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## UNEP/UNDP partnership on mainstreaming

UNEP and UNDP have developed a partnership model on mainstreaming of chemicals into the development agenda which may be used by countries wishing to do so. The partnership model proposal builds on the unique support services that can be provided by the cooperating agencies.

UNEP provides support service on normative development, technical analysis, piloting of innovative approaches – synergies with the UNEP-WHO Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI) and science-based guidance and knowledge services, whereas UNDP offers support service on capacity development, integrated policy design,

*The UNEP Chemicals Newsletter is published periodically to give readers world-wide an update of activities to promote the environmentally sound management of chemicals and so help protect public health and the environment.*

*UNEP promotes sustainable development by catalysing vital global actions and building national capacity for the sound management of chemicals through information exchange, training, and capacity building.*

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support to MDG-based national development assessment and investment planning processes, implementation at the country level. The overall objective of the partnership is to provide tools to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to establish much stronger links with the development planning priorities, processes and plans of developing countries. Uganda and Ecuador have received funding through the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund on this subject and the partnership will be implemented in both countries. Similar efforts in other countries are under consideration.

Further information can be found on <http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/default.html> or <http://www.undp.org/chemicals/initiatives/UNDPUNEPpartnershipinitiative>.

### Senegal customs

On 17-19 April 2007, UNEP Chemicals Branch will hold a multi-stakeholders workshop in Dakar, Senegal that aims at providing assistance and capacity building for customs in Senegal relevant to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). This workshop is part of a customs training project funded by the Canadian government that is implemented within the context of the Green Customs initiative.

## UNEP Chemicals information packages

In a rapidly globalizing economy, access to scientific and technical information has a critical role to play in development and in sound environmental management of chemicals as called for in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21. In line with the objectives of the 2002 Johannesburg Summit for ensuring the sound management of chemicals by 2020, UNEP Chemicals Branch provides expertise on the management of chemicals at all stages of their lifecycle. It aims to reduce the information gap and strengthen capacity in environmental monitoring and assessment: it provides a Query-Response Service and makes available

publications (<http://portalserver.unepchemicals.ch/Publications/>). In collaboration with the joint UNEP/OCHA Unit supports response to environmental spills and chemical emergencies. The Chemical Information Exchange Network (CIEN) project has improved access to sources of information on chemicals and facilitated networking at the national and sub-regional levels. CIEN can serve as a base for the development a clearing house under MEAs, as in Morocco for example (<http://jp1.estis.net/communities/cien/>). UNEP Chemicals Branch, in collaboration with other IOMC partners, promotes pollutant release and transfer registries (PRTRs). The adoption and strengthening of PRTRs in countries of Asia and Africa will provide data that could be useful under the GMP of the Stockholm Convention.

### Status of mercury partnerships

Currently mercury partnerships cover five main sectors – coal combustion, chlor-alkali production, artisan and small-scale gold mining, products containing mercury and fate and transport. Following the decision by the Governing Council, consultations will be held with interested stakeholders to consider broadening the scope or number of the partnerships, establish clear objectives for each partnership and agree on measurable outcomes. Good progress can then be made towards the overall objective of eliminating mercury releases to the environment from anthropogenic sources.



# UNEP Chemicals Newsletter

### Illegal traffic

As a follow up to SAICM, the Czech Republic and UNEP Chemicals Branch, with the support of Germany, organized a symposium on illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals in November 2006. The purpose was to share information and experiences on the magnitude and adverse effects of illegal international trade in hazardous chemicals, and to evaluate existing measures to address such illegal traffic. The conclusions, as well as further information on the symposium, can be found on [www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/prague\\_nov06/](http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/prague_nov06/)

### SAICM Secretariat

At the request of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), UNEP has established and assumed overall administrative responsibility for the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), in which WHO is also expected to assume a lead role. The secretariat is co-located with UNEP's chemicals and waste cluster in Geneva, within UNEP Chemicals Branch. Its functions include servicing the ICCM and the SAICM Quick Start Programme, organizing intersessional meetings, providing information clearing house services and maintaining a stakeholder network. Please visit [www.chem.unep.ch/](http://www.chem.unep.ch/)

## Mercury

Mercury was one of the top topics at this year's Governing Council (GC.24). Interested countries had started consulting in December 2006 and negotiations continued in a contact group until the last afternoon of GC.24. The main topic during the week was whether voluntary mechanisms were adequate or whether there was a need for a legally binding instrument.

The ongoing work of the mercury programme is to be continued, with support for ongoing country projects. Priorities for work are established, including addressing releases of mercury as well as reducing supply of and demand for mercury as well as long-term storage of mercury and contaminated sites. Countries and UNEP are responsible for gathering and updating information in relation to these and other issues. Overall, the decision strengthens the role of partnerships, emphasising the need for structure, objectives and

## SAICM Implementation in UNEP

In early 2005, the Governing Council of UNEP requested the Executive Director, as a matter of high priority, to make appropriate provision for the implementation of UNEP's responsibilities under SAICM and to make provision for activities to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing SAICM. In response, an inter-divisional working group has developed a work plan for supporting implementation of SAICM during the period 2008-2020. The work plan was noted at the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of UNEP's Governing Council in February 2007 and UNEP was requested to encourage full participation of Governments and stakeholder in that plan. The work plan includes activities in 4 areas:

- Activities related to capacity building;
- Activities related to risk assessment, management and communication;
- Activities related to international actions on specific chemicals and MEAs of relevance for chemicals;
- Activities for monitoring of progress.



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Water governance. The decision also establishes an ad-hoc open-ended working group to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments. This group will meet in late 2007, and consider the available updated information, discuss options relating to different aspects of the mercury issue.



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Fire Activities related to Mercury and other metals will continue in accordance with the decision of the Governing Council.

Further information can be found on <http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/default.html>.

## From the Director



Air

Chemicals management was one of the main technical areas discussed during the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNEP Governing Council. Several aspects were considered, including illegal traffic, enhanced cooperation and collaboration among the chemicals and waste conventions, the

progress on SAICM implementation, and mercury and other heavy metals. Reports in this issue highlight progress on all the issues discussed. The one aspect

that, once again, emerged, was the fact that there was a wide consensus about the importance chemicals for development and, consequently, of sound management of chemicals worldwide. Differences in opinion about the most suitable approaches to managing particular chemicals at the international level did not stand in the way of moving the global chemicals agenda forward. The omnibus decision on chemicals management is a vivid example of the commitment around the world to the goal of the Johannesburg plan of implementation "that, by 2020, chemicals should be produced and used in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment". UNEP's Chemicals Branch stands ready, in collaboration with partners, to continue to play its role in this respect.

*Maged Younes, Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE*

## Worldwide capacity to analyse POPs

The UNEP/GEF project to enhance the capacity to analyse POPs worldwide, supports the implementation of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions. Direct support, with training, supply of spares and consumables, was given to nine laboratories in seven developing countries – China, Ecuador, Fiji, Kenya, Moldova, Uruguay, and Vietnam. Experienced analytical laboratories from the Netherlands and Sweden have cooperated with recipient institutions and exchanged analytical samples.

The first results from the inter-laboratory comparison study are promising. A searchable databank presently containing 182 POPs laboratories is accessible through the Web <http://www.chem.unep.ch/databank/Home/>

[Welcome.aspx](#). This databank is a useful source of information to identify laboratories according to capabilities: for example, out of 182 laboratories only 50 analyze PCDD/PCDF but 136 analyze DDT and 131 HCB or PCB, respectively. The capability for the analysis of mirex and toxaphene is limited as well. With respect to the matrices that can be analysed, most laboratories can handle water (144) or soil/sediment (134); less capability is available with regard to mothers' milk or human blood (42), ambient air (52) and stack emissions (58). Follow-up activities are planned to further strengthen the laboratories and contribute to the effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention.

### PCBs

In December 2006, UNEP Chemicals Branch issued the publication "Inventory of Transformer Manufacturers". This compilation provides information about manufacturers of electrical equipment that produced transformers that contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and/or mineral oil during the last century. It is available at the following web site: [http://portalserver.unepchemicals.ch/Publications/PCB\\_CompilTransformerManufacturers.pdf](http://portalserver.unepchemicals.ch/Publications/PCB_CompilTransformerManufacturers.pdf).

## Synergy



Earth

A trio of complementary decisions adopted by the Parties to the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions have established a framework for consideration of how to enhance cooperation and coordination between these three Conventions.

The three decisions establish an ad-hoc joint working group, comprising fifteen representatives of Parties for

each Convention, drawn in equal numbers from each of the five UN regional groups. The Group is tasked with developing joint recommendations to be presented to the Conferences of the Parties of the three Conventions, which should identify ways to enhance cooperation and coordination at the administrative and programmatic levels. In its deliberations, the Group may take account of the programmes of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, as well as developments in the wider UN reform process. The Group may make proposals that address enhanced coordination at the national, regional and international levels. The Group will hold its first meeting in Helsinki from 26-28 March 2007. Further information may be found on the Group's website (<http://ahjwg.chem.unep.ch>). The three secretariats are jointly providing support to the Group.

## Stockholm Convention - update

The previous six months have been very active in terms of work under the Stockholm Convention. The provisional ad-hoc technical working group on GMP, which met in October 2006 and January 2007, developed a GMP and a plan for implementing it. The POPs Review Committee met in November 2006 and progressed in its work of assessing the 10 chemicals proposed as POPs to be listed in the Convention. An expert group on DDT met in November 2006 and prepared a report to be used by the COP to evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control. The expert group on BAT/BEP for unintentionally produced POPs met in November 2006 and completed its work on guidelines for BAT/BEP. A meeting of experts held in December

2006 commenced an open and transparent process for updating the standardized toolkit for identification and quantification of dioxin and furan releases. The outcomes of these activities will be referred to the COP meeting on 30 April to 4 May 2007 in Dakar, Senegal. Just prior to COP.3, the second meeting of the ad-hoc working group on non-compliance will be held from 25-27 April 2007 also in Dakar.



Place de l'an 2000, Dakar

## Rotterdam Convention - update

Very encouraging feedback was received from Parties during COP-3 held in October 2006: Governments are increasingly using the PIC notification and information-exchange mechanisms, they have adopted new regulations and laws, allocated funds; they have also reached out to stakeholders and are sharing possible solutions and best practices with one another, specifically to address their obligations under the Rotterdam Convention.

The Convention's work is currently focused around the following areas:

(a) Ongoing work on developing a non-compliance regime: there are encouraging

prospects for the adoption a compliance regime for the Convention in the near future.

(b) Consideration of new chemicals and pesticides to Annex III, particularly those that are still actively traded (such as chrysotile asbestos and endosulfan), supported by the ongoing work of the Chemicals Review Committee.

(c) Delivery of key technical assistance activities for the 2007-2008 biennium, consisting principally of training workshops and guidance material aimed at gaining experience in the practical implementation of the convention an identifying national and regional priorities for action.

Upcoming events:

CRC-3, Rome, 20-23 March 2007  
COP-4, Rome 20-24 October 2008

### Status of the Stockholm Convention ratifications

To date, there are 143 Parties to the Stockholm Convention. New Parties since last issue: Algeria, Angola, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Maldives, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan and Nepal.

### Status of the Rotterdam Convention ratifications

The Convention entered into force on 24 February 2004. To date, there are 114 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

## Basel Convention - update

The Basel Convention COP.8 met in November 2006. A World Forum on E-waste was convened, which helped shape the Nairobi Declaration on E-Waste, a global strategy to address e-wastes, in the broader context of the environmentally sound management of end-of-life equipment, and the Millennium Development Goals. Against the backdrop of the toxic waste dumping in Côte d'Ivoire in 2006, COP.8 mandated the Secretariat to look into the gaps between the Basel and MARPOL Conventions.

On the issue of synergies, COP.8 adopted a decision on cooperation and synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. In the decision, COP.8 agrees to the establishment of an ad-hoc joint working group, which will make recommendations to the

COPs of the three chemicals-related conventions (please see "Synergy" article). Also, mercury and asbestos wastes were adopted as new Strategic Plan Focus Areas. One area of activity will be the development of Technical Guidelines on wastes containing asbestos and mercury respectively. Another activity will be the development of pilot projects, with UNEP Chemicals Branch, on the environmentally sound management of wastes containing mercury. For more information on COP.8, please visit [www.basel.int](http://www.basel.int).



Opening ceremony of SBC/COP.8, Nairobi