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Activities

1

Caribbean guidance document on the environmentally sound management of electronic waste

The BCRC-Caribbean working in cooperation with the Caribbean National Telecommunications Organisation (CANTO) produced the Caribbean specific guidance document on the environmentally sound management of electronic waste.

This guidance document not only marks a significant milestone in the centres' ability to provide technology transfer services to the Caribbean regional stakeholders it is also an important implementation of the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative Guidelines of the Basel Convention by the telecommunication service providers in the Caribbean region

This guiding document was presented by the BCRC-Caribbean at the Caribbean National Telecommunications Organisation's 30th Annual Conference that included a High Level Meeting of Caricom Ministers of Information, Communications and Technology held in Nassau, Bahamas from 10 to 13 August 2014.

2

Inter-agency workshop on the sound management of industrial chemicals, with special emphasis on asbestos

The Secretariat in collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South East Asia in Indonesia (BCRC-SEA) convened in Indonesia from 29 September to 1 October 2014 an Inter-agency workshop on the sound management of industrial chemicals, with special emphasis on asbestos, for China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The primary aim of this workshop was to present and discuss common issues found as a result of the pilot projects carried out in the Philippines, Indonesia and China and to raise

awareness on the recently developed universally accessible toolkit for the elimination of asbestos-related diseases (ARDs). The toolkit is a core resource to provide information on the management of asbestos at all stages of its lifecycle, especially the risks associated with continuing exposure to asbestos.

3

Keml supports the efforts for improved chemicals and hazardous waste management in Africa

Swedish Chemicals Agency (Keml) has provided assistance for improved chemicals and hazardous waste management in most African countries through regional co-operation supporting the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in Pretoria, South Africa.

Phase one of the project allowed seven countries to undertake a gaps and needs assessment with regard to chemicals management regulatory framework as well as institutional capacities.

The current second phase consisted of a series of regional training workshops, which were held in different member states: Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia and Zambia.

The future activities of this project will emphasize outreach and national implementation issues on chemicals management with special attention given to GHS to attain a non-toxic environment.

4

Assessment questionnaire on technical assistance on offer

As a follow up to decisions BC-11/11, RC 6/11 and SC 6/15, an online questionnaire was prepared and made available to developed countries that are parties to at least one of the three Conventions. The aim of the questionnaire is to assess the type of technical assistance available from developed country Parties in relation to the implementation of the three conventions. The deadline for responses is the 3 October 2014.

News

1

Dr. Rolph Payet, new Executive Secretary

The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, has recently appointed Dr. Rolph Payet, former Minister for Environment and Energy, Seychelles, as new Executive Secretary.

Dr. Payet has a Doctorate in Environmental Science, degrees at master level in Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Business Administration (MBA) and Applied Environmental Economics, and an honours degree in Biochemistry. He will assume his functions on 7 October 2014.

2

United to protect Human Health and the Environment in Colombia

"I will not forget this experience... I will always carry it in my heart" were the words of José Fernando Correa Taborda, a Colombian farmer who was a special guest at the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat's Evaluation Workshop on Monitoring and Reporting of Incidents related to Severely Hazardous Pesticide formulations, held in Bogotá, on 24-25 August 2014.

Mr. José Fernando, was selected from among 106 coffee farmers surveyed after suffering occupational poisoning from exposure to a specific formulation of carbofuran during 2013. The guest, who traveled from his farm located 30 minutes from Cartago - Valle del Cauca, participated in the event, shared his experience and responded to concerns from the audience. The information was officially reported by the National Institute of Health, based on initial information captured in the Surveillance System-SIVIGILA.

With his testimony showed that among the main reasons that cause such incidents are the lack of financial resources to buy personal protective equipment for farmers when handling, preparing and applying pesticides, as well as poor cultural practices, illiteracy leading to be unable to read the recommendations and instructions on the product label. The objective of the workshop was to present the results of a survey on occupational poisoning caused by severely hazardous pesticide formulations, conducted in the provinces of Valle, Meta, Huila, Quindio, Cundinamarca, Tolima, Risaralda, Caldas, Antioquia and North Santander.

3

Matters discussed at the OEWG 9

The ninth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG 9) of the Basel Convention met in Geneva from 16 to 19 September 2014. The OEWG 9 accomplished several tasks in technical and legal matters in preparation for BC COP12. The OEWG 9 reviewed 8 technical guidelines, 6 on POPs, 1 on mercury and 1 on e-waste, which will be useful for the further implementation of the Basel, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions. The OEWG 9 also reviewed the draft glossary of terms and recommendations from the small intersessional working group on legal clarity and proposed a roadmap for on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes. Several side events were organized with active participation of the Basel Convention Regional Centres, e.g. on PACE, and on the environmentally sound management of wastes. In addition, the training manual for chairs of meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions was launched.

4

Newsletters of the Regional Centres

This month we bring to your attention these newsletters of the Regional Centres:

BCRC/SCRC-South Africa (Africa Institute) publishes a newsletter called The Africa Institute, twice a year. It is available on their website:

www.africainstitute.info .

BCRC/SCRC-China publishes monthly the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific Newsletter and the SCRCAP Newsletter. Both newsletters are available at <http://www.bcrc.cn/>

BCRC-Caribbean is producing the BCRC-Caribbean Newsletter available at:

<http://bcrc-caribbean.blogspot.ch/2013/12/bcrc-caribbean-newsletter-volume-2.html>

SCRC-Czech Republic (RECETOX) publishes a quarterly newsletter about its activities related to research, education and capacity building and new projects since 2013. The newsletter is published in English, Russian and Czech at www.recetox.muni.cz/RC in the part downloads. Next issue will be available this month.

Engage with Technical Assistance

1 Webinars * (All schedules are in Geneva local time)

2

October

Intersessional work of the CRC

This webinar takes place on 2 October, at 4PM (Geneva time). [Schedule and registration](#) This session is conducted in English.

14

Environmentally Sound Management of Asbestos

This webinar takes place on 14 October, at 10 AM (Geneva time). [Schedule and registration](#) This session is conducted in English.

7

October

Briefing on the CRC10 and POPRC10

This webinar takes place on 7 October, at 10 AM [Schedule and registration](#) and 9 October at 4PM (Geneva time). [Schedule and registration](#) This session is conducted in English.

9

4

November

Outcome of the OEWG9

This webinar takes place on 4 November, at 10 AM [Schedule and registration](#) and 6 November at 4PM (Geneva time). [Schedule and registration](#) This session is conducted in English.

6

11

November

Outcome of the POPRC10 and CRC10

This webinar takes place on 11 November, at 10 AM [Schedule and registration](#) and 13 November at 4PM (Geneva time). [Schedule and registration](#) This session is conducted in English.

13

25

November

Briefing on OEWG2 of SAICM

This webinar takes place on 25 November, at 10 AM [Schedule and registration](#) and 27 November at 4PM (Geneva time). [Schedule and registration](#) This session is conducted in English.

27

2

Workshops and Meetings

8-10 October

Sub-Regional Workshop on Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention

**Port of Spain,
Trinidad and Tobago**

14 November

National workshop on Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations evaluation

**Amman,
Jordan**

9-10 December

Sub-regional workshop on illegal traffic under the Basel Convention

**Bogota,
Colombia**

21-23 October

Sub-Regional Workshop on Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention

**Pretoria,
South Africa**

27-28 November

Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centres meeting

**Geneva,
Switzerland**

