



UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch Newsletter

October 2015

Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

SAICM convened ICCM4 for a chemical-safe future and prepared for five critical years ahead, Oct 2015

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a catalyst, connecting sectors and stakeholders, all working towards a chemical-safe future. Getting to 2020 and beyond will take great strides to stay engaged and to accelerate progress. SAICM will continue to support closing the gap in chemicals and waste management between developed and developing countries, through stakeholders' actions and through projects funded under the Quick Start Programme.

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) marked SAICM's 10th anniversary. ICCM4 endorsed the «Overall Orientation and Guidance» document for the 2020 goal on sound chemicals management, and facilitate implementation of concrete actions.

The Conference also included a High-Level Segment with Ministers, CEOs, Heads of UN agencies and organizations, high-level participants from major groups and stakeholders, and the private sector. The



Segment enhanced, promoted and reinforced the multi-sectoral engagement that is critical to achieving the 2020 goal. It strengthened linkages and opportunities for SAICM to contribute directly to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) beyond 2020.

www.saicm.org/iccm4

Special High-level Event to foster entry into force and implementation of the Minamata Convention - New York, 24 Sept 2015

On 24 September 2015, a Special High-Level event on the Minamata Convention on Mercury was convened at the UN Headquarters in New York, in the margins of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly and on the eve of the UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 Development Agenda. The event, co-hosted by the Governments of Japan, Switzerland, USA and Uruguay, brought together ministers and senior representatives from governments depositing their instrument of ratification and therefore bringing the convention closer to entry into force. Being the first new global convention on environment and health for nearly a decade, the Minamata Convention contributes to achieving the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and is a significant contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. The Convention was adopted in Japan in October 2013 and will enter into force 90 days after the deposition of the 50th instrument of ratification.

Complementing existing voluntary programmes, including the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, the Convention offers a legal platform for international

cooperation including a framework for financial and technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to take action on mercury.

The need for further action on mercury, considering a full range of options, including the possibility of a legally binding instrument, partnerships and other actions, and taking immediate action to reduce the risk to human health and the environment posed on a global scale by mercury in products and production processes, were listed as priority activities in the Global Plan of Action (GPA) of SAICM. The Minamata Convention thus contributes to SAICM in action.

The implementation of the Minamata Convention will support global efforts towards the attainment of all the objectives of the SAICM's overarching policy strategy—from risk reduction, strengthening of knowledge and information and governance to enhancing capacity building, stemming illegal international traffic and improving general practices.



photo / Paul Hohnen

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

Achim Halpaap was appointed Head of UNEP's Chemicals and Waste Branch on 7 September 2015. He brings to UNEP more than twenty five years of experience in international environment and sustainable development research, policy analysis and capacity development in public, academic, private-sector, and non-governmental organizations. In his previous position, Achim was Head of the Environment Unit and Associate Director of Training at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Before joining the UN, he headed the Chemicals and Waste Management Policy Section, Environmental Policy Directorate of the Bayer Corporation. Achim had research appointments at the University of Cape Town (South Africa) and Yale University (US) and holds academic degree from Yale University (Ph.D.), the University of Oregon (M.A.), and the University of Bonn (B.Sc.).

UNEP strengthens collaboration with the GEF to support countries to take action on SAICM priority areas

Africa Chemical Observatories

The nine country Chemical Observatories project was approved in the June 2015 GEF Work Programme. The project will provide USD10.5M in GEF contribution to the establishment of national centres devoted to the collection of data on chemicals from all sectors of society, including from government departments, chemical producers / retailers / users and those exposed to the negative impacts of improper use of chemicals. The project follows the 2012 Libreville Declaration and aims to reinforce the importance of establishing the linkages between health and the environment. WHO Africa Regional Office will execute the project with technical inputs from the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch. The aim is to not only collect data but to use the data to make objective decisions concerning the continued use of chemicals which are shown to cause negative impacts on societies at local, national and regional level. As such it brings the principles of SAICM to life through real life examples and experiences, allowing regulators to take action in the best interest of human health and the environment.

Africa Lead in Paint

The GEF funded project on elimination of the use of lead in Paint in four African countries has been operational for close to a year. The project provides a model for effectively eliminating the use of lead in paint at national level. Implemented in partnership with the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) the project is already after less than 12 months strengthe-

ning the regulation of lead in paint and creating awareness at national level on the risks from use of leaded paints in domestic applications.

Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA)

In the past 12 months the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch has developed a series of regional MIA projects covering Africa, Asia and Latin America. In total the Branch is supporting over 40 countries to complete MIAs which will form the basis for the development and implementation of a global strategy for risk reduction from Mercury based on country priorities. The projects are executed by UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), the Africa Institute, the South African based NGO Ground Works and the UNEP Regional Office for Africa. To date GEF has provided over USD 5M, demonstrating its commitment to solving this global problem.

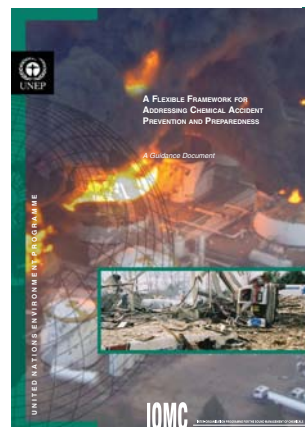
Africa Regional Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)

Based on requests by countries, the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch has developed a regional project for National Action Plans (NAPs) for ASGM in eight African countries. Similar projects are under development in other regions. As with the MIAs, UNEP will work with partners to use the results from these projects to define the strategy to combat the negative impacts of ASGM at the local, national and regional level.

For more information please contact Kevin Helps (kevin.helps@unep.org)

Collaboration with BRS Secretariat: Joint Side Event on SDGs at ICCM4, 28 September 2015

On Monday, 24 September 2015 (1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m) the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, jointly with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research organised a side event on **SDGs: Make it happen for chemicals and wastes**. Speakers reflected on the questions such as the following: What can WE, the chemicals and waste community, offer to solve broader development challenges? What is OUR role in implementing the post-2015 development agenda at national level? and how do WE communicate with stakeholders about the important role of the sound management of chemicals and wastes? The event was part of a series of envisioned collaborate activities of the partners to foster action on the interface of the SDGs and the chemicals and waste agenda.



Special Programme on institutional strengthening for chemicals and waste management becoming operational

The Special Programme aims to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening institutional capacity for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM. The Trust Fund for the Special Programme will be established by the end of October 2015. To date, financial pledges have been made by the European Union, Finland and Sweden. A request for nomination of members of the Special Programme Executive Board was sent to governments. Regional consultations have since been launched for each region to nominate its representative and it is envisaged that the Executive Board will be established by the end of October 2015.

The next steps for the last quarter of 2015 include the final appointment of the ten Executive Board members and the convening of the first meeting. Operationalization of the Programme is the main current focus of the dedicated Special Programme secretariat, including preparation of draft guidance and templates for project submission, engagement with donors, targeted outreach events, development of a resource mobilisation strategy, and organization of the first meeting of the Executive Board.

For additional information, the secretariat of the Special Programme is reachable at: chemicals@unep.org.

2015-2020 : a window of opportunity

Message from the Head of UNEP's Chemicals and Waste Branch

More than 25 years of international action on the sound management of chemicals and wastes (SMCW) and 10 years since the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was adopted have unquestionably resulted in a range of benefits for human health and the environment, both in developed and developing countries. Yet, evidence is emerging that the paradigm of assessing and managing individual chemicals and wastes and focusing on a limited number of priority issues may not be sufficient; it simply cannot keep up with managing the risks associated with the growing numbers and volumes of chemicals and waste, in particular in countries with technical, institutional and regulatory capacity gaps. As we are approaching the 2020 target for the sound management of chemicals, it is difficult to imagine how sustainable development can be achieved without renewed commitment and innovative thinking and action to manage chemicals and waste and advancing the emerging global agenda for green and sustainable chemistry.

CAPTURING THE MOMENTUM

The Post-2015 Development Agenda adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 and the 4th International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM4) create an unprecedented window of opportunity for reflection, innovation and scaling-up action until, and beyond, the year 2020. Yet challenging questions exist that are not yet fully examined and addressed.

UNEP's Chemicals and Waste Branch is ready to scale up analysis and action to advance SMCW until and beyond 2020. The Branch has recently been restructured with the aim to strengthen and advance life cycle management of chemicals and waste. It brings together UNEP's long-standing services in the area of chemicals management, with providing the home for and facilitating collaboration among the SAICM Secretariat, the Interim Secretariat for the Minamata Convention, the Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening, UNEP's Ozone Action in Paris, and the International Environmental Technical Center (IETC) located in Osaka, Japan.

SOME KEY CHALLENGES

- How can the international community take advantage of the momentum to implement the Post-2015 Development Agenda to advance sound chemicals and waste management in key sectors and areas of development (e.g. health or food security)?
- Drawing on insights from UNEP's work on the Green Economy, which macro-economic and fiscal reform measures create the right incentives for the private sector and investors to advance SMCW and sustainable chemistry?
- How can partnerships with key actors in the value-chain be designed to generate measurable results for human health and the environment?
- What knowledge-sharing and right-to-know mechanisms need to be put in place to reward frontrunners and innovation, while holding accountable those causing harm or delaying action?
- How can the rights-based approach of the post 2015 development agenda that "no one should be left behind" help to protect the most vulnerable, such as woman and children, from harmful exposure to chemicals and wastes?

FOSTERING RESULTS BASED PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthening partnerships with governments, the private sector and civil society, and advancing results based management and communication will be the cornerstone of our work in the coming years. Equally important, we look forward to engaging closely with our intergovernmental sister organisations in the Inter Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

There are less than five years left to reach the 2020 goal. Let us collectively take advantage of the window of opportunity the Post-2015 Development Agenda and ICCM 4 are providing.

OzonAction booklet issued for International Ozone Day, 16 September 2015

2015 marked the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The International Ozone Day on 16 September 2015 provided the occasion to celebrate the collective efforts of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and Vienna Convention in protecting the ozone layer over the past three decades. It focused on the theme 30 Years of Healing the Ozone Together: Ozone: All there is between you and UV and reminded the global community concerning the need to protect the ozone layer, and the importance of the ozone layer in protecting life on Earth from the harmful effects of UV radiation. For the occasion of International Ozone Day, UNEP's OzonAction developed a booklet on "The Montreal Protocol and Human Health: How global action protects us from ravages of ultraviolet radiation". Link to Ozon Action site: www.unep.org/ozonaction/

Global Waste Management Outlook launched by IETC

The Global Waste Management Outlook report was launched on 7 September 2015 at the ISWAWorld Congress 2015 in Antwerp, Belgium by UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), in collaboration with the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA). The report is a response to the decision of the UNEP Governing Council of February 2013 (GC 27/12) on Chemicals and Waste Management and provides an authoritative overview, analysis and recommendations for action of policy instruments and financing models for waste management. The GWMO is the result of two year's work and provides the first comprehensive global overview of the state of waste management around the world in the 21st century. It is an important and timely status report and call for action to the international community. Links to the GWMO products: www.unep.org/ietc/

Climate Change increases our exposure to chemicals and waste

Reflections on the Paris Climate Change Conference, November 2015



PCB samples

Governments of more than 190 nations will gather in Paris in November 2015 to discuss a possible new global agreement on climate change, aimed at reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and thus avoiding the threat of dangerous climate change. While the impact of certain chemicals, such as ozone depleting substances, on the global climate is receiving significant attention, the potential increase of exposure of humans and the environment to hazardous chemicals due to climate change and relevant adaptation challenges has received relatively little attention.

Increasing amount of scientific research puts forward evidence suggesting that global warming increases the exposure of humans and wildlife to chemicals via multiple mechanisms. Certain chemicals undergoing very slow degradation processes accumulate at high concentrations in so-called 'sinks' – soil, water and ice, for example. Rising temperatures remobilize these toxic substances into the

atmosphere. One example is the Arctic, where persistent organic pollutants (POPs) accumulate as a consequence of global wind patterns and their ability to travel long distances. As the Arctic ice sheet melts, historically deposited POPs are released and add to the already high burden of both indigenous peoples and Arctic wildlife. The same mechanism can be observed in the Himalayan glaciers, where researchers found that melting glaciers release legacy PCBs and high-molecular-weight PAHs into nearby lakes and rivers.

Furthermore, the increase in frequency of extreme weather events caused by climate change is another source of concern: Monsoon floods, for example, could mobilize obsolete pesticides located in agricultural areas and hurricanes could destroy storage facilities and landfills. If not well managed, climate change can also increase the demand for certain POPs: As temperatures rise, mosquitos passing the malaria parasite to humans spread in previously bug-free areas, for example tropical highlands. This may prompt increased production and consumption of the insecticides such as DDT.

As a first step, it is critical to close existing knowledge gaps and gather reliable data. Initiatives such as global monitoring plans are needed to identify and protect humans and wildlife that are particularly vulnerable to the combined effects of climate change and chemicals exposure. In this regard, UNEP is undertaking a series of projects to ensure frequent generation of sufficient and high quality data on the presence of certain chemicals in the environment and human beings.

UNEP's Chemicals and Waste Branch stands ready to support country analysis and action on the interface of climate change with chemicals and waste management.

For more information, please contact jacqueline.alvarez@unep.org.

New UNEP publication on chemical accident prevention and preparedness

The recent past has yet again shown the importance of preventing chemical accidents and mitigating impact when they occur. To support countries in their efforts to address this challenge, UNEP has prepared a report entitled "Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness (CAPP) - Case studies of implementation" (2015). It disseminates the results, lessons learned and recommendations from countries experience in the development or improvement of national CAPP Programmes. Examples are drawn from projects implemented with support of UNEP and the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund in Cambodia, Mali, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. The report complements the *Flexible framework chemical accident prevention and preparedness guidance and implementation support package* which supports governments to develop, improve, or review Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness (CAPP) programmes at the national level.

www.unep.org/resourceefficiency

UNEP to lead the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT

DDT has been used since the 1940s as an effective insecticide in the fight against malaria and other vector-borne diseases. However, DDT is also a possible carcinogen with adverse effects on the reproductive and development health of humans and animals. Several thousand tons are still produced and used every year.

At its seventh meeting, held from 4 to 15 May 2015, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention recognized the need for action, endorsed a **Road Map for the Development of Alternatives to DDT** and invited UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch to lead its implementation.

The Road Map is a framework for action aiming to accelerate the development of locally safe, effective, affordable and environmentally sound chemical and non-chemical alternatives. It will facilitate and accelerate a sustainable transition away from DDT by:

- strengthening capacities to implement integrated vector management;
- scaling up the development and deployment of alternatives; and
- eliminating DDT stockpiles and waste.



Angolan children with bednets

As a first step, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch is establishing a Road Map Task Team with representatives from malaria-endemic and donor countries, civil society, industry and academia to coordinate implementation of the activities.

UNEP launched LIRA guidance to support legal and institutional capacity development

At the occasion of the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management UNEP released the *Guidance on the development of legal and institutional infrastructures and measures for recovering costs of national administration (LIRA)*. The guidance has been developed in cooperation with the Swedish Chemicals Agency through funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation. The guidance has been tested and validated in selected countries, including Uruguay, Nigeria and Cambodia. The guidance is intended to assist countries when they are evaluating their legislation and provides guidance on crucial elements such as division of responsibilities between governments and private sector. The guidance is for use by governments, international organizations, private sector and NGOs international development partners when working on legislation, administrations and financing for sound management of chemicals.



Strengthening national capacities for POPs monitoring

UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch and its partners has started the second phase of the four-year capacity-building programme for the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs are toxic chemical substances that pose a threat to human health and the environment.

Regional projects in Africa, the Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands will build capacity for the sampling and analysis of the 23 POPs and generate high quality data on

their presence in air, water and human milk. Participating laboratories will receive targeted training and participate in the next rounds of the global inter-laboratory assessment.

These activities will facilitate the adoption of effective risk reduction measures at the national and international levels, thus minimizing global risks to human health and the environment.

For more information, please contact jacqueline.alvarez@unep.org.



Passive air samplers in Mali

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership: new technical guidance prepared

For nearly ten years, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership has catalyzed actions to reduce mercury pollution and its harmful impacts on human health and the environment. The Partnership will continue to play an important role in supporting the Minamata Convention by providing authoritative and science-based information and assessments.

In the area of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), the world's largest source of mercury emissions, the Partnership, in response to a mandate from the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), developed a draft guidance document for ASGM National Action Plans under the Minamata Convention, which was then circulated to the countries for comments. The final document will be submitted to the 7th meeting of the INC in early 2016.

Other achievements of the Partnership include the Practical Sourcebook on Mercury Waste Storage and Disposal launched in October 2015. In addition, work is underway to initiate the next edition of the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment, to be published in 2017, to provide invaluable information to policymakers on the emissions and releases of mercury.

The Partnership is also continuing its activities in other important sectors, such as coal combustion, chlor-alkali, and mercury-containing products. Governments and stakeholders are invited to visit the Partnership website and join its activities.

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



In contrast with mercury, there is no international treaty providing an overall framework to control lead and cadmium. These are toxic metals that are widely used, posing risks to human health and the environment. UNEP collaborates with WHO to support the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint (Lead Paint Alliance). In September 2015, the Alliance launched a toolkit to assist the introduction of regulatory limits towards the elimination of lead in paint. The toolkit can be consulted at www.unep.org/noleadpaint. UNEP will further provide scientific assessments on these metals and catalyze partnerships of governments and other stakeholders.

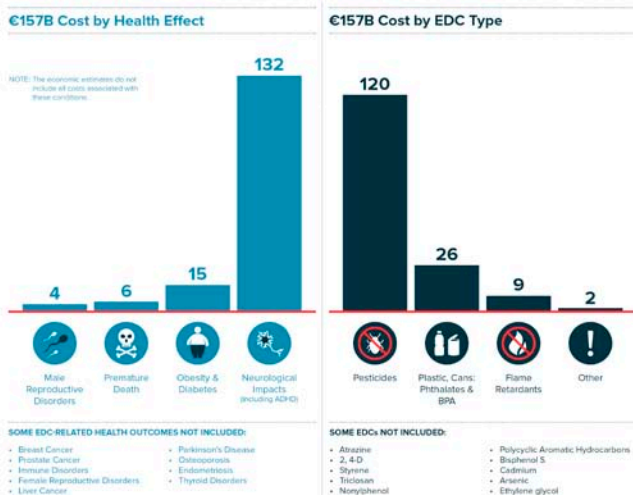
Study estimates costs of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemical exposure to exceed €150 billion annually in EU: UNEP set to implement EDC Project “Provision of Information on EDCs”

Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) are chemicals that can interfere with the body's hormone system(s) to cause adverse health effects (source: NYU, 2015). Examples of man-made EDCs include: Bisphenol A (in paper till receipts and food can linings), certain phthalates (in

plastic products and cosmetics), brominated and organophosphate flame retardants, and certain pesticides such as DDT and chlorpyrifos. To assess the economic burden of EDC exposure, a group of international scientists from academia and civil society adapted

HEALTH EFFECTS FROM ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS COST THE EU 157 BILLION EUROS EACH YEAR.

This is the tip of the iceberg: Costs may be as high as €270B.



NYU School of Medicine
 NYU LANGONE MEDICAL CENTER

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) interfere with hormone action to cause adverse health effects in people.

“THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG”

The data shown to the left are based on fewer than 5% of likely EDCs. Many EDC health conditions were not included in this study because key data are lacking. Other health outcomes will be the focus of future research.

existing environmental health cost models to calculate the estimated cost burden of EDCs in the European Union. They evaluated the likelihood that EDCs contributed to various medical conditions and dysfunctions, but limited the analysis to the disorders with the strongest scientific evidence, including male reproductive disorder, obesity, diabetes and neurobehavioral deficits. Based on a number of assumptions, the new economic analyses found exposure to EDCs likely costs the European Union €157 billion (\$209 billion) a year in actual health care expenses and lost earning potential.

In response to the high estimated economic costs on EDCs and based on the need to provide up-to-date scientific and policy information to policy makers and other stakeholders, UNEP is implementing a project aimed at increasing and improving intersectoral and intergovernmental cooperation, collaboration, and awareness on EDCs especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Welcome to New Staff in the Chemicals and Waste Branch



Eisaku Toda

joined the Chemicals and Waste Branch in July 2015 as the Team Leader of the Technology Team. The Team is responsible, inter alia, for UNEP's Mercury Programme and the Lead and Cadmium Programme, including the Global Mercury Partnership and the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint. Before joining UNEP, Eisaku was Director of the International Strategy Division in the Ministry of the Environment of Japan from where he coordinated the government's international representation in UNEA 1 in June 2014 and contributed to the past three ICCMs as an Asia-Pacific regional focal point and a bureau member. Prior to this, Eisaku worked in OECD on chemicals test guidelines and risk assessments. He holds Bachelor's Degree in systems science from the University of Tokyo.



Jacqueline Alvarez

joined the Chemicals and Waste Branch in August 2015 as the Team Leader of the Science and Assessment Team. The team is in charge of the PCB elimination network, DDT Global Alliance and its road map, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, Chemicals in Products, and the Global Monitoring Plan on POPs and various aspects of supporting the implementation of MEAs. Jacqueline started her career in the Ministry of Environment of Uruguay working on chemical safety, risk assessments, policy development, and implementation of national and regional programmes. In 2009, she joined UNEP as the Regional Focal Point for Chemicals and Waste in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since March 2011, Jacqueline worked for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat in its Technical Assistance Branch. Jacqueline holds a bachelor degree in chemistry and a degree in pharmacy.



Ludovic Bernaudat

joined Chemicals and Waste Branch in September 2015 as a member of the GEF Chemicals and Waste Team. Prior to joining UNEP, Ludovic led UNIDO's mercury programme for 8 years. In this capacity, he has actively contributed to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, as the co-lead for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining area, and as an active partner in many other areas. He also participated to all Intergovernmental Negotiating Committees for the Minamata Convention, providing guidance on technical issues. During GEF5 and now at the beginning of GEF6, he has built up a considerable portfolio of mercury projects, starting with ASGM projects, diversifying into mercury emissions and mercury waste projects and more recently into MIAs and NAPs. Ludovic holds a MSc in Environmental Sciences.



Nalini Sharma

joined the Chemicals and Waste Branch in August 2015 with the responsibility for making the Special Programme on institutional strengthening operational and leading its implementation. Nalini is a national from Trinidad and Tobago and has relocated to Geneva from UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi with her husband and two children. Nalini has been with UNEP for over 10 years, most recently with the Division of Environmental Policy and Implementation as Office in Charge of the Biodiversity Unit. She has played a key role in UNEP's work on IPBES over the past 5 years including hosting the interim IPBES Secretariat. During her time in DEWA she supported GEO assessments and spearheaded capacity building on integrated environmental assessments. Nalini holds a Masters in Science degree in Environmental Economics and Environmental Management from York University.



Jose de Mesa

joined the Chemicals and Waste Branch in August as part of the Policy Team. Jose is an agronomist with 15 years of experience in that field as well as in the UN. Jose worked for 4 years in the seed and pesticide sectors in several private companies. In 2003 he joined UNEP and was responsible for the phase-out of the Methyl bromide in the Latin-American and the Caribbean Region, based in Mexico and Panama. In 2009 he moved to UNEP HQs and joined the Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch where he gained experience in dealing with the Civil Society organisations and their role in UNEA. Jose holds a 6 years degree on Agriculture and became an Agricultural Engineer at the Polytechnic University of Madrid. He studied also for 2 years a course on Livestock production at the University of Newcastle Upon-Tyne, United Kingdom.

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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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Publications are free of charge.

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Calendar of meetings

CHEMICALS/CONVENTIONS

Special High-Level Event on the Minamata Convention, 24 September 2015, New York City, US

Fourth Session of International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), 28 September 2015 - 2 October 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of Financing. Minamata Convention on Mercury, 26 - 29 October 2015, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Seventh Meeting of the Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group, 8 March 2016, Jordan

Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury (Minamata Convention), 10 - 15 March 2016, Dead sea, Jordan

UNEA

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), 23 - 27 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya

UNEP OZONE MEETINGS

Thematic Meeting on Control of HCFC among Countries Sharing Common Borders: Promotion of Informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC), 24-25 September 2015, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia (to be decided)

ECA Thematic Meeting on HPMP Implementation for English-speaking Group of Ozone Officers, 29 September - 1 October 2015, Bucharest, Romania

Joint Network Meeting of Ozone officers for Latin America and the Caribbean, 5-7 October 2015, Panama City, Panama

ECA Thematic Meeting on HPMP Implementation for Russian-speaking Group of Ozone Officers, 13-15 October 2015, Minsk, Belarus

Thematic Meeting on Assessment of Quota and Licensing Systems in UEMOA Countries for Control of ODS and Their Application by Custom Services and The Main Network Meeting of Ozone Officers for French-speaking Africa, 13-15 October 2015, Dakar, Senegal

2016 United Nations Environment Assembly focus on Health and Environment

The UNEA2 special theme on "Healthy People, Healthy Planet" will focus on the cross-sectoral nature of chemicals and waste management issues with human health and on the implementation of past resolutions in this regard. Building upon its experience and successful partnership and collaboration particularly with WHO in addressing the interactions between environment and human health and well being in the broader development context, UNEP will be particularly active and keen to assist and provide its technical and policy services with a view to configure appropriate responses to tackle chemicals and waste related environmental degradation to minimize significant adverse effects on human health and well being.