

Note to the Stockholm Convention Bureau members on the process initiated by the Secretariat to verify whether the newly nominated Stockholm Convention centre met the criteria set out in decisions SC-1/15, SC-2/9 and as further specified by decision SC-3/12

I. Mandate

1. Paragraph 4 of Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants states:

The Parties shall establish, as appropriate, arrangements for the purpose of providing technical assistance and promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of this Convention. These arrangements shall include regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under this Convention. Further guidance in this regard shall be provided by the Conference of the Parties.

2. In its decision SC-2/9, the Conference of the Parties adopted terms of reference for regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology under the Stockholm Convention, together with criteria for evaluating their performance.
3. In its decision SC-3/12, the Conference of the Parties agreed on the terms of reference for the selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Convention.
4. Further, by paragraph 1 of decision SC-3/12, the Conference of the Parties invited the nomination by regions, through the regional representatives on the bureau, of institutions, including Basel Convention regional centres or other relevant existing institutions, to serve as Stockholm Convention regional centres or subregional centres.
5. Paragraph 5 (c) of the terms of reference for selection of regional centre, which are annexed to decision SC-3/12, states that “the Secretariat will verify in consultation with the bureau that the nominated Stockholm Convention centres meet the criteria contained in decisions SC-1/15 and SC-2/9”.
6. The Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting endorsed eight institutions, as listed in annex I of decision SC-4/23, to serve as Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for technical assistance and the transfer of technology for a period of four years. The Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting endorsed seven more institutions, as listed in annex I of decision SC-5/21, from among the nominated Stockholm Convention centres to serve as Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for technical assistance and the transfer of technology for a period of four years.

II. Process

7. As at 1 October 2012, the Secretariat had received, through the Bureau member of Asia and the Pacific region, one new nomination of an institution wishing to become Stockholm Convention regional or subregional centre. This institution is the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South East Asia (BCRC-SEA) located in Jakarta, Indonesia.
8. Following its nomination in 2011, BCRC-SEA submitted information on its legal status and other aspects related to the terms of reference of Stockholm Convention regional centres as set forth in decision SC-2/9. In particular; the newly regional centre has completed and submitted the format for providing relevant information pertaining to the terms of reference for the selection of regional centres, as set out in decision SC-3/12.
9. All the information provided by the newly nominated regional centre is available on the Convention’s website at:

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/RegionalCentres/NominationStatus/BCRCJakartaIndonesia/tabid/2316/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

III. Information collected on the newly nominated regional centre in accordance with the criteria set out in decisions SC-1/15 and SC-2/9

10. Pursuant to the terms of reference for the selection of the regional and subregional centres under the Stockholm Convention, as set out in Annex I to decision SC-2/9, the Secretariat initiated a process to verify whether the newly nominated centre met the criteria set out in decisions SC-1/15 and SC-2/9. In this regard, the Secretariat reviewed the information provided by the centre as mentioned in paragraph 8 above and is presented below. The Secretariat made a verification visit to the centre in July 2012 in order to finalize this document.

A. Identified areas of technical assistance and technology transfer needs

11. The nominated centre has indicated that it has expertise in almost all the areas of technical assistance set out in decision SC-1/15. A list of the areas of expertise of the nominated centre, pursuant to decision SC-1/15, is set forth in table 3 in the annex to the present note. During the verification visit, the centre arranged a meeting with representatives of the Integrated Laboratory of the Bogor Agricultural University which conducts studies on POPs in different media. Both institutions have expressed their interest in strengthening their collaboration through institutional arrangements.

B. Objectives and work plans

12. In line with decision SC-2/9, which sets out the terms of reference for regional centres, the nominated centre submitted a work plan on 4 January 2012 for the biennium 2012-2013. The work plan can be consulted on the Convention's webpage at <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/RegionalCentres/NominationStatus/BCRCJakartaIndonesia/tabid/2316/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

C. Geographical location, premises and institutional arrangements

13. The centre operates in the Asian and Pacific region and has listed 8 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) to be the beneficiaries of the centre.
14. The centre has indicated that it has small office space but fully equipped with the necessary personal computers and have good operational communication facilities, including telephone lines, fax and internet facilities. Furthermore, the centre has also indicated that the meeting facilities and analytical laboratories owned and managed by the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia are available for the use of the centre. During the verification visit, a high-level government representative, namely the Indonesia's Deputy Minister for Hazardous Substances, Hazardous Wastes and Solid Waste Management, indicated that the centre could make use of the training centre operated by his department which had excellent training and boarding facility.
15. The centre indicated that it had four qualified in-house technical personnel with recognized competence in capacity-building in the areas identified in decision SC-1/15 and have submitted the relevant curricula vitae. The centre has also indicated that they have a roster of experts and indicated that it can outsource necessary expertise when necessary.

D. Languages

16. The nominated centre has determined its working language and has indicated that it is capable of communicating in English.

E. Cooperation

17. The centre indicated that it has served as a resource centre for international and national events on chemicals and hazardous waste management related to Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions and has represented the three conventions during Green Customs Initiative workshops in the Asia Pacific region.

F. Legal status

18. The centre has a legal status of an autonomous national institution with a regional role.

G. Coordinator and other staff

19. The centre has nominated a coordinator and a contact person to liaise with the Secretariat. Both the coordinator and the contact person have technical expertise in the areas of technical assistance as identified in decision SC-1/15.

20. A checklist summarizing the information provided above, and indicating whether the nominated centre meets the criteria set out in decision SC-2/9, is set out in table 2 in the annex to the present note.

Annex: Summary information on geographical coverage, institutional arrangements and areas of expertise of the newly nominated centre, pursuant to the terms of reference for regional centres, as set out in decision SC-2/9

Table 1: Geographical coverage of the newly nominated Stockholm Convention centre based on the information submitted by the nominated centre

Region	Nominated centre	Parties to be served by the nominated centre	Non Parties to be served
Asia and the Pacific	BCRC-SEA	Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam	

Note: Among the Parties listed above, Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam are also listed by SCRC-China as eligible Parties to be served by the centre. NEERI, India has also listed Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam as eligible Parties covered by the centre.

Table 2: Compliance of the newly nominated Stockholm Convention centre with the terms of reference for regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology under the Stockholm Convention, as set out in decision SC-2/9

TORs set out in decision SC-2/9	Relevance of BCRC-SEA
(a) Taking into account the work done under other MEAs Basel/CP/UNEP/UNIDO	√(Basel)
(b) Expertise of centre meets TA requirement of the region	√
(c) Location of the institution provides easy access to Parties	√
(d) Eligible to receive financial support from financial mechanism	√
(e) Highly qualified technical personnel with recognized competence in technical assistance and technology transfer	√
(f) Equipped with	
i. Adequate number of PCs with up-to-date software	√
ii. Good communication facilities with telephone and fax	√
iii. Reliable internet connection	√
iv. Adequate meeting facilities and access thereto	√
(g) Serve definite group of Parties in region or subregion	√
(h) Possibility to serve beyond the region	√
(i) The working language of the centre has been defined	√
(j) Legal status: It is an independent legal entity operating as a separate legal entity	√
(k) Designated a liaison staff member to communicate with secretariat as contact person	√
(l) Coordinator of the centre has:	
i. Technical background	√
ii. Project management competency	√
iii. Experience in technical assistance and capacity building	√

Table 3: Relevance of the newly nominated Stockholm Convention centre with the areas of technical assistance pursuant to decision SC-1/15

21. Areas of technical assistance and technology transfer	Relevance of BCRC-SEA
(a) Development, updating and implementation of <i>NIPs</i>	√
(b) Identification and promotion of <i>BAT & BEP</i>	√
(c) Identification and <i>disposal of POPs</i> , transfer of E S technologies	√
(d) Identification and <i>remediation of POPs</i> -contaminated sites	√
(e) Effectiveness evaluation, including POPs levels <i>monitoring</i>	√
(f) Review of <i>infrastructure, capacity and institutions'</i> potential to strengthen them	√
(g) Establishment of <i>laboratory capacity</i>	-
(h) Development and strengthening <i>research capacity including:</i>	
(i) Development and introduction of alternatives to POPs	-
(ii) Training of technical personnel	-
(i) Development of a <i>list of technologies</i> to be transferred	√
(j) Identification of <i>barriers</i> of technology transfer & solutions	√
(k) Enforcement of <i>regulatory controls and incentives</i> for the sound management of <i>POPs</i>	√
(l) Promotion of <i>awareness-raising</i> and information dissemination	√
(m) <i>Training</i> for decision makers, managers and personnel in:	
(i) <i>Persistent organic pollutants</i> identification	√
(ii) Technical assistance needs identification	√
(iii) Project proposal writing	√
(iv) Legislation development and enforcement	-
(v) Development of an inventory of <i>POPs</i>	√
(vi) Risk assessment and management of PCBs, PCDD/Fs	√
(vii) Evaluation of social and economic impacts	√
(viii) Development of PRTR	√