



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

THE PAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON E-WASTE IS PLANNED FOR MARCH IN KENYA

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON "ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF E-WASTE" FROM MAR 14. TO 16.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## CONTACTING THE SECRETARIAT

For further information or to request assistance, please contact us at:

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United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
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# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE N°20

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## THE PAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON E-WASTE IS PLANNED FOR MARCH IN KENYA

Africa has been undergoing rapid Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) transformation in recent years, attempting to bridge the "digital divide" by importing second-hand or used computers, mobile phones, and TV sets from developed countries. The countries in the region, however, lack the infrastructure and resources for the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste or e-waste arising when such imports reach their end-of-life. High volumes of e-waste, whether generated domestically but mostly imported as used, near-end-of-life or end-of-life equipment, have manifold impacts on the environment, local communities and the economic systems. It is now time for Africa to take action on addressing health and environmental problems resulting from current recycling practices, while creating jobs and business opportunities and combating poverty. To address some of these issues, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention is organizing the Pan-African Forum on E-waste that will be held from March 14. to 16. 2012 in Nairobi. The event will take place thanks to



the financial support of the European Commission, the Government of Norway, Dell, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, Safaricom and Sims Recycling Solutions. The Forum will aim to identify sustainable solutions to e-waste management in Africa by developing a clear perspective on an environmentally sound e-waste management framework applicable in the African context.

For further information, please visit our website: [www.basel.int](http://www.basel.int)

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

We would like to thank those Parties which have already submitted their completed questionnaire on technical assistance and technology transfer needs for implementing the Stockholm Convention, and take the opportunity to remind those who haven't done so yet, to complete it and submit it as soon as possible. The data collected will be analysed in the coming weeks and used to identify common, as well as country-specific needs. This hopefully will also allow us to design another questionnaire for developed country Parties, aimed at assessing technical assistance and technology transfer on



Welcome to the technical assistance and technology transfer needs assessment of the Stockholm Convention! This technical assistance and technology transfer needs assessment has been developed as a follow-up to decision GC/9/20. The results of the assessment will be submitted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as part of a report on the progress in the application of the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technology (GC/11/5), which will include the analysis of the obstacles and barriers to gaining access to technical assistance and technology transfer and recommendations on how to overcome them.

naires we will shortly be conducting a short survey, thus we thank you in advance for spending five minutes to let us know your experience in filling in our questionnaire.

## TRAINING SESSION ON ALTERNATIVES IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT ON HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS IN BARCELONA

The UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) organized in collaboration with SUBSPORT a training session on "Alternative Identification and Assessment on Hazardous Chemicals" that was held in Barcelona on December 13, 2011.

The goal of the SUBSPORT project is to develop an internet portal that constitutes a state-of-the-art resource on safer alternatives for the use of hazardous chemicals. In addition, the project aims to create a network of experts and stakeholders who are active in substitution.

The "Alternatives Identification and Assessment on Hazardous Chemicals" training provided participants with basic concepts and tools to facilitate the substitution of hazardous chemicals in products and processes with safer alternatives. The training has been designed for authorities, industry, trade unions, NGOs and other interested parties.

The training, attended by 15 participants, took place in the main offices of the Waste Agency of Catalonia, Barcelona.

SUBSPORT Project Portal: [www.subsport.eu](http://www.subsport.eu)

## SOUTH- EAST ASIAN POPs MONITORING PROGRAMME : AN EXAMPLE OF EFFICIENT SUB-REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY

The South-East Asian POPs Monitoring Programme has been initiated and supported by Japan since 2002 in the framework of the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention. The following countries are involved: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The Republic of Korea is supporting Japan in providing capacity building and training to the participating countries, in particular regarding analytical methods and data management. The objective of the programme is to produce data on levels of atmospheric POPs in the South-East Asian sub-region but also to strengthen the capacity of participating countries so that they will be in a position to take over step-by-step the POPs monitoring activities.

The systematic training and capacity building provided by Japan, in cooperation with the Republic of Korea is showing its first successes. Two countries with relatively advanced capacity and capability for POPs monitoring namely, Vietnam and Thailand, are prepared to take over monitoring activities from 2014. Other countries such as the Philippines, Singapore and Malay-



sia may follow in the future. Important is that all participating countries are receiving training and a support on various POPs monitoring aspects, depending on their individual capacity and needs. Moreover, the more advanced countries will be also involved in providing capacity building to their neighboring countries. Further intensive training and capacity building is expected through a sub-regional Global Environment Facility/ (GEF)/UNEP project.

## STOCKHOLM CONVENTION'S GLOBAL ART CONTEST FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH : 1WEEK LEFT TO SEND US YOUR ENTRIES !



16 March 2012

If you are experiencing trouble to contact your Official Contact Point, send us your entries directly.

E-entries: registration form (compulsory), scanned drawing, picture, video to [sc10@pops.int](mailto:sc10@pops.int)

Paper entries: drawing

Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions  
 Technical Assistance  
 Theme: Global art contest  
 11-13, chemin des Anémones  
 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva  
 Switzerland

The Jury will convene in April to make the final selection of 27 winners (9 for each art category). All winners will be contacted and will receive gold, silver or bronze certificates. The winning entries will be exhibited at the Palais des Nations in Geneva,

from June 18. to July 6. 2012 as well as being showcased virtually at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development and in various Stockholm Convention Regional Centres.

## INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR THE PILOT TESTING OF GUIDELINES FOR UPDATING OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS, IN SERBIA

The inception workshop for the pilot testing of Guidelines for updating of national implementation plans (NIPs) to address POPs newly listed under the Stockholm Convention, was held on February 6. to 8. 2012 in Belgrade, Serbia. The Guidelines have been developed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), working in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, through a project funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The main objectives of the workshop were to introduce participants to the draft version of the Guidelines and to facilitate coordination among stakeholders for implementing pilot testing activities. The workshop also provided the opportunity to initiate national discussions among stakeholders on updating Serbia's NIP. Participants included representatives from various ministries and government agencies working areas such as chemicals management, agriculture, health and environmental pro-



Discussion session in the workshop

tection, as well as representatives from academia and the electronic waste and used vehicles recycling industries. Following the workshop, activities are to be implemented in Serbia to assess the applicability of the Guidelines. Feedback gathered through these activities will contribute to the revision of the draft version of the Guidelines.

## SUB-REGIONAL GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE WORKSHOP IN MEXICO



Green Customs Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Central America Sub-region including Mexico in El Salvador will be representing the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions during a forthcoming sub-regional Green Customs Initiative (GCI) workshop in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico on March 6. to 8. 2012. The Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) and the National Ozone Office are hosting the workshop. Following a train-the-trainers approach, the workshop will invite senior trainers of national customs schools from Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Brazil and Venezuela and from regional training institutes.

The focus will be principally placed on chemical and wastes Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Enhance customs officers' knowledge of the trade control measures under various MEAs, particularly chemical and wastes MEAs,
- Increase customs officers' awareness of their role in enforcing various MEAs (particularly chemical and wastes MEAs),
- Agree on a draft *National Green Customs Training Module* to be considered for the curriculum of national customs training schools,
- Highlight inter-linkages and possible synergies in the enforcement of various MEAs (particularly chemical and wastes MEAs),
- Encourage experience sharing and networking amongst participating countries and regional agencies and institutions, and
- Agree on a reporting mechanism to assess the need to conduct follow-up training with participants.

More information on [www.greencustoms.org](http://www.greencustoms.org) or contact Mrs. Juliette Voinov Kohler in the Secretariat ([Juliette.kohler@unep.org](mailto:Juliette.kohler@unep.org)).

## THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON “ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF E-WASTE” FROM 8 TO 11 JANUARY 2012

Basel Convention Regional Centre & Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Iran in cooperation with Iran Department of Environment held two events simultaneously on January 8. to 11. 2012 in Tehran: “The Regional Workshop on Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste” and “The First International Exhibition and Workshops on Waste Management, Recycling, and Biomass” This internationally recognized event brought attention to one of the biggest challenges that the countries in the region face today, an ever-increasing need to tackle wastes and make the management of it more effective and efficient. The main goal of the exhibition and workshops was to provide a unique opportunity to share new methods, technologies, best practices, and future directions on the waste management, recycling and biomass. Some of the technical topics which were presented during the workshop are:

- Introduction on Environmentally Sound Management and Trans-boundary Movement of E-waste under Basel and Stockholm Convention regulations
- Hazardous components of E-waste (with special reference to Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) emissions reduc-



Presentation by the expert in the workshop

tion from e-waste)

- Inventory of E-waste
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policy and Management System in collection, separation and recycling process
- Collection, Storage, Separation, Dismantling and Transport of E-waste (review the technical guidelines for Collection, Storage, Labelling and Dismantling)
- Cost-benefit analysis of E-waste management in the region
- Equipment and Facility requirements for E-waste management

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS

Date	Activity	Venue
6-8 Mar	National Green Customs Initiative workshop	Merida, Mexico
14-16 Mar	Pan-African E-waste Forum	Nairobi, Kenya
19-23 Mar	Eighth Meeting of the Chemicals Review Committee under the Rotterdam Convention	Geneva, Switzerland
4 -7 Jun	GEF Governing Council	Washington DC, US
27 Jun- 2 Jul	Mercury intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC-4)	Punta del Este, Uruguay

### WEBINARS

Topic	Date /Time (GMT +1 ) (Duration 1 hour)
Opportunities to phase out Lindane in pharmaceutical uses	8 March, 10 am (GMT+1h): <a href="#">Register</a>
How to benefit from and to contribute to the POPRC's work?	17 April, 4 pm (in Sp) (GMT+2h): <a href="#">Register</a> 19 April, 10 am (in Eng)(GMT+2h): <a href="#">Register</a>
How to enhance PCB inventories: Identifying PCBs in closed and open applications	8 May, 4 pm (GMT+2h): <a href="#">Register</a> 10 May, 10 am (GMT+2h): <a href="#">Register</a>
How to avoid cross-contamination: Managing PCBs in an environmentally sound manner	19 June, 4 pm (in Sp) (GMT+2h): <a href="#">Register</a> 21 June, 1 pm (in Eng) (GMT+2h): <a href="#">Register</a>

### 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](http://www.pops.int).

To request assistance, please send a message to: [TA@pops.int](mailto:TA@pops.int).

