



UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch Newsletter

March 2016

Division of Technology, Industry and Economics



Friends and Colleagues,

In 2015, we witnessed the adoption of landmark agreements in the areas of sustainable development and climate change. Equally relevant, the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management advanced chemicals and waste management until, and beyond 2020, and the UNEP/IETC Global Waste Management Outlook helped to put waste management on the global policy agenda. In 2016, momentum for implementation is building, creating opportunities for new partnerships and linkages. The 2nd meeting of the UN Environment Assembly in 2016 is a milestone in this process. Chemicals and waste management is relevant both for the UNEA2 overall theme “Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the Post-2015 Development Agenda” and the High-Level Segment on “Healthy Environment – Healthy People”. From INC 7, to expert consultations on SDGs and the next Global Chemicals Outlook, to national capacity development, UNEP’s DTIE Chemicals and Waste Branch is supporting a range of actions in 2016 to help “connect the dots”, as we collectively implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We look forward to working with all of you in this exciting endeavor.

Achim Halpaap, Head,
Chemicals and Waste Branch,
DTIE, UNEP

INC 7 prepares for entry into force of Minamata Convention, March 2016

Dead Sea, Jordan - 10 to 15 March 2016: Governments and a wide range of stakeholders from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will be gathering in March 2016 in Jordan on the occasion of the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on mercury (INC7). With the Minamata Convention on Mercury expected to enter into force in 2017, INC7 is likely to be the last session of the Committee that “gave birth” to the Minamata Convention in 2013.

The Minamata Convention is the first new treaty on chemicals and waste since nearly a decade. It was adopted at a Diplomatic Conference in Kumamoto, Japan in October 2013. Entry into force of the Convention will take place 90 days after the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession is deposited. Twenty three countries have already deposited their instruments, and a number of governments are well advanced in their ratification processes.

INC7 will discuss the final stages of preparations for the entry into force of the Minamata Convention and the first meeting of its Conference of the Parties (COP1). Governments will have six days available to address a number of issues, and to advance activities required or encouraged by the Convention to facilitate rapid entry into force and implementation of the Convention. This includes adoption of provisional guidance to facilitate the work in countries in the period preceding COP1.

Ambassador Fernando Lugris, in his scenario note for INC7, expressed his hope that “If we tackle the task with flexibility, a cooperative spirit, and an appetite for hard work; that will be an achievable goal.”

www.mercuryconvention.org

Regional meetings strengthen the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, January-March 2016

The Asia-Pacific, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and Caribbean regions gained a better understanding of the work of the Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) through a series of “GMP Awareness Raising and Knowledge Sharing Events” organized on the margins of INC 7 regional consultations. The Asia-Pacific Region meeting took place on 21 January 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia, this was followed by the African Region on 3 February 2016 in Lusaka, Zambia, the Central and Eastern Europe Region also on 3 February 2016 in Brno, Czech Republic and finally by the Latin America and Caribbean Region on 10 February 2016 in Montevideo, Uruguay. These brought together close to 200 participants.

GMP is a collaborative framework of governments and stakeholders that deliver actions to reduce the risk of mercury on human health and the environment, and thus provide assistance on the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention. The areas of artisanal and small scale gold mining, products containing mercury, mercury waste, and fate and transport research were topics of particular interest identified through the survey.

For more information please contact:
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An on-line survey revealed that only 24 % of participants are “very familiar” with GMP, reflecting a need for further outreach and communication on the GMP. Many respondents requested assistance concerning inventories, guidance materials, demonstration of mercury alternatives and technologies, monitoring, and training. Respondents also recommend that the GMP continue to be the hub of information exchange and a source of technical expertise, as Governments implement the Minamata Convention.



Countries participating in GMP events

UNEP's GEF mercury project portfolio diversifying and growing in 2016

Since the adoption of the Minamata Convention, two types of GEF Enabling Activity projects have been available to countries. Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA) aims at ensuring early entry into force of the Convention. The UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch is currently implementing MIAs in 41 countries. They include a mix of regional and national projects and involve many partners in project execution. Thirty more countries have requested for assistance from the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch in developing their MIAs.

The second type of GEF Enabling Activity is the National Action Plan (NAP), which is an obligation under Article 7 of the Convention, for countries with a more than insignificant Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector. UNEP is currently implementing NAP projects in 10 countries, with 20 countries having requested assistance. To support these efforts, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership developed a guidance document on NAP preparation.

In addition to Enabling Activities, UNEP is working on primary mercury mining through a project in the Kyrgyz Republic, supported by funding from GEF and Norway. Assistance is provided to stakeholders to control mercury pollution, identify alternative livelihoods for the local population, and to build local capacity to remediate the extraction sites.

Working closely with UNEP regional offices, new projects have been developed, which aim at improving the capacity of countries to monitor and control cross-border mercury flow. Work has also been initiated to address the priorities of the countries as identified in their MIAs. These include, inter alia, projects addressing the lack of access to finance in the ASGM sector, mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants, health issues from the use of mercury in dentistry, and the management of waste containing mercury.

For additional information please contact: chemicals@unep.org

Expert meeting on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM), December 2015



A roundtable on “Miners, Minerals and Minamata: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Artisanal Gold Mining and Sustainable Development” took place from 1-3 December 2015 in Vancouver, Canada. The meeting was organized by the Canadian International Resources and Development Institute (CIRDI) in collaboration with UNEP. It brought together international experts on ASGM to advance integrated approaches for reducing mercury use, improving governance, and fostering sustainable development. Many of the participants are active members of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. World Café style roundtables were conducted to elicit expert opinions on key ASGM questions. A public event was held to raise awareness among the broader policy community, including the mining engineering department, university, and the general public. UNEP gave a key note speech at the public event underlining commonalities among the countries as well as opportunities for regional cooperation. In particular, the need for regional approaches on the import and export of mercury containing products, and the monitoring of mercury in the environment.

For additional information please contact: chemicals@unep.org

Share your action: Ready to join the Chemicals in Products Programme in 2016?

Enhancing access to chemicals in product information is a global issue. It requires collaboration on a worldwide scale by the private sector, governments and civil society, and needs to cover the entire life cycle of chemicals. In 2015, ICCM4 welcomed the UNEP Chemicals in Products Programme (CiPP) with its central principle being that stakeholders should have access to relevant and reliable information to make informed decisions about chemicals in products.

In 2016 UNEP is taking steps to put the CiP Programme in motion and extending invitations to all stakeholders to sign up as participants. The Programme is not designed to “collect” chemical information, rather CiPP provides opportunities for stakeholders to showcase their action and facilitate knowledge-sharing on good practices through global collaboration.

How to join and participate in CiPP?

Interested stakeholders should send a letter to UNEP stating that their organization agrees with, and is committed to work towards achieving the objectives of the CiP Programme. Periodically (preferably on an annual basis), CiPP participants will share their action in writing and indicate how those contribute to CiPP objectives. UNEP will share participation in CiPP as well as related action through its website.

The time is now. Join the CiP Programme!

Key Objectives of CiP Programme adopted at ICCM 4

- 1 Within supply chains, to know and exchange information on chemicals in products, associated hazards and sound management practices
- 2 To disclose information of relevance to stakeholders outside the supply chain to enable informed decision-making and actions about chemicals in products
- 3 To ensure that, through due diligence, information is accurate, current and accessible

Who is invited to participate in CiPP?

- Chemicals producers and suppliers
- Brands
- Civil society organization
- Governments

For additional information, please contact: cippprogramme@unep.org

Global monitoring on POPs: GEF-UNEP projects building national capacity underway

An important milestone in global efforts to keep the environment under surveillance is being reached through a capacity-building programme for the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) on POPs entering a second phase.

Regional projects have commenced in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and the Pacific Islands. Inception workshops were successfully held in GRULAC (Montevideo, Uruguay, 1-4 December 2015) and Asia (Hanoi, Vietnam, 25-27 January 2016), bringing together 19 countries in total. Participants developed national work plans, made arrangements for the sampling and analysis of air, water and human milk, and improved their technical expertise, for example in cleaning polyurethane foam disks.

Inception workshop for Pacific Islands (Suva, Fiji) and Africa (Nairobi, Kenya) are scheduled to take place in April 2016.

The projects will enable developing countries to better understand their local situation over time. Air, water and human milk will be analysed, and national laboratories will receive targeted trainings and participate in inter-laboratory assessments. As a result, high quality data on the concentrations of POPs is expected to become available.

For more information, please contact science.chemicals@unep.org

What your hair can tell about your exposure to mercury!

The project 'Development of a Plan for Global Monitoring of Human Exposure to and Environmental Concentrations of Mercury' is harmonizing approaches and strengthening analytical capacities for the accurate monitoring of mercury concentrations in humans and the environment. The project is jointly implemented by the WHO, the Italian National Research Council - Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research (CNR-IIA), and the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch.

Pilot countries have been identified to undertake air and human milk sampling in all UN regions. On 8-12 February 2016, WHO and CNR-IIA trained national coordinators and laboratory analysts, in human biomonitoring and air monitoring. Standard operating procedures for the determination of total mercury in hair, blood and urine, among others, were developed and will be tested during pilot surveys. Efforts are also underway to set up a databank of mercury laboratories and to undertake a global inter-laboratory assessment. Another highlight of the project is the development of a passive air sampler.

For more information, please contact science.chemicals@unep.org



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39 Countries, 87 Cities:

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, October 2015

The third International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) took place from 25-31 October 2015, with events taking place in 87 cities across 39 countries. Activities ranged from art competitions, statements of support and public demonstrations, to policy debates, workshops and scientific conferences. The activities were organized by non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, government ministries and paint manufacturers in schools, universities, shopping centres, community centres and on the streets. Social media were widely used to spread the message.

In Kenya, for example, over 1000 participants drawn from the government, the local community, NGOs, the private sector, school children and teachers, gathered at 'Our lady of Mercy Primary School' in Nairobi to commemorate the Week of Action. Other activities were organized by UNEP, KIRDI and Basco Product Ltd (Paints Products), including awareness raising about lead poisoning and demonstrating lead-free painting of deteriorated surfaces to reduce child exposure.

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action is an initiative of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint co-hosted by UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO). The events in 2015 were supported by partners in the Alliance, including the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), IPEN, UNEP and WHO.



Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, signing the graffiti, Kenya, Nairobi

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A forgotten legacy! 2016 UNEP PCB report shows more than 80 % still to be eliminated



Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have been used extensively across the world in transformers, paints and other applications for more than 80 years and use continues in many areas. About 1 to 1.5 million tonnes of PCBs have been produced, most of which have been released into the environment and often ended up in the food on our plate. As a result, high concentrations of PCBs have been found in human milk, far above the WHO safety levels. PCBs are known carcinogens and endocrine disruptors.

PCBs were among the initial twelve persistent organic pollutants (POPs) listed in the Stockholm Convention, but have now become a forgotten – and highly toxic – legacy. Upon invitation

from the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, UNEP undertook an assessment of progress towards eliminating PCBs. The report, completed in 2016, shows that while some progress has been made, there is an urgent need to expedite and intensify efforts to eliminate PCBs. Based on the limited data available, the report estimates that circa 83 % of the total masses of liquids and equipment containing PCBs have not been eliminated yet. The findings suggest that the scope of the challenge to identify and manage PCBs in an environmentally sound manner has been severely underestimated.

Important steps to be taken include the following: Parties need to urgently adopt appropriate regulatory frameworks and national action plans; improve inventories and reporting; build capacity and transfer technology; and provide necessary human and financial resources. Unless the Parties face this challenge in a concerted and timely manner, it will not be possible to meet the deadline specified in the Stockholm Convention to ensure the environmentally sound management of PCBs by 2028.

For more information, please contact science.chemicals@unep.org

Interested to Learn How to Manage Brominated Flame Retardants? It's Just one Click Away

Information about the sound management of brominated flame retardants, including inventories, regulations, research, alternatives and other useful information, is now easily accessible at: <http://pbde.bcrc.cn>

The regional information sharing platform has been developed by the Chemicals and Waste Branch in cooperation with (and is maintained by) the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific, with the financial support of the Government of China.

For more information, please contact: science.chemicals@unep.org or bcrc@tsinghua.edu.cn



Regional workshop advances synergies for Minamata Convention implementation in Asia and the Pacific, December 2015

The regional workshop on the Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) Activities and Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) National Action Plan (NAP) brought together representatives from ten countries of the Asia and Pacific region, including Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as regional experts from the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science (AIST) of Japan, and BAN Toxics of the Philippines.

The workshop was organized jointly by the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch and the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). It took place at UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, on 14-15 December 2015.

The workshop discussed a range of topics on mercury use and emissions, underlining commonalities among the countries, creating opportunities for regional cooperation.

The need for regional approaches was identified for mercury trade, import/export of mercury containing products, and monitoring of mercury in the environment. Representatives from Mongolia, at the time the only party to the Convention, provided insights on the national ratification process. Participants also shared their experiences on the development and implementation of MIA and NAP projects, with countries at more advanced stages providing feedback and advice to countries initiating such action.

For additional information please contact: chemicals@unep.org



Delegates attending the UNCC meeting in Bangkok, Thailand

Momentum in Africa building-up to phase out lead in paint by 2020

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, - 3 December 2015: Participants from 15 African governments suggested setting legal limits on lead in paint, and a lead content limit in paint of 90ppm. The recommendations were developed during a UNEP-hosted workshop on the establishment of legal limits on lead in paint, 2-3 December 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participating countries include Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP), convened jointly by UNEP and WHO, aims at phasing out lead in paint by 2020. The Alliance

developed a web-based Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Control the Use of Lead in Paint (www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadpaint/toolkit). Workshop participants appreciated the toolkit as a helpful source of information for working towards legal limits for lead in paints.

In 2016, UNEP's efforts for building up momentum to phase out lead in paint by 2020 will take place in China (through south-south cooperation with four African countries); East Africa (development of an East African standard to limit the lead content in decorative paint); and in Central and Eastern Europe.

For more information please contact: metals.chemicals@unep.org



Building capacity in Indonesia to address mercury emissions from artisanal gold mining

Indonesia is one of the largest of users of mercury for ASGM in the world. Because of the country's vast size, thousands of islands, and large numbers of miners, addressing mercury use in ASGM is particularly challenging. To assist Indonesia in addressing the ASGM challenging, UNEP is providing support in a number of areas.

To build capacity at the national and local level, UNEP has teamed up with Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS), an Indonesian NGO. YTS constructed a training centre for miners in East Java. The centre serves as a demonstration of mercury-free ASGM processing techniques, including improved methods for concentrating gold particles using sluices made using locally available palm fibre. In 2015, 37 training events were held with almost 100 miners receiving training in mercury-free techniques. The centre is now operated by three local miners who continue to work with the community to promote mercury-free ASGM.

UNEP also partnered with UNITAR's Operation Satellite Applications Programme to analyse changes in land use from ASGM in Indonesia over time. Using satellite imagery, the analysis documented a boom of ASGM-related deforestation over the last 10-12 years in parts of Central Kalimantan. The results assist national and regional authorities in managing and monitoring ASGM and its impacts.

Recognizing that a sustainable and strategic approach to addressing ASGM requires commitment of the national government, the project brought together stakeholders to discuss finalizing Indonesia's national action plan (NAP) to make it compliant with the Minamata Convention. The workshops assisted the national government in understanding the need and benefits of updating a NAP and the funding sources available for it.

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is a source of livelihood for an estimated 10-15 million miners worldwide, plus millions more in associated communities. ASGM is widespread, occurring in more than 70 countries. It's also the largest source of mercury pollution, releasing more than 1400 tons of mercury into the environment every year. Miners add mercury to ore or sediment to form an amalgam, and then heat the amalgam to vaporize mercury and leave the gold. This process exposes the miners, their families and communities to toxic mercury. The mercury emitted also travels thousands of miles, where it impacts the environment and contaminates fish relied upon as a food source.

For additional information please contact: metals.chemicals@unep.org



New Global Mercury Assessment initiated

The 2013 Global Mercury Assessments produced in cooperation with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) provided valuable information to policy-makers on the emissions and releases of mercury. In December 2015, UNEP and AMAP convened a meeting of experts to start the work to produce the next global mercury assessment, expected to be published at the end of 2018. The new assessment will update global emissions and release inventory components, especially to sectors of relevance for the Minamata Convention. It will also cover the quantification of releases and discharges of mercury to the aquatic environment and provide an overview of mercury levels in the biota. The global inventory estimates will be compared with nationally reported emissions and release estimates. UNEP will continuously consult with international and national experts in preparing the assessment, with an open review scheduled in 2017.

For additional information please contact: metals.chemicals@unep.org

Lead in batteries: Assessing the problem globally and regionally

Batteries are the largest users of lead and this is still increasing. Lead battery recycling, if conducted in an inappropriate manner, can cause environmental pollution through the leakage of acid electrolyte containing lead, emission of lead fumes and dust, and disposal of waste. Many cases are reported where the recycling of lead batteries has caused severe pollution and health damage.

To address the challenge, UNEP, in cooperation with WHO, has started to analyse the practice of the recycling of used lead acid batteries, their international trade, and the impact on human health and the environment. Two workshops were convened on the environmentally sound management of used lead acid batteries in Osaka, Japan in November 2015, and in Guatemala in February 2016.

The workshops recommended that national and regional strategies be initiated, in line with the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead acid batteries developed under the Basel Convention. These strategies may include development of an inventory of lead batteries; recycling with emphasis in the informal sector; awareness raising and training; policy and legal development; and establishment of a system for collection and temporary storage. UNEP stands ready to work with governments and stakeholders towards the establishment of these national and regional strategies.

For additional information please contact: metals.chemicals@unep.org



WHO

Launch of the Integrated Health and Environment Observatory project in Africa in 2016

Preparatory work has commenced at the national level in nine African countries concerning the GEF's Council approved project on the development of an integrated health and environment Observatory (CHEMObs) for sound management of chemicals. CHEMObs aims at creating data and evidence at the national level for stimulating investments in prioritized areas for management and chemical pollution remediation. It seeks to create multiple benefits and contributions for broader economic development and is driven at the national level through collaboration of health and environment institutions. The project involves the following countries Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and a regional workshop is scheduled to be held from 25 - 29 April in Nairobi, Kenya.

For additional information please contact: chemicals@unep.org

Ozone Action: Asia-Pacific regional workshop on environmentally friendly refrigerants in room air conditioners

Shenzhen, 29 February 2016 – Jointly organised by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ministry of Environmental Protection/Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (MEP/FECO) and Shenzhen Human Settlements and Environment Commission (SHEC) the workshop on environmentally friendly refrigerants in room air conditioners (RAC) was held in Shenzhen, China from 29 February – 1 March 2016. The event was attended by 100 delegates representing national ozone units, industry associations, enterprises and media from about 30 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Funded under China Trust Fund, the workshop helped to develop capacity of the countries in the region through south-south cooperation on the safe adoption of environmentally friendly refrigerants in the RAC sector.

Special Programme on institutional strengthening opens for applications in April 2016

The Special Programme for institutional strengthening at the national level to support implementation of chemicals and waste related conventions and SAICM has been given the green light to commence by its Executive Board. The Board met in Geneva, Switzerland in February 2016 and agreed on the means of operationalising the Special Programme, by approving the rules of procedure of the Board, as well as application procedures and processes for countries.

The Special Programme provides direct access to financing through which developing countries and countries with economies in transition can strengthen their capacity for implementing of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The European Union, Finland, Germany, Sweden and the United States are the first donors to the Special Programme Trust Fund. Project funding will range from US\$50,000 to US\$250,000, with a maximum of US\$500,000 for a more comprehensive project on institutional strengthening. The maximum duration of a project will be 3 years.

The call for applications will be open as of 5 April 2016, with the expectation that implementation activities will start in early 2017.



Participants of the 1st Executive Board meeting of the Special Programme

www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/SpecialProgramme

2020 is around the corner: ICCM4 urges action to achieve the goal

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), the governing body of SAICM, took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 28 September to 2 October 2015. This was the last session of SAICM's governing body before ICCM5, scheduled in 2020. Approximately 800 delegates attended the Conference, bringing together multiple sectors and stakeholders to address chemicals and waste issues that are not already within the scope of legally binding agreements and promote coherence across existing agreements.

ICCM4 urged for immediate actions to achieve the SAICM 2020 goal, noting that achieving the goal will be a critical milestone toward realizing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In doing so, ICCM4 endorsed overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal and urged all stakeholders to take steps to implement it, including 11 basic elements for the sound

management of chemicals and waste (SMCW). The overall orientation and guidance is a voluntary tool to assist in the prioritization of efforts towards 2020. It proposes concrete interventions, emphasizes the importance of mainstreaming SMCW in development processes, promotes implementation of existing legal instruments and addresses emerging policy issues.

With the scene set at ICCM4, the ICCM5 Bureau will meet for the first time since ICCM4, from 16-17 March 2016 in Jordan, immediately following Minamata INC7, and will elaborate upon the next steps to ICCM5. Progress will be assessed along the way. A SAICM progress report including achievements, strengths and weaknesses will be developed for 2014-2016 and will be considered at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) in 2018.

www.saicm.org/ICCM4/



Ligia Noronha, Director of DTIE, at ICCM4

SAICM: Setting the strategy for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

With 2020 around the corner the need to consider arrangements beyond 2020 was recognized at ICCM4. ICCM4 initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) beyond 2020. The intersessional process will be open to all stakeholders and will include two meetings before OEWG3, which is planned for 2018 and one meeting between OEWG3 and ICCM5, which is planned for 2020. It may also work by correspondence and/or by electronic means. The ICCM5 Bureau will discuss the timeline for the intersessional process at its upcoming meeting and will notify stakeholders by 31 March 2016 of the timing for the first meeting.

To support the intersessional work, the SAICM secretariat initiated an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for the period of 2006 to 2015. The aim is to support ICCM5 to take an informed decision on future arrangements for SAICM and the SMCW beyond 2020, including the consideration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

www.saicm.org

Action on two new groups of substances initiated under SAICM

New actions on two groups of substances were initiated at ICCM4. First, environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs) were added as a new emerging policy issue. In doing so, ICCM4 agreed to implement cooperative actions on EPPPs with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policy-makers and other stakeholders. ICCM4 invited Governments and other stakeholders to generate and share information to fill knowledge gaps and invited relevant participating organizations of the IOMC to lead and facilitate cooperative action.

ICCM4 also agreed to concerted actions on highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), which pose particular risks to children and have caused health problems and fatalities in many parts of the world. The adopted resolution welcomes a strategy developed by FAO, WHO and UNEP to address HHPs. It also promotes ecological alternatives and strengthened national regulatory capacity.

At the same time, ICCM4 continued to promote enhanced risk reduction and information sharing efforts in existing work areas - lead in paint (LiP), endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), chemicals in products (CiP), nanotechnology, hazardous substances in the lifecycle of electronics and electrical products, and perfluorinated chemicals.

www.saicm.org/ICCM4/

SAICM offers a unique forum in which the risks of emerging policy issues and measures to deal with them can be considered, leading to increased awareness and capacity for response. Furthermore, the prospect of addressing larger groups of chemicals marks a shift from a chemical-by-chemical approach to a more generalised one, conducive to significant progress towards the 2020 goal and beyond.



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The UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch 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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WWW.UNEP.ORG/CHEMICALSANDWASTE/

Calendar of meetings

- Seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on mercury (INC7) 10-15 March 2016, Dead Sea, Jordan
- 1st meeting of the ICCM5 Bureau 16-17 March 2016, Dead Sea, Jordan
- International Expert Workshop on Linking the National Implementation of SGDs and International Chemicals and Waste Agreements, 11-13 April 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
- Expert Consultation on Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO II), 13-14 April 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
- United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), 23-27 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya

News from the BRS Secretariat: Upcoming meetings in 2016

Under the Stockholm Convention, the Committee on Effectiveness Evaluation met in February 2016 and will meet in October 2016 in order to evaluate whether the Convention is meeting its goals, and to identify any room for improvement. The Evaluation is based on data from the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and national reports submitted by the Parties. The Stockholm Convention POPs Review Committee and the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) of the Rotterdam Convention will meet back-to-back in September 2016 in Rome, Italy, in order to agree on recommendations for the listing of additional chemicals.

Under the Rotterdam Convention, an intersessional working group is expected to meet in July 2016 to consider options for improving the process for

addressing chemicals for which the Conference of the Parties (COPs) was unable to reach consensus on their listing. Several such chemicals recommended for listing by the CRC are still awaiting a decision by the COPs.

The Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention will meet in May 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya to continue its work on the technical guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs and e-wastes and implementation of a roadmap for promoting waste prevention and minimisation, among others. The Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC) will meet in June 2016 in Nairobi to consider specific submissions for 12 Parties facing compliance issues and provide guidance to assist parties in implementing the Convention.

International expert meeting on SDGs and the sound management of chemicals and waste, April 2016



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015. Given that chemicals and waste affect almost all aspects of development, sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) is relevant and supports the implementation of many other, if not all SDGs. UNEP, jointly with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm convention secretariat, UNITAR and IOMC participating organizations, is organizing an expert workshop to integrate SMCW effectively into national implementation of SDGs and sustainable development planning. The expert meeting will take place from 11-13 April 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland with an expected number of participants of 50-60. It is followed by a back-to-back consultation on the Global Chemicals Outlook II.

For additional information please contact: chemicals@unep.org

Chemicals and waste management featuring high on the agenda of UNEA2

The United Nations Environment Assembly is the highest level of governance in international environmental affairs. It will meet for the second time in May 2016 (UNEA2). With the overarching theme “Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”, UNEA2 will be one of the first high-level intergovernmental fora following the adoption of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. A High-Level Segment will bring together Ministers and include a multi-stakeholder dialogue under the call for “Healthy Environment – Healthy People”. A draft resolution on chemicals and waste covering chemicals and waste throughout the life cycle is in preparation. Side events are scheduled to take place on the topics of: “Sustainable Chemistry in a Sustainable Development Context”; “Delivering on the sound chemicals dimension of combating climate change – opportunities and conflicts for people and environment”; and “The impact of childhood exposure to toxic chemicals on children’s health”.

