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Sound management of industrial chemicals, with special emphasis on asbestos

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Activities

1 Sub-regional workshop on reporting obligations for French-speaking African countries

The Sub-regional workshop on reporting obligations under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions took place from 6 to 8 July 2014 in Dakar, Senegal in close cooperation with the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in Dakar. It was held back-to-back with the First Sub-regional workshop on ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention.

The workshop was attended by 30 participants from 17 French-speaking African countries. Participants enhanced understanding of the reporting obligations of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and they were trained in the use of the electronic reporting systems of both conventions, including issues common to inventories of chemicals and hazardous wastes. For further information please visit: www.basel.int and or www.pops.int

2 Environmentally sound management of used lead batteries in Central Europe

Working in cooperation with UNEP/MAP a project on the environmentally sound management of used lead batteries targeting some countries of the CEE region in the Mediterranean was recently finalized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe in Bratislava (BCRC- Slovakia).

A guideline was prepared focusing on used lead batteries description, overview of available standards and guidelines (EU, BAT, Basel Convention), collection, transport and storage treatment and recovery, disposal and transboundary movement, potential sources of environmental contamination (breaking, lead reduction, lead refining processes and bad examples) and economic aspects of the environmentally sound management. This guideline that is available in English and French was discussed intensively in a regional workshop organized in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, on 18-19 March 18-19 2014.

3 E-waste recycling in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific located in China is now executing a Regional Centres Small Grant Project “Assessing the status of e-waste recycling in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific Region and facilitating the environmentally sound management (ESM) of e-waste” in assisting Parties to implement the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

Through researching the criteria on ESM of e-waste, compiling the national laws, regulations and standards on e-waste management, surveying the technologies and facilities for e-waste recycling in selected countries, BCRC Beijing in cooperation with the Center of Solid Waste and Chemical Management Technology and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, will find out the status of e-waste laws and regulations, standards, technologies and facilities, analyze the gaps and needs and propose priority activities to facilitate the environmentally sound management of e-waste in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region in the near future. This project will be finalized in November 2014.

4 Using GMP electronic tool

The Stockholm Convention Regional Centre hosted at the Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX), Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic set in motion a new project on “Enhancing the use of the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) electronic tool and increasing global data management and use”. Its aim is to build capacity to work with POPs data generated through monitoring and data collection projects and improve the use of such information. It will further disseminate information on the GMP electronic tool and fill the gaps in POPs data global coverage by preparing sets of training materials to address different stakeholders such as data owners, government officials, and experts. A series of webinars on the use of the training materials will be organized by the end of October 2014.



News

1 SPREP to continue performing the functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centre

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme and BRS Secretariat, set forth the terms and conditions under which SPREP will continue performing the functions of the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions for the countries in the Pacific region. This MOU signed on 12 June 2014 by Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, Executive Secretary *ad interim* and by Mr. David Sheppard, Director General of SPREP will be valid for an initial period of four years. BCRC-SPREP serves the following Parties to the Basel Convention: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga.

2 First Teleconference of the ENFORCE

The Secretariat organized the 1st teleconference of the ENFORCE on the 25 June 2014. The mission of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) is, through a network of relevant experts, to promote parties' compliance with the provisions of the Basel Convention pertaining to preventing and combating illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes through the better implementation and enforcement of national law. The aim of the teleconference was to discuss the implementation of the activities of the roadmap adopted in the 1st meeting, including the gap analysis prepared in April 2014. The teleconference also served to prepare for the OEWG 9.

3 Strengthening ties between the BCRC Beijing and SPREP to strengthen chemical and waste management

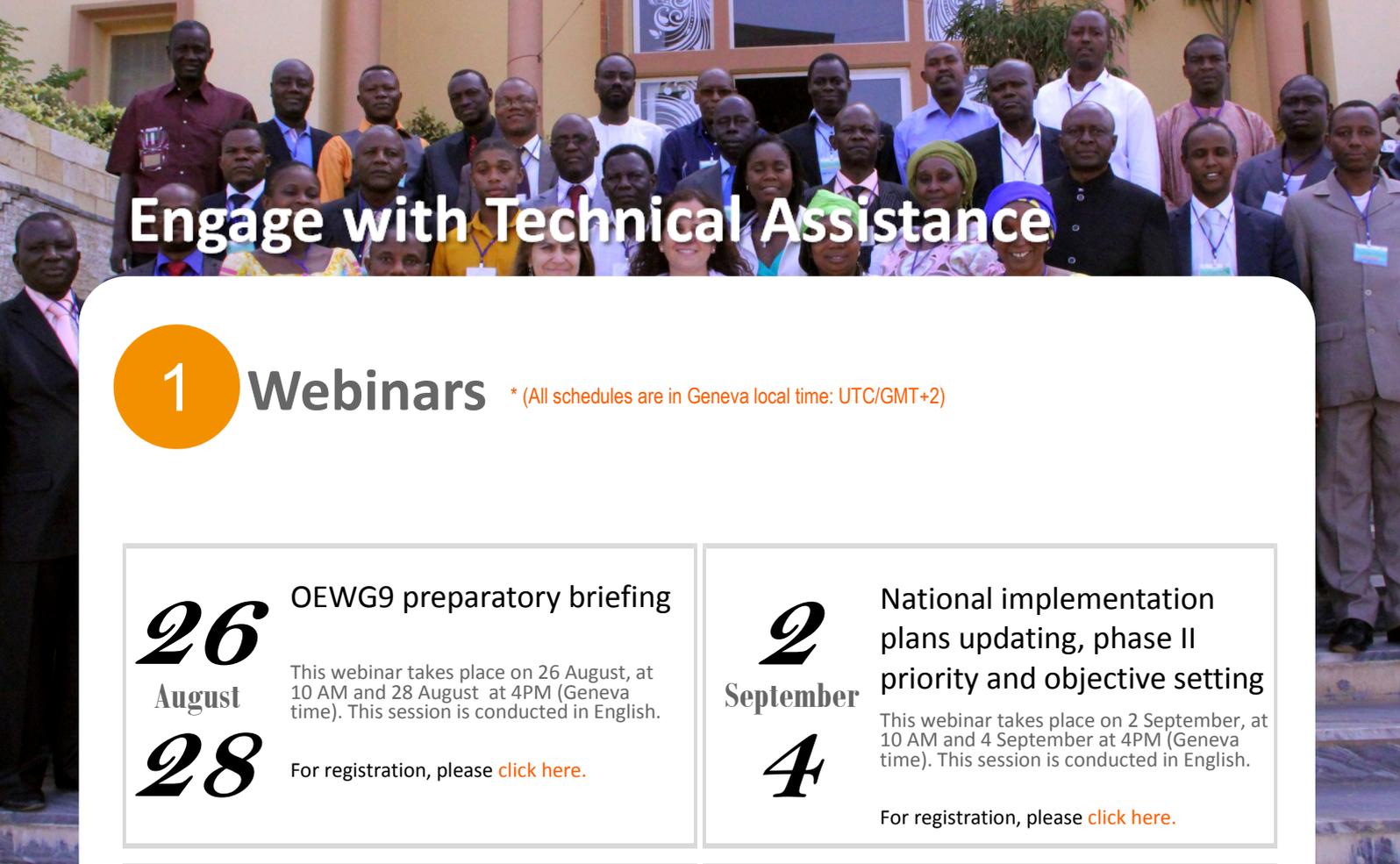
In 17-18 June 2014, Prof. Jinhui Li, the Executive Director, and Ms. Nana Zhao from Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC Beijing) participated in the Fourth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting of Waigani Convention, and Second Steering Committee Meeting of the BCRC-SPREP which was held at the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in Apia, Samoa. This is the follow-up activity and an important step after the "Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Cooperation" signed by BCRC-Beijing and BCRC-SPREP on 23 July 2013. Cooperation activities between the two centres were discussed during the meeting, including participating in workshops and internships at each centre. In the ongoing struggle to manage chemical and waste - stronger ties between these two regional centres have been forged, bringing benefits to the Asia-Pacific region.

4 OEWG 9

The ninth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-9) will be held from 16 to 19 September 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Open-ended Working Group will consider a number of issues related to the implementation of the Convention, as set out in the Work Programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2014–2015 approved by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Open-ended Working Group will review updated technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants waste, mercury waste and e-waste. The Working Group will also consider the outcome of intersessional work on the national reporting format, the framework for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and providing further legal clarity and consider the PACE progress report including preparation of input of the partnership to the next COP. Furthermore, the Working Group will consult with the Implementation and Compliance Committee and prepare recommendations on options for operations of the Open-ended Working Group. There will be several technical assistance related side events during the OEWG, among other from PACE, the WIPO patent landscape report on e-waste recycling technologies and the sustainable recycling industries programme lead by the World Resource Forum and EMPA.



Engage with Technical Assistance

1

Webinars

* (All schedules are in Geneva local time: UTC/GMT+2)

26
August

OEWG9 preparatory briefing

This webinar takes place on 26 August, at 10 AM and 28 August at 4PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English.

28

For registration, please [click here](#).

2
September

National implementation plans updating, phase II priority and objective setting

This webinar takes place on 2 September, at 10 AM and 4 September at 4PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English.

4

For registration, please [click here](#).

23
September

Guidance for CRC and RC Parties when a chemical under review is a POP

This webinar takes place on 23 September, at 10 AM and 25 October at 4 PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English.

25

For registration, please [click here](#).

30
September
October

Intersessional work of the CRC

This webinar takes place on 30 September, at 10 AM and 2 October at 4 PM (Geneva time). This session is conducted in English.

2

For registration, please [click here](#).

2

Workshops

14-16 September

Global workshop on updating national implementation plans, including updating and revising PCDD/PDCF inventories (phase II)

Nigeria (Tentative)

29 September– 1 October

Inter-agency workshop on the sound management of industrial chemicals, with special emphasis on asbestos, for the Asia-pacific Region.

Jakarta, Indonesia