



# United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

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## Your Reference:

**Our Reference:** KJM/fo

**File:** 2008 PCB Panama workshop

**Date:** 23 October, 2007

**Subject:** Workshop on Continuing Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) Management in Latin American and Caribbean Countries, 11-12(am) February, 2008, Panama City, Panama

Dear,

The Chemicals Branch of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is organizing a "Workshop on Continuing Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) Management in Latin American and Caribbean Countries" in Panama City, Panama on February 11 – February 12 (morning), 2008. Financial support for this meeting is received from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

In its Decision 23/9 I, UNEP's Governing Council requested the Executive Director to strengthen support for, inter alia, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. It further requested the Executive Director to promote cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of those conventions and, among others, the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. Furthermore, Part II of Annex A of the Stockholm Convention (SC) deals exclusively with PCBs.

Within the Latin American and Caribbean region, considerable efforts addressing PCB management have been undertaken: UNEP organized a series of Workshops on PCB inventories in Central America and many Parties have directed extensive efforts in addressing PCBs. Much has been learned and much remains to be accomplished if countries are to meet their obligations under the Stockholm Convention. The upcoming Workshop will serve to facilitate partnerships and progress and will focus on:

- legislative and institutional requirements for effective PCB management;
- countries' PCB activities and identification of the barriers and solutions to continued progress in current PCB inventory, transport, storage and disposal efforts;
- technological options for remediation and disposal of PCBs.

The Workshop programme and related information can be found on the web site established for the event: [http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/pcb\\_activities/](http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/pcb_activities/)

UNEP Chemicals hereby invites your Government to nominate one national representative to participate in the workshop. As the workshop will deal with all aspects of PCB management, UNEP suggests that your nominated participant be familiar with this issue.

For the Workshop on Continuing PCBs Management in Latin American and Caribbean Countries, please forward the details of your nominated participant **no later than 12 November, 2007**, using the attached Nomination Form. Please respond by fax to: +41 22 797 3460, Attn. Mr. Kevin Munn. Please note that after 12 November 2007, we will be unable to change the name of the registered participant or to do any last minute changes in travel dates.

To facilitate up-to-date and informed discussion on PCB management, a brief survey is attached. This will provide valuable input prior to the event of Parties' current status, priorities and needs. Please return this survey **at the latest by 30 November, 2007**.

Please note that this PCB Workshop is scheduled to immediately precede the UNEP Workshop on Chemicals Management Infrastructure scheduled for February 12 (morning) – February 13, 2008, and the Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on SAICM on 14-16 February 2008. A separate letter has been sent to SAICM national focal points (or, if not yet nominated, to Geneva Permanent Missions) inviting Governments to nominate a representative to attend these later events. It should be noted though that participants of those meetings will also be welcome to attend the PCB Workshop. Please refer to the following websites for further information concerning the SAICM-related meetings:

For the SAICM regional meeting:

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/>

For the Chemicals Management Infrastructure Workshop:

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/riga06/default.html>

Further information related to the venue, accommodation, travel arrangements and the detailed programme will be communicated directly to the participant once the nomination is received from the Stockholm Convention official contact point or, where no official contact point is nominated, from the Stockholm Convention national focal point. Travel and daily subsistence allowance for attending the workshop will be paid according to normal UN rates. The working languages of the meeting will be English and Spanish.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact:

- PCB Workshop: Mr. Kevin Munn – tel.: +41 22 917 8186 /  
e-mail: [kmunn@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:kmunn@chemicals.unep.ch)

For the other events please refer to the contacts below:

- SAICM regional meeting: Mr. Muhammed Omotola tel.: +41 22 917 8334 /  
e-mail: [momotola@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:momotola@chemicals.unep.ch)
- Workshop on chemicals management infrastructure: Mr. Kaj Madsen tel.: +41 22 917 8258 /  
e-mail: [kmadsen@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:kmadsen@chemicals.unep.ch)

I look forward to your response and your country's participation at the Workshop.

Yours sincerely,

Per Bakken  
Head  
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United Nations Environment Programme