



# Technical Assistance Newsletter

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# Activities

1

## Workshop on revising and updating NIPs held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 8 to 10 December, 2015

Co-organised by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch and the Basel Regional Centre for South East Asia/Stockholm Regional Centre for Indonesia, this 3-day bilingual English-French workshop gathered 35 people from 18 countries mainly in Asia and Africa: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Comoros, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Iran, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Sri Lanka, Chad, Vietnam and Yemen. All countries are currently involved in the revision and update of their National Implementation Plan, at various degrees of advancement. The workshop's focus was on the NIP review and updating process – especially inventories of POPs (PCBs, unintentional POPs, and the newly listed PFOS and BDEs), as well as priority -setting and action plan development, the GEF project for updating NIPs (with UNEP and UNIDO as implementing agencies), along with 4 countries sharing their experiences in the NIP process (Cameroon, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Indonesia).

For more information, please click [here](#).

2

## Joint meeting of Focal Points of the Basel and Bamako Conventions on 24 to 25 November, 2015

This meeting was a joint effort between the Bamako and Basel conventions. The Regional Office for Africa (ROA) did all the logistical arrangements. Welcome remarks were delivered by Ms. Juliette Biao, the Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa; Mr. Rolph Payet, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Director of UNEP Division of Environmental Law & Conventions. The following 17 Bamako convention Parties nominated their Basel convention focal points

to attend this meeting: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Democratic Rep. of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo.

The meeting participants received a detailed presentation from ROA on the key obligations and their roles and on how to form the "Dumpwatch" under the Bamako Convention. Worst case scenarios were narrated on the Probo Koala dumping, in Abidjan, in 2006, by participants from Cote d'Ivoire. The BRS Secretariat made presentations on the Basel Convention and the similarities and differences with the Bamako Convention. A presentation was also made on national reporting, since this is a common area and the Bamako Convention could benefit from the advances made under the Basel Convention and possibly adopt similar reporting formats.

Participants worked in groups where they spent a long hours discussing and drafting strategies for the implementation of the Bamako Convention COP 1 decisions. They were also requested to give advice regarding COP 2 of the Bamako Convention. That is, issues to be tabled for discussion and results from previous decisions. For more information, please click [here](#).

3

## Global Actors Join Forces on Waste Management

UN agencies and other stakeholders met at UNEP IETC in Osaka, Japan, in December 2015, to move forward the Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM). The GPWM is organized along focal areas on waste and climate change, waste agricultural biomass, integrated solid waste management, e-waste, marine litter and waste minimization. Hazardous waste management was added as new focal area. The partners agreed to focus in the next two years on re-activating the knowledge platform of the partnership, mapping existing needs assessments and attracting additional international partners to the partnership.

More information can be found [here](#).



# News

1

## Meeting with the Geneva based Missions of countries hosting the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centres, Geneva, 10 December 2015

The Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions organized a meeting with the Geneva based Permanent Missions of Parties hosting the Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centres, at the Environment House, in Geneva, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Eighteen representatives from 16 Permanent Missions representing the countries hosting regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions attended the meeting. The meeting was organized as a follow up to a similar meeting hosted by the Permanent Mission of Uruguay, earlier this year, and the recommendations made at the meeting of the directors of the regional centres, held in October this year. Ms. Maria Cristina Cardenas, Chief of the Technical Assistance Branch of BRS Secretariat, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary and provided a brief update including the outcomes of the 2015 COPs on the Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centres. A very useful discussion was held, where various representatives of the Permanent Missions provided a number of practical suggestions to the Secretariat on what they can offer in order to strengthen the overall performance of the regional centres.

2

## FAO Rotterdam Secretariat Staff Mobility Boosts Convention Delivery in North Africa

Mohamed El Hady Sidatt, an Agricultural Officer in the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat in Rome, took the opportunity under FAO's mobility policy to move to the FAO sub-regional office for North Africa, in Tunis, on 1 November 2015. He continues to work full-time on Rotterdam Convention issues, focusing in particular on technical assistance in countries in Africa and the Near East.

On 20 October 2015, the Tunisian parliament adopted and published a law to ratify the Rotterdam Convention, a key step in the [ratification process](#). "We look forward to welcoming Tunisia as the 155th party to the Rotterdam Convention!" noted Bill Murray, Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention. "This has come about in part because of good collaboration between the Secretariat and colleagues in the Regional Office for the Near East. El Hady Sidatt is well placed to support Tunisia's implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. His presence in Tunis will strengthen contact with countries, both in encouraging ratification among non-Parties and in better understanding and responding to the need of Parties in the implementation of the Convention. This includes work on key issues such as the identification of alternatives to candidate chemicals."

El Hady has hit the ground running, during his first days in Tunis, he delivered a presentation on the work of the Convention and pesticides management to journalists from Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. We are looking forward to receiving more positive news from the sub-regional office in due course.

3

## Geneva Gender Parity Pledge

On 2 December 2015, during the UN Oath of Office Ceremony at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, the Secretariat handed over to Mr. Michael Moller, UNOG Director General, the signed BRS Geneva Gender Parity Pledge that aims to strive for gender parity in all discussions in International Geneva and in panels where BRS staff is involved. Further, the Secretariat commits to provide gender training sessions for BRS Secretariat staff members to enable them to liaise with other UN colleagues and to beacon gender aspects, to include gender related sessions in the agenda of workshops organized by the BRS Secretariat, to further strengthen the mainstreaming of gender equality in projects and programmes under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and to update the [BRS Gender Action Plan](#) on a yearly basis.

# Engage with Technical Assistance

## Webinars & Online Training in 2016

### January

19 | 10h00

21 | 16h00

[Click here for registration](#)

Outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Expert Working Group on Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of the Basel Convention

Session in English

26 | 10h00

28 | 16h00

[Click here for registration](#)

Exemptions under the Stockholm Convention

Session in English

*\* (All schedules are in Geneva local time: UTC/GMT+1)*

## Face to Face Training in 2016

### February

2 to 5 |

Province of Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

National planning and training workshop for the implementation

### March

1 to 3 |

Panama City,

Panama

Global workshop on developing, revising and updating national implementation plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention

# The BRS Secretariat wishes you a very happy new year!!