characteristics, use and production of the new POPs as well as on their alternatives.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON NEW POPs IN CHINA

With the upcoming entry into force on 26 August 2010 of the amendments listing nine new POPs in the Stockholm Convention, Parties need to assess their national situation in relation to production and use of these chemicals as well as possible existing stockpiles and contaminated wastes. In this context, the Secretariat is undertaking capacity-building activities in response to requests received from Parties. One of these projects was initiated in China, offering a solid foundation to decision-makers regarding their future risk management strategy for the new POPs.

The first component of the project in China consists of a national workshop responding to the three main interests expressed by China: substitutions and alternative technologies to perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS) and brominated flame retardants (BFRs); options for control measures for new POPs; and guidance to financial and technical support from source including the Global Environment Fund and the World Bank. The workshop took place in Beijing on 1-2 July 2010, gathering 70 national stakeholders including municipal officials from 13 provinces and leaders from the PFOS and BFRS industry groups.

International experts provided in-depth technical information on alternatives and key risk management options. The Secretariat delivered guidance on related obligations and implementation timeframes under the Convention.

The workshop participants found that international cooperation could play an important role to catalyze the solution for addressing the new POPs problem in China, as demonstrated by China's previous experience in implementing the Stockholm Convention.

Financial support from the GEF and bilateral sources, as well as technical support from developed countries are necessary. Based on the experiences now being gained in China, future exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries (south-south cooperation) is anticipated to facilitate global action towards the risk reduction of POPs.



Participants in the China workshop

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON NEW POPs, THE PROCESS FOR REVIEWING AND UPDATING NIPs AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICA

Pursuing its capacity-building activities on the recently adopted amendments and the reporting requirements under the Convention, the Secretariat is organizing, in cooperation with BCRC-Nigeria, next month a regional workshop for English-speaking African countries.

The workshop, which aims at assisting Parties in implementing their new obligations with regards to new POPs and reporting requirements, will take place in Idaban, Nigeria, from 16 to 19 August 2010.

National experts, from the following Parties have been invited: Angola, Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.



Venue of the workshop: International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2010

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE	TARGET AUDIENCE
26 August	Entry in to force of the amendments to Annexes A, B and C of the Stockholm Convention		
20-22 September	Regional synergies workshops on enhancing cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Bratislava, Slovakia	OCPs, DNAs, FPs from Central and Eastern Europe
27-30 September	Joint workshop for Stockholm and Basel Conventions Regional Centre	Barcelona, Spain	Regional Centres
18-20 October	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 African countries
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 countries
November	Regional synergies workshops on enhancing cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Cairo, Egypt	OCPs, DNAs, FPs from Arabic-speaking countries
November	Regional workshop on new POPs, the process for reviewing and updating National Implementation Plans, reporting requirements under Article 15	Asia	OCPs and FPs from Asia
December	Regional synergies workshops on enhancing cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	French-speaking Africa	OCPs, DNAs, FPs from French-speaking African countries

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

