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MEA-REN

Multilateral Environmental Agreements Regional Environmental Network



NEWS FLASH

Introduction

Welcome to the 5th MEA REN News Flash. The first MEA-REN News Flash was created in August 2008 to raise awareness on the implementation and activities of the MEA Regional Enforcement Network. The News Flash is circulated every 6 months

Progress of informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC)

UNEP continued to encourage countries to adopt the iPIC. As of 29 July 2010, 68 countries have joined the mechanism. Information Sheets ODS Licensing have been received from Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Fiji, Iran, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, Serbia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam and 27 European Union countries.

iPIC Statistics involving Asia and the Pacific countries (Jan. – Jun. 2010)

2010	CFC	Halon	CTC	MB	HBFC	HCFC	HFC	Total
Approved	1		2	7	1	13		24
Rejected		1*	1	2		7		11
Approved with conditions								
Pending/Unknown	1		2	6	1	11	1	22
Total	2	1*	5	15	2	31	1	57

* Rejected by mistake

Less CFC, halons, and more HCFCs are found among inquiries. There are still considerable numbers of queries concerning methyl bromides (MB) and carbontetrachlorides (CTC) due to special permission to trade granted under Essential Use Nomination (EUN). And, the queries have increased significantly. As of the end of June 2010, it is already at 150% level of 2009 level.

On April 2010, China's State Management Office of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Import and Export inquired UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) about 16 metric tones of Methyl Bromide from China to Trinidad and Tobago. The inquiry was relayed to UNEP Regional Office for Latin America (ROLA) and then to Trinidad and Tobago immediately. After checking licensing records for ODS, the Ozone Officer of Trinidad and Tobago confirmed on 20 April that the country did

not issue any license for the import. Consequently, China rejected the application of the said export to Trinidad and Tobago, preventing a potential illegal trade from its inception.

For more information please contact Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, UNEP ROAP, kakuko.nagatani@unep.org or Mr. Liu Ning, UNEP ROAP, ning.liu@unep.org

COOPERATION

Regional Cooperation Prevents Waste Trafficking

On 6 April 2010, Singapore National Environment Agency informed the India environmental authority and UNEP MEA Regional Enforcement Network (REN) Coordinator of a suspected shipment of hazardous electronic wastes transiting through Singapore, destined for India. The information originated from an NGO – The Basel Action Network. UNEP disseminated the information to Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) of India immediately. After inspection, the DRI found the container illegal and detained it. The container is expected to be re-exported to the country of origin after following the due process of adjudication. It is encouraging that the regional cooperation and information sharing has prevented waste trafficking effectively.

For more information please contact Mr. Liu Ning, UNEP ROAP, ning.liu@unep.org

World Customs Organization & UNEP Launched Project Sky Hole Patching II

World Customs Organization (WCO), in cooperation with UNEP, launched Project Sky Hole Patching II in May 2010. The project is to monitor the trade in ODS around the world. At present, about 80 countries all over the world participated in the project, including the following countries from Asia and Pacific region: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, ROK, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, and Vietnam. WCO's Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P) is playing a coordinating role in the Project.



For more information please contact Mr. Steve Yuan, RILO A/P, rilo-beijing@rilo-ap.org

PATROL Partners Assess Training Needs of Border Enforcement in Cambodia



Participants filling the questionnaire

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the [National Authority for Combating Drugs](#) of Cambodia, in cooperation with UNEP, Freeland Foundation and TRAFFIC, organized two training needs assessment (TNA) meetings at Bavet, a town at Cambodia and Vietnam border, and Poi Pet, a town at Cambodia and Thailand border during 22 and 28 May 2010.

The assessment was carried out as part of the project - [Partnership against transnational crime through regional organized law enforcement](#) (PATROL). During the meeting, 140 law enforcement officers representing several border authorities from six provinces answered the questionnaires categorized as human trafficking, drugs, wildlife, timber, ODS, hazardous waste and anti-corruption. Results of the assessment will be used to design tailored training courses for the officers in the coming four years and improve the enforcement on addressing transnational crime at borders. The TNA is scheduled to be organized next in Vietnam.

For more information please contact Mr. Liu Ning, UNEP ROAP, ning.liu@unep.org

The 9th Asian Regional Partners' Forum on Combating Environmental Crime (ARPEC) held in Bangkok

The 9th Asian Regional Partners' Forum on Combating Environmental Crime (ARPEC) was held on 22 - 23 June 2010 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting discussed the trends of illegal trade in ODS and the progress of Project Sky Hole Patching II, UNODC's report, *Globalization of crime: environmental resources*, the outcomes of International Coalition on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), Environmental Investigation Agency's Ivory

Investigations in Zambia and Tanzania. The Greenpeace Southeast Asia and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have joined the Forum. FAO brought a new topic on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Singapore's Double Helix Tracking Technologies Pte Ltd presented applying DNA methods to verify timber species and origin. Other topics covered included academic research on environmental crime and coordination of partners' training activities. The meeting agreed to further improve cooperation in information exchange, academic research, capacity building such as sharing training schedule, producing training package, and enhance consultation on wildlife issue.

For more information please contact Liu Ning, UNEP ROAP, ning.liu@unep.org.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Border Dialogue among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal on Controlling and Monitoring Trade on ODS held in India

The Border Dialogue among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal on Monitoring and Controlling Trade in ODS was held in Chalsa, Jalpaguri, West Bengal, India during 7-8 April 2010. It was attended by 32 officers from National Ozone Unit, the Customs administration and other border enforcement agencies from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, and 7 resource persons from National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (NACEN), India, WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P) and other Green Customs Partners.

The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. B. P. Nilaratna, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, India, Mr. Anil Bhatnagar, Director General of NACEN, and Mr. Atul Bagai, Senior Regional Coordinator, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The training raised awareness of enforcement officers on their important role in protecting ozone layer and preventing illegal trade in ODS. The participants

discussed how to mobilize concerted actions and seek possibilities of mainstreaming ozone issues in bilateral talks and meetings.



The meeting also agreed that countries would continue organizing bilateral dialogues with neighboring countries, upon threat analysis and border law enforcement needs. UNEP will facilitate such dialogues and provide necessary assistance in fight against illegal ODS trade to participating countries.

For more information please contact Mr. Wang Liang, UNEP ROAP, liang.wang@unep.org.

Maldives Organizes the National Green Customs Workshop

Maldives' Ministry of Housing and Environment and Maldives Customs Department, in cooperation with Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) of UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economy (DTIE), have organized a workshop for enforcement officers on ODS and Green Customs Initiative in Male, Maldives on 12-15 July 2010. The workshop trained enforcement officers on control of trade in ODS and raise awareness among the enforcement officers on detection and prevention of illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities covered by Green Customs Initiative.



workshop. Experts from UNEP CAP, Basel Convention Regional Center in Tehran, national focal point of Montreal Protocol,

Minister of State, Principal Collector of Customs, Mr. Mohamed Aswan, the Deputy Minister of Housing and Environment, Dr. Mohamed Shareef and Mr. Liu Ning, Associate Project Officer, UNEP/ROAP opened the

Chemical Weapon Convention, Convention of Biodiversity, and INTERPOL facilitated the workshop.

Seventy-six customs officers, policemen and defense officers as well as traders participated in the workshop. The participants discussed how to improve enforcement and compliance on multilateral environmental agreements in Maldives. They requested more training workshops on environmental issues to be organized to enhance the ability of enforcement officers on addressing environmental crime. Maldives has committed to phase out hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 2020, ten years before the target set by the Montreal Protocol.

For more information please contact Mr. Liu Ning, UNEP ROAP, ning.liu@unep.org

NEWS FROM THE MEA SECRETARIATS

ESM of E-waste in Asia-Pacific

The Programme on the Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste in Asia-Pacific has been continued to go on. After launching the Programme in Tokyo, 2005, the first activity was developed with a regional centre, Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA), in 2006 in which two technical guidelines for the ESM of E-Waste were produced. Since then, more activities with other participants, both national government and regional centres, took place during the first phase of the Programme.

The total number of projects/activities completed by 2009 comprised E-Waste Management Training/Workshops (2 projects), E-Waste Studies and Other Activities (4 projects), E-Waste Inventories (6 projects), and E-Waste Technical Guidelines development (2 TGs).

The Programme continued with the second phase with the financial support of the Government of Japan. The second phase was initiated with a Regional Training Workshop on ESM of E-Waste Project Development, co-organised by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, BCRC-SEA, Government of Viet Nam, Government of Japan, and BCRC China in August 2009, in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. Seven Parties and 2 BCRCs participated in the Workshop which resulted in the development of various project proposals. The proposed projects/activities consist of Detailed Inventories and Flows (1 proposal), Pilot Collection, 3R Systems (3 proposals), Tools Development and Training (6 proposals).

By the time this article is written, 2 projects undertaken by Cambodia and BCRC-SEA consecutively are already on-going. Cambodia is conducting a Training Program on E-Wastes for Key Stakeholders (for government officials and e-waste workers/scavengers) and a Demonstration of ESM of E-Waste, particularly a

collection Scheme at a Recyclable Waste Collection Site. Meanwhile, most recently, BCRC-SEA conducted a Regional Training Workshop on the ESM of E-Waste Part 1 – Collection and Separation/Dismantling.

For more information, contact Mr. Dadan Wardhana, Basel Convention Secretariat
dadan.wardhana@unep.org

Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The Simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (ExCOPs) took place in Bali on 22-24 February 2010. The meetings constituted a milestone in the synergies process among the three chemicals and waste conventions. The convening of three legally autonomous treaty bodies simultaneously also marked a historic departure for international environmental governance. The three Conferences of the Parties adopted substantively identical omnibus decisions bringing together the various issues under consideration, namely joint activities, joint managerial functions, joint services, synchronization of the budget cycles, joint audit and review arrangements. The meetings addressed several managerial issues, including a request to the Executive Director of UNEP to proceed with the recruitment of a joint head of the Basel, Stockholm and UNEP part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariats and also further strengthened the joint approach to the implementation of the three Conventions. Finally, the omnibus decisions provide for a review mechanism of the arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions, in particular on joint activities, joint managerial functions and joint services, to take place in 2013.

For more information about the meeting and its outcome, please visit <http://excops.unep.ch> or contact Ms. Laura Meszaros for the Rotterdam Convention Lmeszaros@pic.int, Mr. David Ogden for the Stockholm Convention dogden@pops.int or Mr Nelson Sabogal for the Basel Convention nelson.sabogal@unep.org

Joint World Customs Organization e-learning course on Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The three chemicals and waste Convention Secretariats have joined forces with the World Customs Organization and UNEP to develop an e-learning course aimed at increasing the knowledge and capacity of customs officers to implement and enforce the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including combating illegal traffic and illicit trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes. The course is expected to provide background information about the three Conventions, but also to

provide specific insight on more specific issues such as: detection/screening/risk assessment (the trigger for customs to take action), the handling of chemicals and wastes, how to identify and classify substances and products, the Basel Convention ship back procedure, and the issue of cooperation among relevant institutions. The development of this tool complements the delivery of training activities for customs through the Green Customs Initiative.

For more information, contact Ms. Juliette Voinov Kohler for the Basel Convention (juliette.kohler@unep.org), Mr. Tarcisio Hardman Reis for the Rotterdam Convention (thardmanreis@pic.int) and Ms. Maria-Cristina Cardenas for the Stockholm Convention mcardenas@pops.int

Regional Awareness-raising Workshops on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm

As part of their joint activities, the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are undertaking a series of regional workshops to assist Parties in their implementation of the decisions on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three chemicals and waste conventions ("Synergies Decisions").

The workshops aim at:

- Promoting information exchange on models and good practices of coordination mechanisms;
- Identifying areas where further coordination at the national and regional levels might be required;
- Raising awareness on technical and financial opportunities for a coordinated implementation of the Conventions;
- Providing training on resource mobilisation for implementation of Conventions' obligations.

In collaboration with the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, regional workshops have already been conducted in: English speaking Africa (South Africa, 28-30 October 2009); South America (Uruguay, 23-25 November 2009); Asia (China, 19-21 April 2010).

The outcomes of regional workshops, structured as recommendations for a more coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions at the national and regional levels; are available on the website of each Convention.

Next workshops are scheduled for Central and Eastern Europe (Slovakia, 20 – 22 September 2010); for Arabic-speaking countries (fall 2010), and French-speaking Africa (end 2010-beginning 2011). Other workshops are to be organised in Central America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

For more information, contact Mr. Dadan Wardhana for the Basel Convention dadan.wardhana@unep.org, Ms.

Maria Cristina Cardenas for the Stockholm Convention mcardenas@pops.int and Mr. Tarcisio Hardman Reis for the Rotterdam Convention thardmanreis@pic.int

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 4th MEA-REN Workshop and WCO RILO Seminar

UNEP and the RILO A/P, in cooperation with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Government of China, will organise the Seminar on Combating Environmental Crime and the 4th workshop of the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Regional Enforcement Network (MEA-REN) in Beijing, China on 19 – 20 and 21 – 22 September 2010 respectively.

The MEA-REN workshop will bring together the customs officers, national ozone officers, and MEA representatives from South Asia and Southeast Asian network countries to strengthen the cooperation at both national and regional levels in order to improve implementation of related MEAs. The workshop will review the progress of the MEA REN Project and discuss possible future activities. This is the last workshop being organized in the current MEA-REN project funded by Sida.

The objectives of the RILO Seminar are aimed at improving the ability of customs officers on combating environmental crime and enhancing regional enforcement cooperation. It will report the progress and promote the usage of the Project Sky Hole Patching II, analyze the trends of illegal trade in ODS, hazardous waste, harmful chemicals and wildlife. Intelligence analysis and identification of environmentally sensitive commodities will also be the key issues in the Seminar. The Seminar and the MEA REN workshop will provide good opportunities for Customs officers, Ozone officers and MEA Representatives to discuss hot issues addressing environmental crimes and to enhance regional cooperation in this regard.

The Joint South Asia and South East Asia Pacific Network of Ozone Officers

The Joint South Asia and South East Asia Pacific Network of Ozone Officers will be held in Beijing, China on 18-20 September 2010 in parallel with the RILO Seminar on Combating Environmental Crime and back to back and the 4th MEA REN Workshop.

PATROL Seminar

The Inter-ministerial National Seminar on PATROL will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during the 4th week of September 2010.

ARPEC Meeting

The 10th ARPEC meeting will be in Bangkok, Thailand on 25 – 26 November 2010.

For more information about these meetings and workshop please contact Mr. Liu Ning, UNEP ROAP, ning.liu@unep.org

MEA Secretariats: Contact Information

Basel Convention

Ms. Juliette Voinov Kohler
Legal Officer
Secretariat of the Basel Convention/UNEP
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 8219
Fax : +41 22 917 8219
Website: <http://www.basel.int>

Rotterdam Convention

Ms. Laura Meszaros
11-13 Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 8740
Fax: +41 22 917 8082
Website: <http://www.pic.int>

Stockholm Convention

Mr. David Ogden
11-13 Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine GE
Switzerland
Tel.: +41-22-917-8190
Fax: +41-22-797-3460
Website: <http://www.pops.int>

Ozone Secretariat

Ms. Megumi Seki
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
P.O.Box 30552, Nairobi 00100
Kenya
Tel: +254 20 762 3452
Fax:+254 20 762 4691/2/3
Website : <http://ozone.unep.org/>

Edited by: Liu Ning (Mr.)
Reviewed by: Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida (Ms.)
Designed by: Marcelo Quicho Jr. (Mr.)

United Nations Environment Programme
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
UN Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 288 1873, Fax: +66 2288 3041
Email: uneproap@unep.org
Websites: <http://www.mea-ren.org>
<http://www.roap.unep.org>

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