

### Introduction

Welcome to the fourth MEA-REN News Flash. The MEA-REN News Flash is circulated every six months to raise awareness on the implementation and activities of the MEA Regional Enforcement Network.

### Collaboration

#### Third MEA-REN workshop in Chiang Mai, Thailand

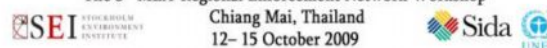
During 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 90 customs officers, environment officers from 24 Asia Pacific countries together with experts from international organizations and NGOs gathered in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to analyze the smuggling trends in harmful chemicals and wastes and shared the best practice in fighting against the crime. The participants further discussed how to improve communication channels for informal information exchange and the progress of the development common tools for data management and collaboration. Informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC) on Import and Export of ODS, application of communication tool, ENVIRONET and desk study of movements of chemicals and wastes have been highlighted in the meeting.

The workshop agreed that awareness raising campaign developed by the Secretariats of the Basel, the Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions could be brought into the regional and national levels through the Basel Convention Regional Centers, Parties to the three Conventions and UNEP and FAO regional offices. Countries agreed to further organize border dialogues to address environmental crime. The cooperation between EU and Asian countries were highlighted and the two ends would further cooperate in return of seized shipments. Countries also acknowledged that World Customs Organization (WCO) considered environmental crime as the top priority on their agenda. During the event, WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB), Basel Convention Regional Centers (BCRCs), Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Japan's Ministry of Environment and Netherlands' Ministry of Environment, Basel Convention Secretariat, Interpol, WCO, United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) were invited to update the participants on their global and regional strategies and approaches. The workshop also evaluated the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Regional Enforcement Network (MEA-REN) project and discussed future steps to concretize the cooperation.

All networking countries agreed that MEA-REN offered opportunities for representatives from different sectors and MEA enforcement agencies to come up with a roadmap for better coordination and that MEA-REN facilitated better inter-agency cooperation at the national and regional level. Finally, the countries expressed their strong wishes to continue this networking project. The MEA-REN is supported by the Sida (Swedish International Development Agency) and is operational with secretarial support from UNEP OzonAction Programme/ Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) for Asia and the Pacific.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> MEA-Regional Enforcement Network Workshop  
Chiang Mai, Thailand  
12- 15 October 2009



Contact: **Mr. Liu Ning**, UNEP ROAP, Tel. No.: +66 2 288 1443, Fax. No.: +66 2 288 3041, E-mail: [Ning.Liu@unep.org](mailto:Ning.Liu@unep.org)

#### 8th ARPEC Meeting and Awareness Event held in Bangkok, Thailand

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asian Regional Partner's Forum on Combating Environmental Crime (ARPEC) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN), Earth Report – TVE, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Freeland Foundation, the Interpol Liaison Office (ICPO), the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P), Royal Thai Customs, the Ministry of Industry Department Industrial Works (DIW) of Thailand, TRAFFIC, the UNEP ROAP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Conservation Society, WCO Asia and the Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The meeting reviewed the recommendations and conclusions of 7<sup>th</sup> ARPEC Meeting, and briefed cooperation among partners. It also discussed on combating corruption within environmental crime and 4th Protocol to the Convention on Trans-national Organised Crime. Coordinate training and future of ARPEC have been also discussed.

Another key issue of the meeting was to launch the ARPEC Awareness Event in Emporium Shopping Mall together with a press conference. In collaboration with Bangkok's Emporium Shopping Complex, ARPEC partners have organized an awareness event, "The Asian Regional Partners Forum on Combating Environmental Crime Exhibition" from 17 – 23 November 2009 at the Motion Hall of the Emporium Shopping Complex.

The first of its kind, this exhibition aimed to raise public awareness about environmental crimes that affect the people's livelihood, the global economy as well as the world's ecosystems. The exhibition includes photographic presentations with brief explanations of each issue to improve the public's understanding of the matter. It presented five of the most prominent crimes committed against the environment and humanity i.e. illegal trade in wildlife, illegal trade in ozone depleting substances, dumping and illegal transport of hazardous waste, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and illegal logging and the associated timber trade.



The exhibition was applauded by audiences to the event. They left messages in the opinion book, such as: "The world needs more efforts like this", "Good work". "Please come back again, I love environment." "It's such a nice event! I have never been aware of this kind of stuff before. From now on, I will need to pay more attention to our environment."

Contact: **Mr. Liu Ning**, UNEP ROAP, Tel. No.: +66 2 288 1443, Fax. No.: +66 2 288 3041, E-mail: [Ning.Liu@unep.org](mailto:Ning.Liu@unep.org)

### **Inclusion of environment issue in Interpol's Training Program**

INTERPOL has accepted UNEP's proposal on including environment crime issues in the International Police Training Programme (IIPTP) and the Executive Police Development Programme (EPDP). The target audiences for IIPTP are senior police officers from all regions, whereas EPDP is

targeting those senior police officers from the African continent only.

UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Branch has sent its experts on relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements that cover trade control to deliver lectures in the IIPTP and EPDP in October 2009.

UNEP has cooperated closely with Interpol in Green Customs Initiative for almost a decade. The training has enhanced capacity of customs officers to prevent or detect illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities, and more countries have requested UNEP to facilitate the organization of national Green Customs workshops. Nevertheless, many customs administrations also have pointed out that in absence of a mandate to enforce criminal laws they find it extremely difficult to crack down on organized environmental syndicates. Therefore, the involvement of police to address environmental crime becomes more and more critical with the increase in incidence of environmental crime. UNEP will endeavour in cooperation with Interpol to raise the awareness on environmental issues to police and looks forward to a close cooperation with Interpol in combating environmental crime.

Contact: **Mr. Ray Chan**, Regional Specialized Officer, I.C.P.O. INTERPOL Liaison Office Bangkok for the Asia and South Pacific Region, Tel: +66 2 254 5231, Fax: +66 2 253 3927, E-mail: [r.chan@interpol.int](mailto:r.chan@interpol.int)

### **Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) side event**



On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009, UNEP was invited by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to present Multiple MEA approach to combating illegal trade in ozone depleting substances (ODS) and hazardous waste at a side event of the Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for Asia and the Pacific. The RIM was held ahead of the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18) in Bangkok, Thailand.

UNEP, with the help of the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) based in UK, introduced its activities on control of ODS, MEA-REN, ARPEC and PATROL (Partnership against Transnational-crime through Regional Organized Law-enforcement). In addition, UNEP also exhibited a reproduction of environmental

crime posters, which have been presented in a Bangkok shopping mall in November 2009, along with video clips concerning ODS and illegal waste ([see 8<sup>th</sup> ARPEC Meeting](#)).

Contact: **Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida**, Policy & Enforcement Officer (Ozone), UNEP ROAP, TEL: +66 2 288 1679, FAX: +66 2 288 3041, E-mail: [Kakuko.Nagatani@unep.org](mailto:Kakuko.Nagatani@unep.org)

## Green Customs

### India-Nepal border Green Customs Workshop held in Sravasti, Uttar Pradesh, India

On 30 November 2009, representatives from customs and enforcement administrations as well as environment ministries of India and Nepal participated in the first border dialogue of its kind to address the challenges of illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities across their common borders in Sravasti, Uttar Pradesh, India.



During the three day workshop, representatives from India and Nepal have joined hands in a border dialogue within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Green Customs Initiative facilitated by UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE), OzonAction Programme based in Paris, France. The dialogue also benefited from participation of representatives of the Green Customs Initiative and relevant MEAs which included trade-related provisions.



Based on the past history of CFC trade in the sub-region, there is an urgent need to strengthen the collaboration between these neighbouring countries to monitor ODS trade and curb illegal movement of such commodities.

Participants to this dialogue consist of wide range of stakeholders in preventing illegal trade from both countries such as customs officers, border agencies, border police, national ozone officers and business partners. Participation of experts from related MEAs, NACEN, the Indian para-military force (SSB), Green Customs' Partner organisations and UNEP also attended the workshop.

Contact: **Mr. Atul Bagai**, Regional Networking Coordinator, UNEP ROAP, Tel: +66 2 288 1443, Fax: +66 2 288 3041, E-mail: [Atul.Bagai@unep.org](mailto:Atul.Bagai@unep.org).

### Korea Green Customs Forum and Workshop held at Jeju Island, South Korea

Korea Customs service (KCS), as Vice-Chair of the WCO Asia/Pacific region, has organized, in cooperation with the WCO under the CCF/Japan, a Green Customs forum and Workshop at Jeju Island, Republic of Korea from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The workshop opened by Mr. Yongsuk HUR, Commissioner of Korea Customs Service, Mr. Hyung-Kook KIM, Chairman of Presidential Committee on Green Growth, Korea, Mr. YUEN Ming-Fai, Richard, Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department, and Mr. Ed De Jong from WCO. About 60 delegates from 16 WCO AP members as well as international organizations such as WCO, UNEP, Interpol, and the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) have attended the workshop.



The forum introduced Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) like Montreal Protocol, Basel Convention, CITES, etc. Participants had in-depth discussions on common tasks for support for green growth and environmental protection at the customs level.

The Korea Customs presented its strategies and actions under the umbrella of the Korean government's green growth strategy for sustainable development.

The Forum and Workshop raised the awareness for customs officers on control of environmentally sensitive commodities, and explored the way to enhance regional co-operation in addressing environmental crime. UNEP was invited to present the role of customs in implementation of Montreal Protocol, and facilitate the session of green growth.

Contact: **Ms. Yoko Odashima**, Deputy Head, WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

## Cross Border Cooperation

### Workshop of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

The meeting was held in Yokohama, Japan from 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010. It was to learn the latest information on rules and regulations on hazardous wastes and second-hand electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), customs regulations and border control activities, difficulties and obstacles in frontline enforcement activities of the Basel Convention. It also discussed possible mitigation measures in cooperation with the competent authorities, and identified possible area of collaboration among national authorities, international organizations and the Asian Network.



Picture: A cargo truck going through an x-ray inspection machine at the Yokohama Customs, Kanagawa, Japan.

Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida of UNEP was invited to present activities of UNEP for effective enforcement of the MEAs, lessons learned from MEA-REN activities, next steps and expected cooperation with the Asian Network as well. She also introduced the planned PATROL project especially focusing on the components of hazardous wastes on behalf of UNODC.

Contact: **Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida**, Policy & Enforcement Officer (Ozone), UNEP ROAP, Tel: +66 2 288 1679, Fax: +66 2 288 3041, E-mail: [Kakuko.Nagatani@unep.org](mailto:Kakuko.Nagatani@unep.org)

### UNODC's Partnership Forum on Trans-national Organized Crime (TOC)

The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific hosted the Partnership Forum on Transnational Organized Crime in Bangkok from 27 to 29 January 2010. The event represented a unique opportunity to foster a joint regional response to the threats posed by transnational organized crime.

The Forum was attended by more than 100 senior delegates from the 10 States members of the

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as China and the Republic of Korea. At the Forum, participants discussed a set of concrete actions to assist Governments in the area of international cooperation in criminal justice, border control, countering the smuggling of migrants and the fight against the sexual exploitation of children.

During the three-day event, participants were divided into four working groups to discuss in detail four projects. PATROL, one of the four projects, has been discussed among Greater Mekong Sub-regional countries. After a positive and constructive dialogue, the delegates agreed on the content and the overarching objectives of the proposed programme.

The positive outcome of the Partnership Forum will now pave the way for final programme approval and to the implementation of four projects in all participating countries.

Contact: **Mr. Songsatit Kittikhunwatchana**, Project Coordinator, Consolidation and Enhancement of the Border Liaison Mechanism (BLO) in East Asia, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, Tel. +66 2 288 1292, Fax: +66 2 288 3033, E-mail: [Songsatit.Kittikhunwatchana@undoc.org](mailto:Songsatit.Kittikhunwatchana@undoc.org)

## Tech News

### MEA-REN website launched

The MEA-REN website, [www.mea-ren.org](http://www.mea-ren.org), has been launched in October 2009. As requested by MEA-REN networking countries, the website is created for facilitation of information exchange on control of harmful chemicals and hazardous waste.

The website is composed of two sections: public section and members' corner. The public section contains topics on Project Information, Press Centre, Publications, Links, Site Map and Contact information. The Members' Corner can only be accessed by participants of the MEA-REN projects. It composes of sections such as Information Sheet, Information Exchange, Forum, iPIC, Desk Study, and Important Documents.

Applicants to the members' corner need to send a formal request to UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Contact: **Mr. Liu Ning**, UNEP ROAP, Tel. No.: +66 2 288 1443, Fax. No.: +66 2 288 3041, E-mail: [Ning.Liu@unep.org](mailto:Ning.Liu@unep.org)

## Basel Convention News

### Environmentally Sound Management of Asbestos Waste in Asia-Pacific

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) and the Basel Convention Centres for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC AP) and in South-East Asia (BCRC SEA) has conducted a project on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of Asbestos Waste in Asia-Pacific funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Each of the two BCRCs will implement a pilot scheme for collection, transportation, and disposal of asbestos

waste resulting from natural disasters. BCRC AP and BCRC SEA will also conduct a regional workshop for the earthquake-affected countries and the tsunami-affected countries consecutively. A component of the project implemented by BCRC-SEA is the development of a tool in the form of database on ESM of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials (both as raw material and waste). The database is intended to serve as a comprehensive source of reference for any entity planning to conduct further research and or activity in ESM of asbestos-containing materials.

Contact: **D. Wardhana H.S.**, Programme Officer, ICBU, SBC. [Dadan.Wardhana@unep.org](mailto:Dadan.Wardhana@unep.org)

## Rotterdam Convention News

### Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission

The 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Asia Pacific Plant Protection commission took place from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009. In follow-up to the work initiated in 2005, participation in the meeting of regional experts and a limited number of designated national authorities from representative member countries promoted the inclusion of the Rotterdam Convention in the work programme of the Commission. The Standing Committee on Pesticides discussed issues related to ratification and implementation on the Rotterdam Convention. The Committee called upon Governments to continue their efforts to ratify and implement the Rotterdam Convention.

Contact: **Ms. Mijke Hertoghs**, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Tel: +41 22 917 8931, Fax: +41 22 917 8082, E-mail: [mhertoghs@pic.int](mailto:mhertoghs@pic.int)

## Stockholm Convention News

### Asian regional capacity building workshop

The Regional capacity building workshop on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practice (BAT/BEP) guidelines and Environmental Media Services (ESM) of POPs wastes and PCBs for Asia was held in Beijing, China, from 16 to 20 November 2009.

The workshop, which was co-organised by the Basel Convention Centre for Asia and the Pacific (also

Stockholm Convention centre), gathered a total of 55 participants from 15 governments, 12 NGOs, academia/universities and private sector organizations from countries within Asia that are Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

Contact: see [“MEA Secretariats Contact Information” below.](#)

## Ozone News

**The 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer** was held at the International Convention Centre, Port Ghalib, Egypt, from 4 to 8 November 2009.

### Haiti Requests Application on the Montreal Protocol Decision IX/9

Haiti has requested the application of Decision IX/9 of the Montreal Protocol as a measure to avoid obsolete ODS technologies being imported into Haiti during its recovery period, or in the future ([http://ozone.unep.org/Data\\_Reporting/Parties\\_not\\_wishing\\_to\\_receive\\_products.shtml](http://ozone.unep.org/Data_Reporting/Parties_not_wishing_to_receive_products.shtml)).

[As quoted from MEA Bulletin, a publication created by the International Institute for Sustainable development (IISD), in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP DELC)]

## Upcoming Events

**Synergies update.** The simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (ExCOPs) will be held in Bali, Indonesia, at the Bali International Convention Centre in, Nusa Dua, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010, in coordination with the 11<sup>th</sup> special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) of the United Nations Environment Programme which will be held at the same venue from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010. The ExCOPs are expected to consider:

- a) Decisions on joint activities;
- b) Decisions on joint managerial functions;
- c) Final decisions on joint services established on an interim basis;
- d) Decisions on the synchronization of the budget cycles of the three conventions;
- e) Decisions on joint audits of the accounts of the secretariats of the three conventions;
- f) Decisions on a review mechanism and follow-up of the work on enhancing coordination and cooperation processes between the three conventions; and
- g) Reports or information received from the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of the three conventions on any other activity or proposed joint institution resulting from the decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

Contact: see [“MEA Secretariats: Contact Information” below.](#)

The sixth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC-6) of the Rotterdam Convention will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at the Varembe Conference Center. The meeting will be opened at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March. Contact: **Ms. Laura Meszaros** Tel: +41 22 917 8740 Fax: +41 22 917 8082, E-mail: [Lmeszaros@pic.int](mailto:Lmeszaros@pic.int)

The seminar on Environmentally Sound Management of Banks of Ozone Depleting Substances will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Contact: see "[MEA Secretariats: Contact Information](#)"

The 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Contact: **Ms. Megumi Seki**, Ozone Secretariat, Tel: +254 20 762 3452, E-mail: [meg.seki@unep.org](mailto:meg.seki@unep.org)

The 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol will be held in Bangkok from 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010. Contact: **Ms. Megumi Seki**, Ozone Secretariat, Tel: +254 20 762 3452, E-mail: [meg.seki@unep.org](mailto:meg.seki@unep.org)

The annual IMPEL TFS Conference 2010 will be held from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in Basel, Switzerland. This conference aims to maintain and strengthen the IMPEL TFS Network, to discuss running future activities of the network, to share and exchange experiences on the inspections and on enforcement of waste shipments, and to establish operational co-operation agreements with relevant organisations. Agenda of the meeting will include, among others, case studies, new methodologies to detect illegal waste shipments and international developments in the field of enforcing trans-boundary shipments of waste. Contact: **Ms. Nancy Isarin**, Tel: +35 128 970 1354 E-mail: [Nancy.Isarin@ambiendura.com](mailto:Nancy.Isarin@ambiendura.com)

The Asia Media Summit (AMS) will be held in Beijing, China from 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010. The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) in collaboration with its partners and international organizations is organizing the AMS to provide a unique opportunity for broadcasters in the region to share their thoughts on Broadcasting and Information. UNEP Compliance Assistance Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (CAP ROAP) is proposing to organize an awareness workshop on Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase out, Ozone issues and the Montreal Protocol and its linkage to climate change as one of the pre-summit workshop of the AMS. Contact: **Mr. Atul Bagai**, Tel: + 66 2 288 1662, Fax: +66 2 288 3041, E-mail: [Atul.Bagai@unep.org](mailto:Atul.Bagai@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  
E-mail: [Juliette.kohler@unep.ch](mailto:Juliette.kohler@unep.ch)  
Website: <http://www.basel.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  
E-mail: [meg.seki@unep.org](mailto:meg.seki@unep.org)  
Website: <http://ozone.unep.org/>

### Rotterdam Convention

Ms. Laura Meszaros  
11-13 Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châteline GE  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 917 8740  
Fax: +41 22 917 8082  
Email: [Lmeszaros@pic.int](mailto:Lmeszaros@pic.int)  
Website: <http://www.pic.int>

### Stockholm Convention

Mr. David Ogden  
11-13 Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châteline GE  
Switzerland  
Tel.: +41-22-917-8190  
Fax: +41-22-797-3460  
Email: [Dogden@pops.int](mailto:Dogden@pops.int)  
Website: <http://www.pops.int>

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Edited by: Liu Ning  
Reviewed by: Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida  
Designed by: Marcelo Quicho Jr.

United Nations Environment Programme  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,  
UN Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
Tel: +66 2288 1443, Fax: +66 2288 3041  
Date: February 2010  
Website: <http://www.mea-ren.org>

