



## ENABLING ACTIVITIES

GEF eligible countries may now access funds for their enabling activities under the Stockholm Convention, including the development of the implementation plans called for under Article 7 of the Convention.

## National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention

In May 2001 the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted. The Convention, one of the most important for the protection of human health and the environment from chemicals, requires parties to develop National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for implementing their obligations under the Convention. The NIPs will outline the measures to be developed and implemented by countries and will cover:

- The ultimate elimination of production and use of intentionally produced POPs, except some time limited country specific exemptions and one acceptable purpose for DDT that can still be produced and used for disease vector control where no locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives exist;
- The restriction of trade of these POPs;
- The cessation of production of new PCBs and actions towards the elimination of the use of PCBs in equipment by 2025;
- The minimization and elimination, where feasible, of the releases of dioxins, furans, HCB, and PCBs derived from anthropogenic



Photo / P. Delaney

National Implementation Plans to keep a clean world

- sources;
- The environmentally sound management of stockpiles, wastes, and products and articles upon becoming wastes that consist of, contain or are contaminated by POPs.

Financial support for the development of NIPs is available to GEF eligible countries who have signed the Convention. Please contact UNEP for further information.

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## Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

UNEP Governing Council's Decision 21/7 of February 2001 called for a report examining "the need for a strategic approach to international chemicals management." The report is to be the subject of detailed consideration at the seventh special session of Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Cartagena in February 2002.

In preparing the report, UNEP Chemicals sent a questionnaire to Governments, partners in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the President and Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, and other stakeholders.

The questionnaire invited views on whether such a strategic approach was needed and, if



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so, what would be the main issues, opportunities, needs and objectives.

The resulting submissions, of which over 60 were received, and the report based on them, are posted on the UNEP Chemicals website: [www.chem.unep.ch](http://www.chem.unep.ch)

## From the Director



The global sound management of chemicals received a boost in May 2001 as governments adopted the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

Now governments, NGOs and IGOs must shift from negotiation to

implementation. UNEP Chemicals is evolving to meet these new demands.

Through the Stockholm Convention's interim financial mechanism, of which the GEF is the principal entity, countries now have the opportunity to develop the

implementation plans called for in Article 7 of the Convention. The GEF is providing funds (up to \$500,000 per country through an expedited procedure) for these plans. UNEP, as one of the implementing agencies of the GEF, can help countries to access these funds and develop their plans.

In addition, the secretariats of the three chemicals and waste conventions –Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm– have been investigating how their work might be “clustered” to more effectively help governments. Along with an examination of the need for a strategic approach to international chemicals management, this topic will be on the agenda at the Global Ministerial Environmental Forum to be held in Cartagena in February 2002.

## Stockholm Convention Adopted, Interim Arrangements Take Effect

On 22 May 2001, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries comprising 127 Governments adopted the Stockholm Convention. The next day it opened the Convention for signature and 92 governments signed that day. The Convention will remain open for signature at the UN in New York until 22 May 2002 and will enter into force after the 50<sup>th</sup> Government has deposited its instrument of ratification or accession.

The Conference also adopted a resolution on interim arrangements that appeals to Governments to apply, in full, the provisions of the Convention on a voluntary basis. It invites UNEP to convene further meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee that developed the Convention to prepare for the first Conference of the Parties, and requests UNEP to provide the secretariat for the interim operation of the Convention.

The 6th INC session is scheduled for 17-22 June 2002 in Geneva. For more information please contact us at the address on the back of this newsletter or by calling the Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention at +41-22-917-8191 or e-mailing [ssc@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:ssc@chemicals.unep.ch)

As of 20 November 2001, there were 106 Signatories and 2 Parties (Canada and Fiji) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The Convention has not yet entered into force.

## Dioxins, Furans, and PCBs



Brass smelting

The Asia Dioxin Toolkit project began with the first workshop held on 1-4 October in Hanoi. Country experts from the five countries - Brunei Darussalam, Jordan, Philippines, and Vietnam - were trained to identify and quantify sources and releases of PCDD/PCDF with UNEP's "Toolkit". The dioxin inventories are expected by September 2002.

Another user of the Toolkit is Thailand, through a joint project between GTZ, UNEP and EUROCHLOR. Stack and residue samples, taken in winter 2000/2001 in Thailand, gave the following PCDD/PCDF results: emissions below 0.1 ng I-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup> for

modern cement kilns and a secondary lead plant; between 1 and 10 ng I-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup> for a municipal waste incinerator and a crematory; and around 20 ng I-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup> for the hospital waste incinerator. High concentrations (>1,000 ng I-TEQ/kg) were found in fly ashes and sludge.

Major preparations are now under way for UNEP-supported inventories of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in countries from diverse regions including Cuba, Madagascar, Ukraine, Vietnam and Yemen. The inventories will contribute to those countries' National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention on POPs and support the environmentally sound management objectives of the Basel Convention on hazardous wastes. A manual for management of PCB-containing transformers and capacitors is also being prepared.

## Significant Progress at Rotterdam Convention INC-8

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), which oversees the Rotterdam Convention during the interim period and prepares for the Conference of the Parties (COP), held its 8th session from 8-12 October 2001 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The session was chaired by Ms. Maria Celina Azevedo Rodrigues (Brazil) and attended by over 260 representatives from over 110 countries and the European Community.

INC-8 finalized the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules for the COP, Arbitration and Conciliation Annexes, Conflict of Interest Forms and procedures and a programme for discontinuing the interim PIC procedure after the Convention enters into force. It approved a process for obtaining harmonized system customs codes and agreed to send offers regarding the location of the secretariat forward

to the COP. Finally it took several decisions related to chemicals, and approved the 2003 budget.

INC-9 is scheduled on 30 September - 4 October 2002 in Bonn, hosted by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Log on to [www.pic.int](http://www.pic.int) for full details.

Photo Courtesy of IISD/ENB, Francis Dejon, photographer



Jim Willis, Beat Nobs, Switzerland and Patrick Szell, UK

Status of ratifications as of 20 November 2001: 73 Signatories; 17 Parties, (new Parties since last issue: Nigeria, Norway, Senegal). The Convention has not yet come into force.

## Workshops to Support the Stockholm Convention

UNEP Chemicals, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), is holding a series of sub-regional workshops to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Funding is provided jointly from the GEF and the Swedish Government.

The aim of the workshops is to improve Government understanding of the Stockholm Convention; the benefits of and the need to become a Party; the nature of the problems caused by POPs; and country obligations under the Convention and to promote early implementation and ratification of the Convention.

In addition, legislative and other infrastructure measures needed to support implementation of the Stockholm Convention and related conventions (Basel, Rotterdam, regional agreements) will be identified. The workshops will also facilitate eligible countries' access to GEF resources for enabling activities and help Governments develop their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and other implementation/enabling activities under the Convention.

The workshops are designed for senior government managers and decision-makers from environment and other government authorities, and will include representatives from industry, academia and environmental NGOs. The first two workshops took place in Bahrain and Bangkok in November 2001, with six additional workshops planned for 2002.

## A Race to Secure Data on Toxic Chemicals in the Environment

The horses approach the far turn and South America leads with the Pacific Islands in hot pursuit. No you are not reading the running of the Epsom or Kentucky Derby. This race is from the Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances Project. With funding primarily from the GEF, the project is designed to obtain data from the 12 regions around the globe.

The 12 POPs from the Stockholm Convention and other PTS substances that are priority to each region will be assessed for threats and damaging effects. Data collection on sources, environmental concentrations and biological effects is now in progress and the region that supplies the most data will win the ACE (Assessment of Chemicals in the Environment) Trophy associated with this prestigious derby. The ensuing 12 regional reports along with the subsequent global report will be used by the GEF

and other funding agencies to set priorities for future remedial action to reduce and ultimately eliminate these chemicals from the environment.

Log on to [www.chem.unep.ch/pts](http://www.chem.unep.ch/pts) for more information and to follow the run of your 'regional horse' to the finish line.



The Regional Co-ordinators listen attentively to the pre-race instructions before the start of the ACE Derby to collect data on selected PTS

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

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

*Inquiries and editorial correspondence should be sent to the Director, UNEP Chemicals. Material may be reproduced without fee, with acknowledgement.*

A list of publications is available from UNEP Chemicals and on the Web ([www.chem.unep.ch](http://www.chem.unep.ch)). Documents are free of charge.

## Old Ships and POPs

Among other areas, though one may wonder why, the Basel Convention also deals with disposing of old ships. There are several reasons, the most important being that ships, like cars or aircrafts after use, eventually become scrap, and therefore need to be disposed of safely, but also because the structure of old ships can contain hazardous materials, in particular PCBs, asbestos and used oils.

From maker to breaker, many elements need to be considered from designing the ship to its recycling. The critical issues are environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes generated when dismantling ships, including destruction of POPs as wastes, and preparation and decontamination of ships prior to scrapping, as well as environmental safety and health problems at the dismantling site.

The Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention is preparing technical guidelines for the environmentally sound dismantling of ships in close cooperation with IMO



and ILO. Industry has taken a pro-active role to promote good practices by ship-owners as well as the development of a standard inventory of potentially hazardous materials on board of vessels destined for recycling. The contribution of environmental NGOs is also of great relevance to the issue.

## Calendar

**14-18 January 2002**  
 Sub-Regional Workshop  
 for the Implementation of  
 the Rotterdam Convention  
 Dakar, Senegal

**13-17 February 2002**  
 7<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the  
 UNEP Governing Council  
 Global Ministerial Forum  
 Cartagena, Colombia

**18-22 February 2002**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of ICRC,  
 Rotterdam Convention  
 Geneva, Switzerland

**25 February - 1 March 2002**  
 Subregional Workshop for  
 the Implementation of the  
 Stockholm Convention  
 Ougadougou, Burkina Faso

**18-22 March 2002**  
 Subregional Workshop for  
 the Implementation of the  
 Stockholm Convention  
 Montevideo, Uruguay

**8-12 April 2002 (tentative)**  
 Subregional Workshop for  
 the Implementation of the  
 Stockholm Convention  
 Budapest, Hungary

**13-17 May 2002 (tentative)**  
 Subregional Workshop for  
 the Implementation of the  
 Stockholm Convention  
 Kiev, Ukraine

**May 2002 (tentative)**  
 Workshop to Promote  
 Sustainable Alternative  
 Strategies to POPs Pesticides  
 Nairobi, Kenya

**17-21 June 2002**  
 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental  
 Negotiating Committee for the  
 Stockholm Convention  
 Geneva, Switzerland

**30 September - 4 October 2002**  
 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the INC for the  
 Rotterdam Convention  
 Bonn, Germany

### International Agency for Research on Cancer World Health Organization

In 2002-2003, IARC/WHO will grant post-doctoral fellowships for cancer research training in epidemiology, bio-statistics, environmental and viral carcinogenesis, cancer prevention, molecular cell biology, molecular genetics and pathology, biochemistry, and immunology.

Deadline for applications: 31 December 2001.

For further information please contact:  
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