

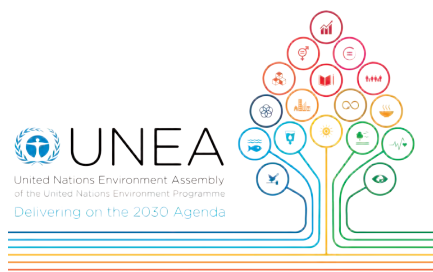


United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch *Newsletter*

May 2016

Division of Technology, Industry and Economics



Chemicals and waste highlighted in UNEP report 'Healthy Environment, Healthy People', UNEA2, May 2016

Friends and Colleagues,

Since the last newsletter was published in March 2016, the Chemicals and Waste Branch has worked with partners around the world in implementing diverse activities to support implementation of the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and looking beyond 2020. This ranges from the initiation of new publications – such as the updated Global Mercury Assessment, the Regional Waste Management Outlook for Asia-Pacific, and the second Global Chemicals Outlook – to interactive regional and global workshops – including on POPs monitoring, lead in paint, recycling of lead batteries, best practices for phasing out ozone depleting substances, and the interface of SDGs and international chemicals and waste agreements, to mention some. We also saw the successful launch of the Special Programme and the completion of important policy meetings, such as INC 7 of the Minamata Convention and the first meeting of the ICCM5 Bureau. With the 2030 Agenda, health and environment, as well as chemicals and waste featuring prominently at UNEA-2, we hope that activities featured in this newsletter succeed in inspiring and catalyzing further action. Please pay particular attention to the series of UNEA-2 side events on chemicals and waste. We are confident that the momentum gained will carry us through the coming months and years – all the way until, and beyond 2020.

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

A clear nexus exists between environmental quality and human health. This was affirmed by the UNEP 2016 report on 'Healthy Environment, Healthy People', which will be discussed at the UNEA-2 Ministerial Policy Review Session, 26 May 2016.

Based on available scientific information, the report presents to policy-makers and stakeholders evidence of the linkages between environmental quality and human health and well-being, and points to the broader drivers of these linkages. It also draws attention to the importance of "decarbonizing our economies", "detoxifying our societies", changing our lifestyles, and enhancing the resilience of our ecosystems. In 2012, 12.6 million deaths were attributable to environmental degradation, representing 23% of all deaths globally. Geographically, the highest proportion of deaths attributable to environmental degradation, compared to total number of deaths, occurs in South-East Asia and in the Western Pacific (respectively 28% and 27% of the total burden).

Concerning chemicals and waste, the report acknowledges that chemicals are important for development and responsible for advances in health. However, it stresses that certain types of chemicals, such as persistent organic pollutants, endocrine disrupting chemicals and heavy metals (mercury, lead, cadmium, arsenic), can build up to dangerous levels in humans and wildlife causing adverse reproductive, developmental, immunological, hormonal and carcinogenic effects. Uncontrolled dumpsites, open burning, and unsound waste management practices can lead to emissions and releases of hazardous chemicals that are toxic to human health and the environment. The report therefore calls

for "detoxifying our societies". This can be achieved by removing harmful substances from the soil we cultivate, the water we drink and the air we breathe, by adopting a life-cycle approach to chemicals and waste management, and by promoting the use of safe alternatives to hazardous chemicals.

A range of actions are suggested to promote a healthy environment for healthy people: strengthening governance; integrating policies; communicating and educating; measuring and monitoring; as well as building partnerships for technology transfer and finance. Concerning chemicals, suggested actions include: consolidating scientific evidence (e.g. global monitoring of persistent organic pollutants, mercury, cadmium and lead); improving the mainstreaming of chemicals and waste management in health, and other sectors, as well as in poverty reduction strategies and development plans; and raise the profile of chemicals of emerging concerns, such as endocrine disrupting chemicals, or highly hazardous pesticides.

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International expert consultation examined links between chemicals and waste and national implementation of SDGs, April 2016



On 11-13 April 2016, more than seventy international experts gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, to explore and discuss the links between the sound management of chemicals and waste and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The participants represented 23 countries from all UN regions, 13 civil society organizations, 8 private sector organizations and 11 inter-governmental organisations. The event was organized through collaboration of the UNEP DTIE Chemicals and Waste Branch, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

The sound management of chemicals and waste is a specific target under SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production. It is also referred to in SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being, and SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation. Breakout sessions discussed links with these and other goals including: SDG 1 on Zero Poverty; SDG 2 on Zero Hunger; SDG 5 on Gender Equality; SDG 9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production; and SDG 13 on Climate Action. Discussing how the sound management of chemicals and waste can be effectively integrated with the SDGs, participants also tackled cross-cutting themes, such as governance, accountability, economic tools, communication, indicators and development cooperation.

Organized around a number of panels and working groups, the workshop engaged experts and stakeholders in an interactive and collaborative manner in order to advance analysis and action to strengthen national implementation of the SDGs from a chemicals and waste management perspective

For more information, please visit:
www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste

ICCM5 Bureau convened its first meeting in Jordan, March 2015

The Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fifth session (ICCM5) held its first meeting on 16-17 March 2016 in Jordan, immediately following the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Bureau to reflect on the outcomes of ICCM4 as well as to receive updates from participants on progress made since ICCM4.

Among others, the Bureau agreed to schedule the first meeting of the intersessional process for SAICM and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 from 7 to 9 February 2017. It also called on regional focal points and sectoral representatives to work with their respective constituencies in collecting information on actions taken to implement the Overall Orientation and Guidance, while highlighting priorities for actions in moving forward for consideration at its second meeting, to be held in Brazil in December 2016.

For more information, please visit: www.saicm.org



Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO-II) kicked off, April 2016



David Kapindula (Government of Zambia),
Co-moderator

Under the theme "Taking Stock and Exploring the Future of Chemicals Management in a Sustainable Development Context", UNEP organized, with support from UNITAR, a consultative meeting to discuss the development of the second Global Chemical Outlook (GCO-II). Held on 13-14 April 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, the meeting provided insights on the rationale and scope of GCO-II. Topics considered to be of strategic relevance for chemicals management and a

post-2020 global approach were identified. The meeting gathered some 70 participants, including 27 Governments (15 representatives from developed and 12 representatives from developing countries), 25 representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations, and 14 representatives from intergovernmental organizations.

Participants appreciated the proposed structure, method and outline for developing the GCO-II and provided specific comments on the three proposed parts: Part I: Global Context, Trends and Developments; Part II: Review of

Chemical Management Areas of Relevance Until and Beyond 2020; and Part III: Policy Measures and Action for Creating an Enabling Environment. Specific themes and topics were suggested to enhance the relevance, comprehensiveness, credibility and legitimacy of the proposed outline. Working groups were established to discuss specific aspects of the outline, which will be revised by UNEP in time for the first meeting of the GCO-II steering committee.

Participants stressed the need to follow a broad and open process as well as to ensure balanced regional representation. Much emphasis was placed on the need to develop an effective communication and outreach strategy. Specific recommendations were made, such as the establishment of a communication group of experts recruited from the private sector, Governments, IGOs, including regional offices, and CSOs. A work plan for the development of the GCO-II was presented including an overview of how it is linked to the intersessional process on SAICM and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The GCO-II report is scheduled to be available by the end of 2018 to inform the SAICM Open Ended Working Group on beyond 2020.

Initial financial support for the GCO-II consultation and initial research were provided by Sweden and Norway. Starting in 2016, UNITAR will support UNEP in developing initial thematic review papers.

For more information, please visit:
www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste

UNEA-2 SIDE EVENTS FEATURE CHEMICALS AND WASTE PROMINENTLY

Advancing sustainable chemistry in a sustainable development context: Opportunities for global, regional and national chemicals management

Monday, 23 May 2016, Conference Room 9 (13:00hrs-14:30hrs)

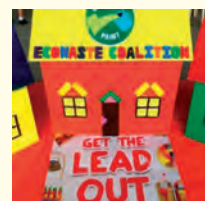
Given its potential to contribute to future chemicals management as well as to catalyse transformative change in the chemical industry, the concept of 'sustainable chemistry' is gaining momentum at the international level. Sustainable chemistry addresses all three dimension of sustainable development, i.e. economic, social and environmental considerations. It is therefore compatible with and fully relevant to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The UNEA-2 side event on sustainable chemistry provides an opportunity to take stock of international discussions concerning the topic, with a particular focus on the needs and perspectives of developing countries. The event also provides an opportunity to share information on important initiatives, such as the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborating Centre supported by the German Government. The event is organized through collaboration between the Governments of Germany and Ghana, UNEP DTIE Chemicals and Waste Branch, and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.



Phasing out lead in paint in four years?

Monday, 23 May 2016, Marquee (18:00hrs-19:30hrs)

The side event aims to raise awareness of the opportunities for phasing out lead in paint and thus promote collective efforts to control it worldwide. Specific objectives of the event include: launch a UNEP report on the global analysis of legal restrictions on lead in paints; launch information materials to help governments and stakeholders to establish legal limits on lead in paint; showcase regional initiatives to collaborate on phasing out lead in paint, including sub-regional standards in East Africa, GEF project in Andean countries, and South-South cooperation between China and Africa; and raise support to the Lead Paint Alliance from a wide range of stakeholders including paint users, retailers, pigment producers etc. Two panel discussions will involve speakers from Governments in different regions, IGOs, civil society NGOs and industry (paint manufacturers, pigment producers, paint users and retailers). The event is organised by UNEP DTIE, in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Government of Kenya, and the International POP's Elimination Network.



Sustainable Innovation Expo 2016: Less waste, better environment, healthy people

Tuesday, 24 May 2016, Expo Area (12:00hrs-13:15hrs)

The Sustainable Innovation Expo (SIE2016) will bring together business leaders, who will be called upon to identify and apply resource-efficient and cleaner solutions and technologies as well as to engage with Governments in identifying the enabling conditions to scale them up. SIE2016 will build on UNEP's existing strategic partnerships in the private sector and create new ones in sectors that contribute to the UNEA theme of 'Healthy Environment, Healthy People'. Participants will include chief executive officers of major companies, institutional investors, foundations, banks, insurance companies, civil society representatives, and thought leaders from non-governmental organizations and think tanks. This event will show how, through a preventive and precautionary approach as well as through the application of new environmentally sound technologies, it is possible to manage waste in a sustainable manner. Opportunities and benefits of sustainable waste management will be elaborated upon, such as: less environmental pollution; reduced costs in managing waste; reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and contributions to equity and poverty alleviation. Other important benefits that will be addressed include improved health, health costs that are avoided, water contamination that is prevented, and the ensuing cost of alternative water supply.



Delivering on the sound chemicals dimension of combating climate change: Opportunities and conflicts for people and the environment

Wednesday, 25 May 2016, Conference Room 11 (13:00hrs-14:30hrs)

The aim of this event is to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges that exist in advancing linkages among two of the most important agendas of the 21st century: addressing climate change and achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste. Co-sponsored by the Government of Sweden and the Government of the United States of America, the side event will facilitate an interactive dialogue among representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry, and civil society organizations. Panelists will touch on three key questions: (1) What are the key opportunities or benefits to exploit in addressing climate change and chemicals jointly?; (2) What are the obstacles or challenges?; and (3) Which incentives will accelerate the rate of change towards best-case environmental outcomes? The discussions will be reflected in a summary and further discussion and work is envisaged.



The impact of childhood exposure to toxic chemicals on children's health

Thursday, 26 May 2016, Conference Room 10 (13:00hrs-14:30hrs)

This side event is organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Baskut Tuncak. Through a panel discussion, the event will draw attention to the human rights impacts of childhood exposure to hazardous substances, including toxic chemicals and wastes, thereby strengthening linkages between human rights, health and environmental justices. The topic is directly relevant to the two themes of UNEA, 'Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' and 'Healthy Environment, Healthy People'. The panel will highlight real cases and provide practical recommendations to stakeholders.



For more information please visit: <http://web.unep.org/unea/side-events>

UNEA-2: High attention on lead, May 2016

Phasing out the use of lead in paint and the environmentally sound recycling of lead batteries will be highlighted at UNEA-2, 23-27 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya. The protection of human health and the environment from lead, a cumulative and persistent toxicant that is particularly hazardous to pregnant women and young children, is one of the key areas to achieve 'Healthy Environment, Healthy People', a central theme of UNEA-2.

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint (Lead Paint Alliance), brings together the efforts of Governments and stakeholders towards phasing out the use of lead in paint by 2020. In 2016, UNEP supported activities of the Alliance by convening regional and national workshops in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (December 2015), in Beijing, China (April 2016), and in Chisinau, Moldova (May 2016). Another workshop is planned in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (June 2016). UNEP will also launch a global report on the legal limit to lead paint at a UNEA-2 press conference on 23 May.

The topic of environmentally sound recycling of lead batteries has been included in the draft UNEA-2 resolution on chemicals and waste. UNEP has been working to build capacity on this topic through workshops in Osaka, Japan, in November 2015, and in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in March 2016. Once this resolution is adopted, UNEP stands ready to assist countries in capacity building and strategy development.

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Africa and West Asia join forces to protect the ozone layer, March 2016

Experts from 66 countries share experiences in phasing out ozone depleting substances

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 17 March 2016: Ozone Officers from Africa and West Asia gathered in Zimbabwe to share best practices for phasing out ozone depleting substances (ODS) in developing economies, where cleaner alternatives are often lacking or unaffordable. «UNEP uses the network to offer a platform for member states and implementing agencies to exchange views and experiences on the best methodologies and approaches in carrying out ODS alternatives surveys and to gain a better understanding of alternatives and the sectors to be surveyed under such projects,» said Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Head of UNEP DTIE OzonAction.

The meeting, jointly organized by UNEP and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate of the Republic of Zimbabwe, took place at a critical time for ozone action, with countries striving to meet their commitments to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) while avoiding substitutes with high global warming potential, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

The 197 parties to the Montreal Protocol are currently working on an amendment to control the climate change-inducing HFCs under the 'Dubai Pathway', agreed in November 2015. "The Montreal Protocol's success in phasing out ozone-depleting substances had inspired around 40 parties including India, a broad coalition of Island Developing States, the European Union and North American

States, to submit four proposed amendments to the Protocol to deal with HFCs", said UNEP Regional Representative in West Asia, Mr. Iyad Abumoghli.

This meeting brought together ozone experts from English- and French-speaking African countries and from West Asia, as well as the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, the Ozone Secretariat, the Implementing Agencies, bilateral agencies and regional institutions. Over the course of the week, the regional experts considered a range of compliance and enforcement issues, including capacity building of National Ozone Units; implementing phase-out plans; challenges of phasing out ODS in the refrigeration and air conditioning servicing sector and awareness-raising and outreach activities.

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Delegates from Botswana and Burkina Faso participating in the UNEP OzonAction Joint meeting

Regional training on new chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention held in Latin America, April 2016

Panama City, 20 – 22 April, 2016: Representatives from more than 16 countries and participants from non-governmental organizations in Latin America discussed over 3 days their situation, needs and priorities and learnt about the new chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention. The workshop was part of a series of activities of UNEP's DTIE Chemicals and Waste Branch to assist countries around the world. Panama City hosted this latest training, undertaken in a joint effort with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Panama.

The workshop provided a unique opportunity to learn from each other and to share experiences. Parties to the Stockholm Convention have to develop and update, when necessary, a plan on how they are going to implement their obligations under the Convention. This plan, in certain occasions, becomes a roadmap for the management of chemicals in general and a part of the national sustainable development strategy.

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UNEP workshop initiates GEF-funded project in Africa to integrate health and environment observatories into the sound management of chemicals and waste, April 2016

At its June 2015 Council meeting, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) approved the project 'Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and Legal and Institutional Strengthening for the Sound Management of Chemicals in Africa' (African ChemObs). To plan the project and develop the required global project document (CEO Endorsement Template), UNEP's Regional Office for Africa and UNEP DTIE Chemicals and Waste Branch, working in close consultation with the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Africa, organized a regional project formulation workshop at UNEP's Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, on 26-29 April 2016. The Workshop was attended by representatives of ministries of health and environment from the nine participating countries: Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Experts from UNEP, as well as scientific and technical experts from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions also attended.

The workshop provided an opportunity to review progress made in the nine countries in developing a national baseline analysis documents which feature national chemicals pollution priorities and examine institutional capacities to address environmental health challenges. One of the expected outcomes of the project is to enhance national capacities to identify and address pollution priorities and initiate action on selected priorities. Concerning persistent organic pollutants, the project aims to dispose of 1,000 metric tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides). In this context, the workshop undertook initial prioritization of major chemicals and waste problems to be considered for targeted pilot interventions.

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SERIES OF IETC WORKSHOPS ADVANCE WASTE MANAGEMENT, APRIL 2016

Bangkok, Thailand, 18 April 2016:

Three workshops to advance waste management were jointly organized on 18-21 April by the Asian Institute of Technology's Regional Resource Centre for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP) and the UNEP DTIE International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC).

The workshops were attended by more than 25 waste management experts from the Asia-Pacific region, including representatives from the International Solid Waste Association, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, RRC.AP and UNEP.

Development of academic curriculum on holistic waste management initiated

On 18-20 April 2016, the UNEP IETC facilitated a workshop with a University Consortium to develop a graduate curriculum on holistic waste management. The curriculum aims at reaching policy-makers, managers and professionals. It is part of a project on waste management capacity building project at the national and municipal levels. Four representatives of the University Consortium and 25 experts and resource persons from various organizations, academia and civil society organizations actively participated. During the workshop, feedback was given to finalize the curriculum and course modules. In 2016, Waste Management courses will be offered by Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), Griffith University (Australia), TERI University (India) and Tongji University (China).

Regional Waste Management Outlook initiated in Asia and the Pacific

As a follow-up to the Global Waste Management Outlook (GWMO) published in 2016, UNEP IETC is supporting the development of Regional Waste Management Outlooks (RWMO). At inception workshop for first regional outlook in the Asia-Pacific Region took place on 19-21 April 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop focused on (1) finalizing the RWMO Table of Contents; (2) identifying lead and supporting authors, as well as Steering Committee members; and (3) developing a detailed timeline for finalizing the RWMO.

Review of Global Knowledge Platform for Waste Management

A Global Knowledge Platform for Waste Management is being developed within the overall umbrella of UNEP-Live, as mandated under the Global Platform on Waste Management (GPWM), for which the UNEP IETC serves as a secretariat. On 20 April in Bangkok, Thailand, initial discussions on IETC's "KNOWWASTE" knowledge platform reaffirmed three key pillars of knowledge: Knowledge Repository, Knowledge Transfer, and Knowledge Exchange. Workshop participants welcomed the platform as a useful tool and stressed the need for a decentralized approach, whereby partners are able to access/populate the Knowledge Platform.

For more information on the workshops please visit: www.unep.org/ietc



Participants at the joint IETC workshops on 18-21 April in Bangkok, Thailand

Minamata Convention on Mercury – Outcomes of INC7, March 2016

The seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC7) was held from 10 to 15 March, 2016 at the Dead Sea, Jordan. More than 450 participants made substantial progress on a number of issues. The committee adopted, on a provisional basis pending formal adoption at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP), guidance on import and export of mercury, on identification of stocks and sources of supply of mercury and mercury compounds, and on emissions.



INC7 meeting held from 10 - 15 March, 2016 at the Dead Sea, Jordan

Agreement was also reached on the use of the guidance on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). Good progress was made on financial issues, including text of an agreement with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and on draft guidance to the GEF. Progress was also made on reporting and financial rules, where many issues were resolved. The interim secretariat has been tasked to work intersessionally on a number of issues, including interim storage, waste, contaminated sites, effectiveness evaluation, and further work on ASGM. The first COP will be held within one year of entry into force. With the Convention currently having 25 Parties, COP1 is anticipated to be held during 2017.

For more information on the outcomes of INC7, please visit: www.mercuryconvention.org/

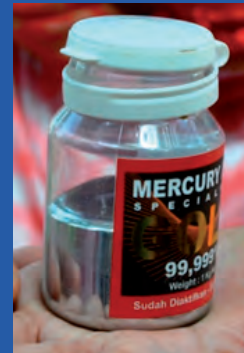
Expert meeting initiates updating of the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment, April 2016

Lead authors gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14-15 April 2016, to kick off the development of the updated UNEP Global Mercury Assessment (GMA), which is to be completed by 2018. UNEP's Governing Council has mandated UNEP with updating its 2013 GMA within a period of 6 years. Preparatory work has been initiated, in cooperation with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP).

The assessment will focus on updating global emissions and releases inventory components for the year 2015, especially for sectors of relevance for the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The assessment will be expanded with respect to the quantification of releases and discharges of mercury to the aquatic environment. It will also include an overview of mercury levels in humans and in biota. Developed inventory estimates will be compared with nationally reported emissions and releases estimates, including those being developed through ongoing Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs), and information from the planned update of the "Summary of Supply, Trade and Demand, 2006". This work will facilitate a dialogue regarding future improvement of emission and release estimates.

Lead authors will collaborate with experts around the globe to develop draft chapters. An expert meeting will be held in autumn 2016 focusing on release and emission estimates, followed by smaller meetings throughout 2017-2018.

For more information, please visit: www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Mercury



Global Mercury Partnership stands ready to support implementation of the Minamata Convention, March 2016

More than 50 participants representing governments, civil society organizations, industry and academia gathered at the Dead Sea, Jordan, on 8 March 2016 to take stock of the Global Mercury Partnership and identify opportunities for supporting the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, once it has entered into force. "The Partnership brings together a diverse range of actors and technical expertise to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention" said Achim Halpaap, Head of UNEP DTIE Chemicals and Waste Branch, in his opening remarks. "Through information sharing, joint projects and knowledge management on a range of topics, we are witnessing innovative, coordinated and synergetic action with concrete results in the field" added Mitch Cuna, co-chair of the Partnership Advisory Group (PAG).

The Global Mercury Partnership is an initiative of more than 150 governments and stakeholders who cooperate to protect human health and the environment from the release of mercury. It provides a platform for Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-government organizations and other stakeholders to synergize and collaborate in the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The 7th PAG meeting was convened back to back with the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury.

The Partnership consists of eight partnership areas. The Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Partnership Area developed a draft guidance document on national action plans on ASGM, which the INC reviewed and recommended governments to use to fulfil the obligations under the Convention. The Fate and Transport Partnership Area convened a side event to discuss mercury monitoring. The Chlor-Alkali Partnership Area started a survey of the progress in converting to non-mercury based production processes, the findings of which will be shared at a workshop to be convened by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna, Austria, in June 2016. The Supply and Storage Partnership Area will be involved in the follow-up to INC7 by developing guidance on the interim storage of mercury. The Products Partnership Area launched a new brochure entitled 'Learning from Successful Dental Amalgam Phase Down' at a side event.

The meeting reviewed the business plans for each of the Partnership Areas including coal combustion, mercury-added products, waste management and cement production, and agreed to further promote activities to support the ratification and early implementation of the Convention, as well as to strengthen synergies, collaboration, communication and outreach.

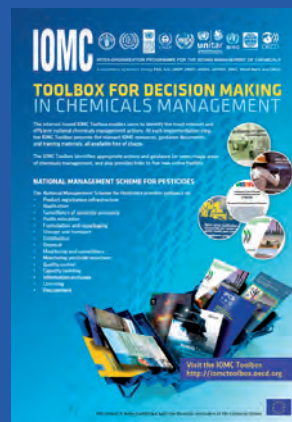
UNEP welcomes new partners. Please visit: www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Mercury

Hands-on training on the IOMC Toolbox's industrial chemicals management scheme, April 2016

A workshop on the industrial chemicals management scheme of the IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 15 April 2016. It was organised by UNEP in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The IOMC Toolbox is an internet-based tool that enables countries to identify the most relevant and efficient tools to address specific national problems in chemicals management. The workshop successfully enhanced participants' understanding of the structure of the Toolbox and, in particular, the industrial chemicals management scheme. The workshop generated suggestions for improving this scheme and identified actions to promote the implementation of the Toolbox in developing countries. There were also practical opportunities to test the Toolbox and the scheme.



For more information on the toolbox, please visit:
<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org>



Pacific on board – 13 countries trained in POPs priorities and monitoring, April 2016

Suva, Fiji – 4-8 April 2016: UNEP's DTIE Chemicals and Waste Branch joined hands with the University of the South Pacific and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in organizing two back-to-back workshops to train 17 government participants from 13 Pacific Island countries.

The Training Workshop of the UNEP/GEF Project on the Updating of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), focused on sharing practical advice concerning the review and updating of NIPs in participating countries. The updated NIPs will help countries to set priorities and meet the obligations under the Stockholm Convention given specific national circumstances.

The Inception Workshop of the UNEP/GEF Project to Continue Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP2) provided technical training enhancing knowledge and skills of participating countries to undertake sampling of air, water and human milk. Participants developed concrete workplans to put the monitoring activities into practice. Moreover, participants were introduced to the IOMC Toolbox. Via interactive exercises, they learned how to use the Toolbox when taking decisions and setting priorities in chemicals management.

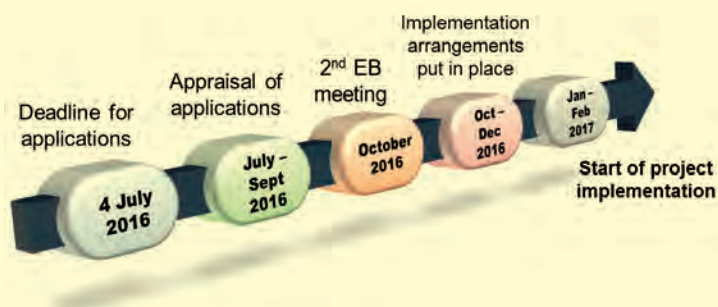


For more information, please contact: science.chemicals@unep.org

Next steps for the operationalisation of the Special Programme

Adopted at UNEA1 in June 2014, the Special Programme aims to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

The deadline for the first call for applications is 4 July 2016. The next steps for the review, appraisal and approval of applications for the Special Programme are presented in the graphic below. Following the screening of projects for eligibility and approval from July to September 2016, the secretariat will submit these proposals to the Executive Board at their second meeting, scheduled to be held in October 2016. The applicant will be notified of the Board's decision by the secretariat in writing. Finally, following the approval of project applications, the secretariat will put into place the necessary project management arrangements, with the aim to start project implementation in early 2017.



For more information on the special programme, please visit:
www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/

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 UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch is part of UNEP's
 Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE).

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.

Inquiries and editorial correspondence should be sent to: chemicals@unep.org

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A list of publications is available from UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch and on the Web (www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/). Publications are free of charge.

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WWW.UNEP.ORG/CHEMICALSANDWASTE/

Calendar of meetings

- Workshop on the Establishment of a Regional Standard on Lead in Paint in the Central and Eastern European Region (CEE), 19-20 May 2016, Chisinau, Moldova
- 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) 23-27 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya
- Phasing Down Dental Amalgam Use: Stakeholders Workshop for 10 Countries in Asia, 30-31 May, 2016, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2nd meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Programme, June 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
- Workshop on Pathways for Reduction of Amalgam Usage Worldwide: The UK and Africa as Case Studies, 14-15 July 2016, London, United Kingdom
- Expert Group Meeting on Elimination of the Use of Mercury in Chlor-alkali Processes, 28-29 June 2016, Vienna, Austria
- Workshop on the establishment and harmonization of sub-regional East African standard for lead in paints, Dar Es Salaam, late July 2016 (tbc)

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 again 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 for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and national reports submitted by the Parties. The Stockholm Convention POPs Review Committee and the Chemical Review Committee 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 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 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 will meet in June 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, to consider specific submissions for 12 Parties facing compliance issues and provide guidance to assist parties in implementing the Convention.



joint workshops on NIP Updating and the GMP2, held on 4-8 April 2016, Suva, Fiji