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ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

The amendments to the Stockholm Convention listing nine new POPs in Annexes A, B and C enter into force on 26 August 2010. To celebrate this historical event, the Secretariat is organizing a number of activities. A press conference will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, during which a live connection will be established with the Sea Dragon boat, anchored in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This scientific monitoring boat will set sail to document the extent of drifting plastic pollution and monitor deepwater fish for their POPs levels in the South Atlantic Ocean. The 5Gyres expedition, conducted in cooperation with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (University of California), is a part-



Bow of the Sea Dragon

ner of Safe Planet, a joint public awareness and outreach campaign of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The celebrations will close with a musical performance by the opera singer Jeanai La Vita and the Guitarist Giacomo La Vita at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

CONTACTING THE SECRETARIAT

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

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OBLIGATIONS

The amendments to the Stockholm Convention adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting held in May 2009, enter into force on 26 August 2010 for 152 of the 172 Parties to the Stockholm Convention. In light of the above, attention is drawn to the following obligations under the Convention:

- Register for specific exemptions (Paragraph 3 of Article 4) and acceptable purposes: any Party may, by means of written notification to the Secretariat, register for one or more types of specific exemptions or acceptable purposes listed in Annexes A or B of the Convention. A form is available for PFOS, its salts and PFOS-F. For more information and to submit entries for the different registers, please visit: www.pops.int/exemptions (the page will be available very shortly);
- Review and update of the National Implementation Plan pursuant to Article 7 para-

The nine new chemicals

- Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane;
- Beta hexachlorocyclohexane;
- Chlordecone;
- Hexabromobiphenyl;
- Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether (commercial octabromodiphenyl ether);
- Lindane;
- Pentachlorobenzene;
- Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;
- Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether (commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether).

graph (c), including the relevant development or update of the action plans for unintentionally produced chemicals called for under Article 5.



FUNDING FOR POPS UNDER THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY—GEF

The negotiations for the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention, came to a successful conclusion on 12 May 2010 with a total of thirty-five donors pledging \$4.3 billion for programming in the next four years in the different strategic focal areas. The allocation for chemicals covering *inter alia*: ozone depleting substances, POPs, mercury and sound management of chemicals, adds up to \$420 million; out of which \$375 million will be allocated for POPs solely. This represents a 20% increase in new resources for POPs compared with the previous allocation.

For the funding amount committed for POPs under GEF-5, different programming activities have been identified and earmarked. For instance, the review and update of National Implementation Plans on POPs (NIPs) to assess newly listed POPs has been identified as one of the key eligible activities for funding under GEF-5.

For funding activities related to Convention reports and communications such as the development and update of NIPs under the Stockholm Convention, the Council, the governing body of the GEF, approved at its 38th meeting in July 2010, among others major reforms, direct access to GEF resources for recipient countries. In the perspective of the 39th meeting of the GEF Council in November 2010, where the funding template for the update and review of NIPs will be considered



Members of the GEF Task Force

for approval, countries are encouraged to start internal consultation on this issue to be able to submit proposals to the GEF shortly thereafter.

The GEF Inter-agency Task Force on POPs, which is composed of the Secretariat of the GEF, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, and GEF implementing agencies, which include the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, met in Geneva on 21-23 June 2010. The objective of the POPs task-force meeting was to exchange information on the status of implementation of GEF POPs projects and to clarify possible strategic issues related to the implementation of the guidance to the financial mechanism from the COP.

Training opportunity

FAO in collaboration with the University of Cape Town are running a Postgraduate Diploma in Pesticide Risk Management which aims to equip candidates with the knowledge and skills to enable them to practice as a pesticide risk manager in line with the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution of Pesticides.

Applications are invited for this flexible programme, which runs over two years with web-based courses and face-to-face learning, including examinations during 4 weeks in Cape Town.

For further information please contact: Mrs. Sharon Ferguson Sharon.ferguson@uct.ac.za. **Closing date 30 September 2010**



Ridding the World of POPs

As part of the celebrations to mark the entry into force on 26 August 2010 of the amendments to Annexes A, B and C of the Convention, the Secretariat has revised and updated its publication "Ridding the world of POPs" in order to reflect the changes to the Convention. A documentation package including the amended Convention text (preliminary version), the revised version of "Ridding the world of POPs" and the brochure "The 9 new POPs" detailing the chemicals' characteristics, will be sent to Parties.

These publications are available on the Convention's website: www.pops.int. If you wish to receive hard copies, please send a request to the Secretariat at: ssc@pops.int

National Reporting under Stockholm Convention

The deadline for Parties to submit their report pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention is **31 October 2010**. In addition to the regional training workshops on the use of the electronic system for reporting, the Secretariat is also organizing a series of **national reporting days** as well as tailored webinar sessions on request. **The third Reporting Day is scheduled for 22 September 2010.**

Parties that have not received the relevant user ID and passwords should contact the Secretariat at ssc@pops.int.

SMALL GRANT PROGRAMME/REGIONAL CENTRES

A Small Grant Programme was established in 2009 by the Secretariat within the Regional centres programme under the Convention. The Small Grant Programme aims at providing technical assistance for capacity building to eligible Parties for implementing their obligations under the Stockholm Convention through Regional Centres by allocating funds on a competitive basis to selected project proposals. The initial funding for the Programme was made available by the government of Norway. The Stockholm Convention Regional Centres have been invited to submit project proposals

on two occasions. For the year 2009, two projects proposals were funded through this programme: the submission by the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Sao Paulo, Brazil and that by the Stockholm Convention Nominated Centre in Algiers, Algeria.

The deadline for submission of project proposals for the year 2010 closed on 31 July 2010 and the selected projects will be announced after the summer. For further information on the Programme, please visit our website.

6TH SUMMER SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY AND ECOTOXICOLOGY

The Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX) of the Masaryk University and the Regional Centre for capacity building and transfer of technology in the region of Central and Eastern Europe in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic organized the 6th Summer School of Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology.

The Summer School held in Brno, Czech Republic from 28 June to 3 July 2010, addressed various aspects of the environmental contamination. As in previous years, it was taught in two classes; the first one covering laboratory and field studies designed to answer current problems of environmental chemistry and ecotoxicology of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and the second one focusing on capacity building for the Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention.

During the 6th Summer School, special attention was given to the issues of bioavailability, bioaccessibility, and passive sampling techniques for air, water, sediments, and soils. The key scientific lectures were given by the invited experts from the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Denmark, Switzerland, Slovakia, and Finland, and by RECETOX researchers. Further lectures addressed environmental monitoring, biomonitoring, data analysis and visualization using the geographical information systems. The programme included intensive laboratory training, as well as a field trip to the Košetice observatory, the station of the European Monitoring and Evaluation Program where the integrated monitoring of POPs has been ongoing since 1998, in cooperation with RECETOX and the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute.



Participants during the laboratory training

Several social events were also organized for the Summer School students including the sight-seeing visit to the historical city of Brno and an evening with Moravian folk music.

Out of 56 participating students from 31 countries, 13 received support from the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and 7 from the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. The Summer School was also supported by the CETOCOEN, a project of the European Operational Program Research and Development for Innovations.

Feedback from the participants

"It was a fabulous, intellectually stimulating as well as a fun week in Brno for which I cannot thank you enough!"

-Ipek Imamoglu, Associate Professor from the Ankara University in Turkey

"I am thankful to RECETOX and its team for organization of Super 6th Summer School at Brno. The logistics, theme, lectures and field visits were very relevant."

-Neeta Thacker, Head of Analytical Instruments Division of the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute in India

"I am very grateful for your two consecutive trainings. First in 2007 on POP pesticides and PCBs and this time on dioxins. I pray that you will help us to build some scientific capacity to provide data that is so urgent!"

-Vincent Madadi, ROG coordinator for the Stockholm Convention from Nairobi

"I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention for facilitating the sponsorship which enabled me to attend the summer school. The 6th summer school was unique in various respects. It has particularly cleared and sharpened my mind in various aspects of environmental chemistry and ecotoxicology. Bravo to the excellent RECETOX team"

-Sam Adu-Kumi, Ghana



Participants in the 6th Summer School of Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS IN CEE

As part of the series of workshops on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the three Secretariats are organizing, in collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe, a three-day workshop for Central and Eastern Europe which will take place from 20 to 22 September 2010 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

On the 1st day, participants will be familiarized with the process under way to further promote cooperation and coordination among the Conventions and their status of implementation in the region.

The 2nd and 3rd days of the workshop will focus on resource mobilization activities. A training module on the development of project proposals for a coordinated implementation of the Conventions has been developed by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in cooperation with the three Secretariats. This module will be delivered along with a session on strategic guidance on resource mobilization in the field of chemicals and hazardous wastes.

The training session aims at increasing Parties' knowledge on the different avail-

able sources of funding as well as the procedures, and strategies for accessing these sources of funding. It will also address the benefits of use of networks and strategic partnership in the area of resource mobilization.



Bratislava, Slovakia

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2010

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE	TARGET AUDIENCE
16-19 August	Regional Workshop on New POPs, the Process for Reviewing and Updating National Implementation Plans, and Reporting Requirements under Article 15	Ibadan, Nigeria	OCPs and FPs from English-speaking African Parties
23-24 August	National Workshop on New POPs	Abuja, Nigeria	National Stakeholders
26 August	Entry into force of the amendments to Annexes A, B and C of the Stockholm Convention		All Stakeholders
20-22 September	Regional Awareness Raising Workshop 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 Centres	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
11-15 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, and Reporting Requirements under Article 15	Dakar, Senegal	OCPs and FPs from French-speaking African Parties
22-25 November	Regional Workshop on New POPs, the Process for Reviewing and Updating National Implementation Plans, and Reporting Requirements under Article 15	Bangkok, Asia	OCPs and FPs from Asia
22-24 November	Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Cairo, Egypt	OCPs, DNAs, FPs from Arabic-speaking Parties
6-8 December	Regional Awareness Raising Workshop 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 Parties

**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 our activities, please visit: www.pops.int.

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

