



New Toolkit

Current dioxin and furan inventories are typically incomplete. To assist countries, UNEP has developed a Toolkit to identify and quantify releases of PCDD/PCDF consistently and reliably. Various countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe will test it for further improvement.

UNEP is working together with the Pollution Control Department of Thailand, the German aid agency GTZ, and EUROCHLOUR on a project to establish a dioxin and furan inventory in Thailand.

Dioxins and furans (PCDD/PCDF) are unintended, but toxic by-products of combustion and other industrial sources. They are among the 12 persistent organic pollutants that are the focus of a global convention now approaching completion.

To facilitate the dioxin/furan assessment project, Thailand set up a steering committee consisting of key stakeholders. Two workshops were held in Bangkok with the participation of UNEP and other experts.

Information will be gathered from central sources, such as agencies and industry associations, as well as from questionnaires sent to stakeholders, particularly industrial facilities. Based on this data, the new Toolkit developed by UNEP will be used to quantify releases.

In addition, there will be confirmatory sampling of stacks and residues from plants representing



The floating market outside Bangkok.

Photo: Lila Yourosst

seven sectors of dioxin sources, followed by analysis. Sampling will be done at a municipal solid waste incinerator, medical waste incinerator, steel plant, cement plant, lead recycling plant, brass plant, and crematorium. It is to start in November 2000, with results expected in spring 2001.

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African Pesticide Project Targets Sustainability

In 2001, UNEP will begin a sub-regional project in Western Africa to promote development of holistic approaches that are co-ordinated among sectors to improve sustainability of pest and vector control.

This project will be a first effort to carry out the recommendations of the workshop held in Asia in March 2000 by UNEP, the World Health Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.

In its conclusions, the workshop recommended adoption of Integrated Pest and Vector Management as a sustainable and environmentally sound means of pest and vector management. The project, which is to be carried out in collaboration with WHO and FAO, will establish programmatic experience and evidence base with



Malaria vectors find breeding sites in irrigated rice fields.

Photo: WHO

IPVM approaches for promoting this strategy in other countries and regions.

From the Director



Photo/James B. Willis

The last quarter of 2000 is one of the busiest in recent memory for promoting chemical safety. IFCS Forum-III concluded very successfully in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, as did INC7 of the Rotterdam Convention in Geneva. In early December, the final POPs convention negotiating session will take place in Johannesburg.

chemical safety.

Now we are at a turning point. To fulfil their promise, these conventions need to be ratified and entered into force and developing countries require strengthened capacity with which to implement them.

By moving from the creation of the framework to the challenges of implementing it, we enter a new and vitally important phase of global chemical safety.

James B. Willis, Director, UNEP Chemicals

Together, we are making outstanding progress in reducing risks to people and our environment. These two chemicals conventions will establish a sound legal framework for global

POPs Focal Points

Did you know, there are 195 Focal Points in UNEP Chemicals' POPs network?

Focal Points are designated by governments, international organizations and non-governmental organisations. They are involved in activities to reduce and/or eliminate releases of POPs into the environment. Check the list at (www.chem.unep.ch/pops/default.html) for your country's Focal Point.

Stage Set for Conclusion of POPs Convention

More than 120 countries are expected to participate in the fifth session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to establish a global convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The session will take place from 4-9 December 2000 in the new Sandton Convention Centre of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Although significant issues remain, negotiators are well-positioned to reach agreement. Useful bases on which to build consensus include the Chair's draft convention text and the report of the intersessional meeting on financial issues.

Documents are available on the POPs Homepage (www.chem.unep.ch/pops).

INC Chair, John Buccini (Canada), has urged delegates to come prepared to demonstrate the good will, flexibility, and constructive approach necessary to reach agreement. He has expressed confidence they will succeed in doing so in December.

Brazil Meeting of IFCS Covers Range of Topics



Aerial view of Salvador da Bahia, Brazil.

The third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) was held in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil from 15-20 October 2000.

The Forum covered wide-ranging subjects relevant to chemical safety, including the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous

products, pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs), a globally harmonised system of chemical classification and labelling, and as-

pects of information exchange and capacity building.

In addition to making recommendations in these areas, the Forum made recommendations for priorities for action beyond 2000 and adopted the Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety.

Dr. Henrique Brandao Cavalcanti of Brazil was elected as President of the Forum, replacing Dr. Roy Hickman of Canada. It was also agreed to accept the offer of the government of the Kingdom of Thailand to host Forum-IV in 2003.

Information on Forum-III can be obtained from the IFCS secretariat at ifcs@who.ch or from the IFCS website at www.ifcs.ch.

Africa Chosen for UNEP/USEPA Internet Project

Access to information on chemicals and pesticides on the Internet is critical to building capacity for the sound management of chemicals as called for in Chapter 19 of *Agenda 21*. Valuable scientific, technical, economic, and legal information is available on the Internet, and giving access to it is a cost-effective way to making information more accessible.

To assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition that still have notable problems with Internet connectivity, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) have formed a partnership to conduct a pilot project to provide Internet access to chemical management officials. Africa was chosen for the pilot project because it is the continent with the lowest Internet connectivity and greatest need.

This partnership is paired with the commitment and involvement of national organisations in countries wishing to benefit from Internet access and chemical management networking. Implementation of the pilot project has included provision of tools needed for getting on the

Internet and training of staff in the use of workstations and in accessing chemical information.

Based on the results of the pilot project already successfully implemented in Mali and Tanzania and underway in the Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, Internet access training will be provided to other countries in Africa and, eventually, in other continents.

Over the past months, the project has obtained a high profile and is attracting additional funding from EPA, U.S. State Department, and UNEP Chemicals to initiate the second phase. More partnership is being sought.



The contrasts of Africa.

Rotterdam Convention - Two Chemicals Added to PIC Procedure

Delegates from more than 100 States meeting in Geneva from 30 October - 3 November 2000 for the seventh session of the INC, added another two chemicals identified under the voluntary PIC Procedure - ethylene dichloride and ethylene oxide - to the interim PIC Procedure, thereby bringing the total number of chemicals in the PIC Procedure to 31.

Delegates at INC7 faced a heavy agenda, but working in a cooperative spirit, they were often ahead of schedule. They addressed both problems related to the operation of the interim PIC Procedure and the preparation of the first Conference of the Parties (COP).

The INC confirmed the experts nominated by Governments to serve in the Interim Chemical Review Committee (ICRC) and commended the ICRC on the work done at its first session. The INC encouraged the ICRC to continue its work developing an "Incident Reporting Form for Pesticide Poisoning Incidents" and established a working group to address problems related to contaminants and operational procedures for the ICRC.

In preparing for the first meeting of the COP, the INC agreed on a further procedure for location of the Secretariat and addressed issues related to rules of procedure, financial rules and procedures for conflict resolution and non-compliance.

The next sessions of the ICRC is scheduled to take place from 12-19 March 2001 in Rome, and INC8 is scheduled to take place from 8-12 October 2001, also in Rome.



Clearing of the Report.

Status of ratifications as of 1 November 2000:
73 Signatories;
12 Parties (New Parties since July 2000: Bulgaria, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Guinea and Hungary).
The Convention has not yet come into force.

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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.

New CD-ROM



UNEP Chemicals' information sources are now available on CD-ROM. This first issue contains a selection of Internet web sites, including information on POPs, PIC, PRTRs, IRPTC database, capacity building activities, and other areas. The CD-

ROM will be shortly distributed to our national correspondents, project focal points, and other UNEP Chemicals' partners.

Selected Publications

International Activities Related to Chemicals

Available in hard copy (English) and on Internet, 2000.

GEF: Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances

Available in hard copy (English), September 2000.

OECD/UNEP Screening Information Data Sets

Vol. 6, Nos. 1 and 2. Available in hard copy (English), 2000.

Survey of Currently Available Non-Incineration PCB Destruction Technologies, First Issue

Available in hard copy (English), August 2000.

Proceedings : Workshop on Management of POPs for the SADC Region

Available in hard copy (English), February 2000.

Proceedings : Regional Workshop on Management of POPs, Hanoi, Vietnam

Available in hard copy (English), March 1999.

Proceedings : Sub-Regional Awareness Raising Workshop in Africa on the Rotterdam Convention on PIC

Available in hard copy (English), 2000.

Ordering Publications

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

Calendar

4-9 December 2000

5th Session of the POPs Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5)
 Johannesburg, South Africa

22-25 January 2001

Networking for Chemical Information Access
 Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

5-9 February 2001

21st Session of UNEP's Governing Council
 Nairobi, Kenya

12-16 February 2001

Workshop To Promote Sustainable
 Alternative Strategies to POPs Pesticides
 Asia (Tentative)

12-15 March 2001

Workshop To Promote Sustainable

Alternative Strategies to POPs
 Pesticides
 West Africa

15-19 March 2001

National Workshop on
 Establishing PRTR
 Kazakhstan

28 March-2 May 2001

Country Visits on POPs and PRTR
 immediate actions
 Armenia, Kazakhstan

22-23 May 2001

POPs Convention Diplomatic
 Conference (DIPCON)
 Stockholm, Sweden

