

POPs NEWSLETTER

No 21, JUNE 2011

PREPARED ON BEHALF OF IHPA

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The aim of this newsletter is to disseminate information in a cost-effective way on the Development taking place in the area of POPs as implicated in the Stockholm Convention and other pollutants of concern. It will cover, among others, the news on science and technology for disposal of obsolete stocks and remediation of POPs contamination, which might be of interest for commercial exploitation both in developed and developing countries. Special emphasis will be given to bioremediation, non-combustion related technologies which will benefit developing countries. The newsletter will not go into technical details of selected scientific publications but only highlight salient features for the benefit of the readers. One can subscribe and read IHPA Newsletter (2 times/yr free of charge) at <http://www.ihpa.info/resources/newsletter/>.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to take the privilege to request the readers of the IHPA Newsletter and ambassadors of the IHPA to collect and send useful information on different aspects of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and allied substances available around them for their publication in the IHPA Newsletter. We also acknowledge and thank the authors of the informative articles and news received and published in this issue of the Newsletter, and also beg apology to them for shortening their articles for space limitations of the Newsletter.

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1. PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE OCCASION OF THE X-TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Ion Barbarasa



The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova on 20 May organized a Press Conference on the occasion of the X-th Anniversary of the Stockholm Convention on POPs with the general theme “Stockholm Convention: 10 years of implementation”.

The Stockholm Convention was signed on 22 May 2001 and entered into force on 17 May 2004. The Republic of Moldova ratified the Convention on 19 February 2004.

This international multilateral agreement is focused on the reduction and elimination of the Persistent organic pollutants – highly toxic chemical substances, stable and persistent in the environment, for decades, are volatile and could be transported to long distances by air and water, are bio accumulative and by this present a major risk for human health and environment.

In the period on 25-29 April 2011 in Geneva the V-th Conference of Parties took place, where the results of the implementation of the convention during ten years were evaluated, identified the current situation and set up the objectives for the next period. At this event the performances of the implementation of the Convention in Moldova were highly appreciated. The Republic of Moldova, as one of the first countries in the world, which get significant results in this field, obtained two awards: the POPs Star Award for the implementation of the convention and the Award for the elimination of the PCBs (PEN Network Award).

During the first 10 years of implementation in Moldova more than 3350 tones of obsolete pesticides from 350 warehouses and 40 illegal dumps were collected, repackaged and stored in 35 centralized warehouses. From this amount 1300 tones were transported and eliminated outside of the country. At the same time, were evacuated and eliminated 18 860 capacitors (934 tones) containing Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). At the national scale took place the inventory of PCBs in the electroenergetic equipment. After a national inventory – 1600 objects contaminated with pesticides (storage places, soil etc), and 30 000 units of equipment monitored. Was reviewed the existing legal and regulatory base in the field of POPs and a new Regulation on PCBs approved. These activities became possible due to the approval of the National Strategy on the reduction and elimination of POPs and of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention in 2004. The methodological and financial support for the implementation of the planned activities was provided by GEF, WB, Canadian Development Agency, NATO, the Government of the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, the National Ecological Fund of the Republic of Moldova, IPEN etc. The total value of the implemented projects during this 10 years is around 15 millions USD. At the same time, the needs for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention in Moldova,



according to the recently adopted National Program on sustainable chemicals management (2010) is up to 28 million USD for the next 10 years.

At the Press Conference the results of implementation of the GEF/WB Project “Sustainable POPs Stockpiles Management and Destruction in the Republic of Moldova” were presented. The new projects and initiatives were launched: the collection, repackaging and elimination of 50 tones of obsolete chemicals from schools, financed by the National Ecological Fund and implemented by SAVA GmbH, Germany and the continuation of activities of elimination of obsolete pesticides, a new grand from the Czech Government of 500 th Euro, planned actions for 500 th Euro from the National Ecological Fund and 200 th Euro from NATO.

The Press Conference was conducted by the Minister of Environment, representatives of involved ministries, WB, OSCE, and Embassy of the Czech Republic, NGOs, TV, Radio and press.

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2. A BIOGRAPHY OF IHPA – POPS NEWSLETTER

*Bala Subra Manyan. Sugavanam*¹

¹*Consultant, Vienna, Austria.*

The poster takes the reader through the time of the first issue of IHPA-POPs Newsletter almost a decade ago. It was the year 2001 in Poznan during the 6th International HCH and Pesticides Forum where the author representing UNIDO presented a paper entitled “Benefits of regional/sub. Regional networking in developing countries to eliminate /manage POPs”. Discussions ensued the presentation resulted in the starting of IHPA Newsletter called “Bioremediation Newsletter. The first issue dated April 1, 2002 was included in the IHPA website. The main purpose of the Newsletter was to convey in the form of simple and light reading the POPs and their problems and the world’s concern to protect human health and environment from the ill effects of POPs. When the Stockholm Convention was ratified in 2004 the Newsletter gave greater importance especially to Eastern Europe and the Caucasus Region. She (The Newsletter) covered all the subsequent IHPA Forums and reached a milestone when she carried interviews with the European Member of European Parliament (UEN) H.E Wieslaw Stefan KUC and the Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources, Republic of Moldova and Mr. John Vijgen, Director of IHPA. The issue of Malaria was extensively covered due to its importance to developing countries. She used simple English as a language of communication not professionally edited King’s, Queen’s or Oxford English. Under the editorship of the author she appeared in 20 issues until it was handed over to Professor Mahbubar Rahman last year that will have a young team of able people to continue the publication. The success of the Newsletter very much depends on members of IHPA to submit articles and news items as much as they can. Without the enthusiastic support of the Director of IHPA Mr. John Vijgen she would not have had a successful run for 10 years. The poster will take through some of the topics covered during the last 10 years of its existence. The details of the poster will be presented at the 11th Forum.

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Third Announcement

11TH INTERNATIONAL HCH AND PESTICIDES FORUM

07 – 09 September, 2011, Gabala, Republic of Azerbaijan
 Venue: Qafqaz Riverside Hotel, Republic of Azerbaijan

TOPIC: Status of obsolete stockpiles of pesticides in EECCA Countries: sharing experience of EU countries

ORGANIZERS:

- International HCH & Pesticides Association (IHPA), The Netherlands
- Ministry of Ecology & Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- State Committee of Land and Cartography of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Baku State University, Azerbaijan Republic
- ECORES Information-Analytic Environmental Agency

HOST ORGANIZATIONS:

- International HCH & Pesticides Association (IHPA), The Netherlands
- Ministry of Ecology & Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Central and Eastern European Regional POPs Centre, RECETOX, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
- Federal Environment Agency of Germany (UBA)



University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland
 School of Life Sciences



Stockholm Convention Regional centre
 for capacity building and transfer of technology
 in Central and Eastern European countries

SPONSORED BY:

- Ministry of Ecology & Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- FAO - GEF funded project “Capacity building on Obsolete and POPs Pesticides in Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia Countries (EECCA) countries
- GIZ Convention Project Chemical Safety
- Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
- University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland, School of Life Sciences

BACKGROUND:

The aim of 11th International HCH and Pesticides Forum is to present and discuss the problems connected with a huge amount of obsolete pesticides in the regions of Southern Caucasus and Central Asia region, Central European and EECCA Countries and many others around the Globe, their inventories, present amounts and elimination, which had started successfully during the previous 9th and continued during the 10th Fora. This Forum is undertaken under the framework of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and other international agreements and directives. Special attention will be given to solve the problems with obsolete pesticides in the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia region, areas where pesticides have long been produced and applied during Soviet era.

Alpha-HCH, beta-HCH and Lindane (gamma-HCH) have recently been listed as POPs in the Stockholm Convention together with other 6 other new POPs.

CONFERENCE PUBLISHING:**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS – will be available in the Forum materials:****ABSTRACTS PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION (for oral and poster presentation):**

Abstracts should be concise, 1 800 characters long and prepared according to the following pattern:

PESTICIDES WATER CONTAMINATION IN BULGARIAN DANUBE REGION

First, A.¹, Second, B.², Third, B.¹

¹Research Institute, Town, Country

²University Department, Town, Country

The text of abstract should be written in English, single-spaced with no indentations. Use standard abbreviations only. Do not include referenced and figures or tables into the abstract. Use 12 pt Times New Roman fonts with 2.5 cm side margins. Submit your abstract only by e-mail or disk. The deadline to submit the abstract is **June 30, 2011**.

The abstracts of **oral and poster presentation** will be published in their original forms as received from the authors. No additional editing works will be done.

The abstract book will be distributed to Forum participants at the start of the 11th Forum.

FORUM BOOK –containing the full papers of the communications, and Forum Resolution Document will be provided on the website of IHPA in PDF format in English after the Forum.

PAPER PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

For oral and poster presentation:

The papers should be written in English. The papers should not exceed five A4 (210 x 297 mm) pages and should be typed in MS Word, Times New Roman font, single-spaced, font size 12, left and right margins should be 25 mm wide, 30 mm should be margins at the top and the bottom of the pages. The paper should contain:

TITLE

In bold, capital letters and centered

Double space

NAME(s) OF AUTHOR(s)

In bold, italic letters and centred

Double space

Author's affiliations

Italic letters. If more than one institution is included, number them according to authors

Double space

Abstract

All articles should start with abstracts. The abstracts should be no longer than 300 words and state briefly and specifically what the paper reports, summarize the conclusions. Point out new information and indicate the relevance of the work.

Double space

Key-words

5 –10

Double space

Article

The authors could structure of the article depending on its content, as for example: introduction, one or more chapters/paragraphs, and conclusions. All **figures** and **tables** have to be incorporated in the text, they must be clear and simple, and they should be properly identified with number and text which explain the figure/table. Measurements should be expressed in SI/units.

Double space

References

in bold

Double space

Text of References

Papers must be sent to the Organizing Committee by e-mail to: g.aliyeva1@gmail.com within the established deadline: **July 31, 2011.**

11th Forum proceedings

The presented papers will be published after the Forum on the IHPA Web-site. The materials will be published in their original forms as received from the authors. No additional editing works will be done. The authors are fully responsible for the content of their abstracts.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION, CONFERENCE FEE

Submitting the electronic Registration Form (<http://www.hchforum.com/registration.php>) is required if you wish to have your oral or poster presentation included in the Forum schedule.

- The Forum participation fee is € 200,-. The fee has to be paid during the electronic registration. This covers participation in all presentations, coffee breaks, three lunches, welcome reception and dinner hosted by the Ministry of Ecology & Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, field trip, airport transfer, site-seeing tour in Gabala with lunch bag and a "Forum bag" which includes the book of abstracts and later delivery of the electronic version of the 'Forum Book'.
- Extended Deadline for registration: **30 June 2011**

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The new regulation effective October 15, 2010 **no longer** allows foreign citizens and stateless persons to obtain Azerbaijani visa stamp upon arrival at Baku Airport. **Please note that all travelers to Azerbaijan with foreign passports must now apply for a visa at Azerbaijani Embassy or Consulate in their home country or the closest diplomatic representation of Azerbaijan, prior to making travel arrangements. Please contact nearest Embassy or Consulate of the Republic of Azerbaijan to check your visa requirements 2-3 months before the event as collection of documents and visa issuance may take time.**

After the registration fee has been received, each participant will be provided with an invitation letter to support Azerbaijan entry visa application. For this purpose the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan requires a **scanned copy of each passport and the information on the participants' current position to be sent to g.aliyeva1@gmail.com**

http://www.mfa.gov.az/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=598&Itemid=1

ACCOMMODATION AND FORUM LOCATION:

The forum will be held at Qafqaz Riverside Hotel. For further information about the hotel please visit: <http://www.qafqazriversidehotel.com/pages/DefaultEn.aspx>

As a second option serves the Qabala Hotel. Please visit

<http://azhoteller.blogspot.com/2010/08/hotel-gabala.html>

Special Forum rates for rooms at both hotels can be found on the IHPA Forum website www.hchforum.com

Rooms at both hotels can **only** be booked via the electronic registration provided on the Forum website.

Airport transfer between Baku airport and hotel in Gabala can **only** be booked via the electronic registration form provided on the Forum website. In this form every participant should provide his/her flight details such as arrival/departure times, flight numbers with exact dates and times. **Please note that if the Airport Transfer Form is not provided to conference organisers before registration closing date (extended to 30 June 2011), no meeting at the airport and transfer to Gabala city from Baku can be provided on short notice.**

Conference facilities are at the Qafqaz Riverside Hotel.

Student hostels can be booked upon request to Forum Secretariat after electronic registration.

Sponsorship for participation in the Forum is relevant for limited number of candidates from countries with economies in transition.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF THE 11TH FORUM:

The Forum organizers are planning a three-day program consisting of three session days and one day post conference field trip.

September 06, 2011:

Arrival of participants – transfer Baku airport – Hotel in Gabala, registration

GTZ, BMZ, IHPA, PAN Germany new updated Exhibition held in Bonn at German Federal Ministry for the Environment from 14. January – 11. February 2011 and at COP-5: “Obsolete and POPs Pesticides in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia”

September 07, 2011

09:00 – 10:00 - Opening ceremony
10:00 – 13:00 - Presentations
13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch
14:00 – 17:00 – Presentations
17.00 – 18.30 – Poster session
19:00 - Reception

September 08, 2011

09:00 – 13:00 - Presentations
13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch
14:00 – 17:00 - Presentations
17.00 – 19.00 - Poster Session

September 09, 2011:

09:00 – 13:00 – Presentations, closing ceremony
13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch

September 10, 2011:

Field trip to Jangi refurbished obsolete pesticide burial site.
Departure of participants from Baku Heydar Aliyev airport

SUMMARY OF DATES FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Extended registration –June 30, 2011

Extended abstract submission – June 30, 2011

Paper submission – July 31, 2011

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4. GERMAN BROCHURE MADE FOR EXHIBITION IN BONN, GERMANY

John Vijgen, IHPA



Photo of IHPA ambassador Mr. Wolfgang Schimpf of the GIZ who initiated the exhibition in Bonn, was held from 14 January - 12 February 2011 at the Ministry of Environment in Bonn



Impression of exhibition in the entrance hall of the BMU, Bonn, Germany

The exhibition was the result of a cooperation of the Convention Project Chemical Safety Deutsche Gesellschaft für International

Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Germany, the Pesticides Action Network (PAN), Germany and the International HCH and Pesticides Association (IHPA), the Netherlands. The official opening speech was made by Secretary of State Jürgen Becker who confirmed the responsibility for the security of chemicals and the enlargement of the scope of conscience for the security in Germany being the largest producer of chemicals in Europe. John Vijgen explained the problems of obsolete pesticides in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, explained the need for urgent financial support, but appealed specifically to the Secretary of State to support politically the issue at the coming Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan end of September this year. He thanked specially Mr. Wolfgang Schimpf for all the years of real field work with concrete achievements in the field of obsolete pesticides.



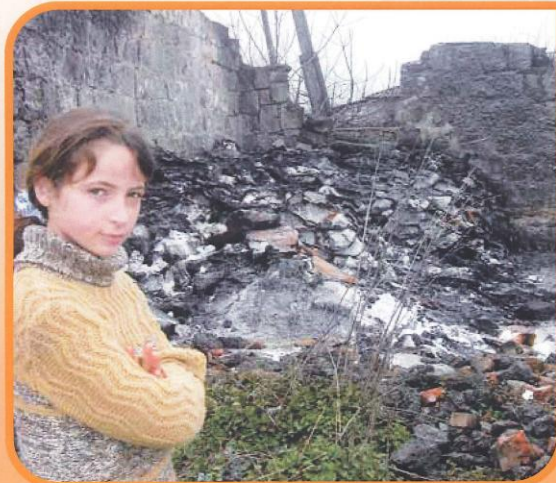
Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
und Reaktorsicherheit

gtz CHS
Convention Project
Chemical Safety
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH

Ausstellung

Unbrauchbare Pestizide

-Gefahren und Risiken für Mensch und Umwelt-



14. 01. bis 11. 02. 2011

Eröffnung am 14. Januar 2011

13:00 Uhr

Foyer des Bundesumweltministeriums Bonn

Öffnungszeiten:

Montag - Freitag, 9:30 Uhr - 18:00 Uhr

Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit

Robert-Schuman-Platz 3

53175 Bonn

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5. SOME IMPORTANT NEWS AND ARTICLES

Roland Weber

5.1 REVIEW ARTICLE ON “HEXACHLOROCYCLOHEXANE (HCH) AS NEW STOCKHOLM CONVENTION POPS – A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF LINDANE AND ITS WASTE ISOMERS” PUBLISHED

In Newsletter #20 we already announced this highly relevant review article on global HCH pollution and the tasks for implementation of the Stockholm Convention now published in Environmental Science Pollution Research with open access. An author team (John Vijgen, P.C. Abhilash, Yi Fan Li, Rup Lal, Martin Forter, Joao Torres, Nandita Singh, Mohammad Yunus, Chongguo Tian, Andreas Schäffer and Roland Weber) including several IHPA members has written this review article.

Please download and enjoy reading:

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/g62g810418512421/fulltext.pdf>

And possibly forward to interested colleagues.

5.2 STOCKHOLM CONVENTION COP5 UNDER THE THEME - CHEMICAL CHALLENGES, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS - LISTED ENDOSULFAN AS POPS

(<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/COP/hrMeetings/COP5/tabid/1267/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/870/EventID/109/xmid/4351/language/en-US/Default.aspx>)

Over 700 participants took part in the conference, which was held from 25 to 29 April 2011. Under the theme, "Stockholm at 10: Chemical Challenges, Sustainable Solutions", the conference marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention in May 2001.

Representatives from 127 Governments meeting in Geneva from 25-29 April at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties agreed to add endosulfan to the list of POPs to be eliminated worldwide. The action puts the widely-used pesticide on course for elimination from the global market by 2012.

The Parties agreed to list endosulfan in Annex A to the Convention, with specific exemptions. When the amendment to the Annex A enters into force in one year, endosulfan will become the 22nd POP to be listed under the Convention.

The decision was among more than 30 measures taken by Parties to the Stockholm Convention to boost global action against POPs.

Other major decisions were taken at the meeting that concern further steps in the synergies process to enhance cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and the endorsement of seven new Stockholm Convention regional centres.

Details can be found at the IISD reporting page:

<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/cop5/>

Here is Summary report:

<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb15182e.pdf>

5.3 IHPA AT COP 5

Our IHPA “Pesticide Stockpile Exhibition” was well placed at the entrance hall of the COP5 and delivered our message on urgent Pesticide Elimination to the 700 delegates.

IHPA was also supporting the organisation of a highly interesting side event on key aspects on pesticide stockpile elimination with the following contributions:

- Pesticides in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: What’s the problem and what is being done?
Mark Davis, Senior Officer – Pesticides Management Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
- Macedonia: Raising awareness and quantifying the problem
Emilija Kjupeva Nedelkova, Head of Division for Chemicals and Industrial Accidents – Industrial Pollution and Risk Management, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Macedonia
- Romania: The HCH/Lindane problem
Mihaela Ciobanu, National Focal Point for Stockholm Convention, Romania
- Uzbekistan: Reducing risks through Integrated Pest Management
Dr. Zulfya Suleymanova, State Committee for Nature Protection, Republic of Uzbekistan
- Sustainability in Pesticide Projects – factors for success
Jerphaas Donner, Director Milieukontakt International, The Netherlands

Hopefully we will get some of these inputs for our next 11th IHPA Forum in Azerbaijan!

5.4 THE FILM HIGHLIGHT AT COP5 “SILENT SNOW” – THE INVISIBLE POISONING OF THE WORLD

The **Silent Snow project** aims to raise awareness of pollution caused by POPs and consists of both a short film: <http://www.silentsnow.org/en/sd-synopsis>, and a feature length documentary, which was shown at COP5: <http://www.silentsnow.org/en/flf-synopsis>

The well attended and highly impressive film was shown with podium discussion with the film director Jan van den Berg.

The film was made as educational material for schools and the public. The project aims to portray the people that are affected most, by what turns out to be a structural pollution of the entire global environmental system.

Jan van den Berg on Silent Snow: *“The discrepancy between the magnificence of this seemingly untouched white land and the steady but invisible destruction of this area by developments elsewhere in the world is the essential drama I wished to capture. Together with Pipaluk, I wanted to find out why this is happening and understand the perspective’s of the different people involved; the victims, the producers, and those who try to fight for solutions”.*

The film is released on DVD in about 6 months. Please consider distributing in your country then.....

5.5 STOCKHOLM CONVENTION SECRETARIAT WEBINAR SEMINARS – PLEASE TRY OUT

To complement its face-to-face training activities, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention is hosting a series of webinars that focus on key issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

Through tailored information and knowledge exchange, the POPs Webinars allow for an interactive dialogue between the Secretariat and the government officials involved in the implementation and enforcement of the Convention. By doing so, the Secretariat aims at supporting Parties in addressing some of the challenges they may face when implementing the Convention. The POPs Webinars series offers an opportunity to reach out to a wider network of stakeholders engaged in Convention matters and to the general public.

<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Meetings/Webinars/tabid/1529/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

5.6 SYNERGIES SUCCESS STORIES

The publication "Synergies Success Stories - Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions" is available and can be downloaded e.g. on Stockholm Convention webpage.

5.7 “PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS AND LANDFILLS – A REVIEW OF PAST EXPERIENCES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES” PUBLISHED

Weber R, Watson A, Forter M, Oliaei F, Waste Manag Res, 29(1), 107-121 (2011)

Abstract

The landfilling and dumping of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other persistent hazardous compounds, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), polybrominated diphenylether (PBDEs) or perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) can have significant adverse environmental consequences. This paper reviews past experiences with such disposal practices and highlights their unsustainability due to the risks of contamination of ecosystems, the food chain, together with ground and drinking water supplies.

The use and associated disposal of POPs have been occurring for over 50 years. Concurrent with the phase-out of some of the most hazardous chemicals, the production of new POPs, such as brominated and fluorinated compounds has increased since the 1990s. These latter compounds are commonly used in a wide range of consumer goods, and as consumer products reach the end of their useful lives, ultimately enter waste recycling and disposal systems, in particular at municipal landfills. Because of their very slow, or lack of degradability, POPs will persist in landfills for many decades and possibly centuries. Over these extended time periods engineered landfill systems and their liners are likely to degrade, thus posing a contemporary and future risk of releasing large contaminant loads to the environment. This review highlights the necessity for alternative disposal methods for POP wastes, including destruction or complete removal from potential environmental release. In addition to such end of pipe solutions a policy change in the use pattern of persistent toxic chemicals is inevitable. In addition, inventories for the location and quantity of POPs in landfills, together with an assessment of their threat to ecosystems, drinking water and food resources are identified as key measures to facilitate appropriate

management of risks. Finally the challenges of POP wastes in transition/developing countries, the risk of increased leaching of POPs from landfills due to climate change, and the possible negative impact of natural attenuation processes are considered.

5.8 LAST NOT LEAST: AZERBAIJAN WINS 2011 EUROVISION SONG CONTEST!

Düsseldorf, Germany

After an exciting voting in front of tens of thousands of people in a fully packed Düsseldorf Arena and millions of TV viewers all over Europe, it was finally Ell/Nikki from Azerbaijan who received the highest number of points from televoters and juries from the 43 countries participating in this year's edition of Europe's favourite TV-show! Ell/Nikki managed to gather 221 points altogether - followed by Raphael Gualazzi from Italy with 189 points and Sweden's Eric Saade who collected 185 points.

<http://www.eurovision.tv/page/news?id=36003>,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giR4efUC2JQ>

Congratulation!!

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6. GABALA, AZERBAIJAN, THE HOST OF 11TH INTERNATIONAL HCH AND PESTICIDE FORUM

Gulchohra Aliyeva, Ambassador of IHPA in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is a post-Soviet country, which gained independence in 1991 after the break-up of USSR. The country has a long history of agricultural development. Organochlorine pesticides were widely used in the country for grape and cotton growing in the past. Although some highly persistent and toxic pesticides were banned in USSR, and no longer applied, the legacy of pesticides are of concern today due to the number of obsolete pesticide warehouses located in different parts of the country. Azerbaijan Government has been undertaking number of measures and working closely with UN FAO for elimination of these obsolete pesticide stocks, clean-up and remediation of POPs polluted areas and prevention of further environmental pollution.

Azerbaijan is hosting the 11th International HCH and Pesticide Forum, which will be held on 7-9 September, 2011 in the historical city of Gabala. The event is going to bring together experts from the East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as European organisations and institutions working in the field of POPs for sharing of experience and development of the single instrument to jointly address the regional POPs pollution.

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7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROTECTION AT THE AMAZON REGION IN BRAZIL: POLLUTION PREVENTION

Torres, JPM, Malm O and Bastos WR

Since 1986, the Federal Universities of Rondônia and Rio de Janeiro are cooperating in environmental research topics in several different Amazon environments, starting in different aspects of the fate of mercury released by goldmines, including the presence of this metal in abiotic and biotic samples, including the hair of local man, women and children.

In 1998, the study of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) was initiated, and with the help of the Fogarty International via Mount Sinai School of Medicine the first survey was concluded on DDT concentrations in fish samples, since this is the main item of the local population diet. New data on breast milk DDT concentrations is now being compiled, together of new samples of soils, sediments and some other biological materials, like bird feathers and eggs. Our group described for the first time the environmental contamination by DDT after its use in vector control campaigns.

The present challenge faced is of also including the study of modern pesticides, both in agriculture and urban dwellings (vector control), since some abusive uses of herbicides to control weeds in Porto Velho, the capital of the State of Rondônia are identified.

Community based research (CBR)

CBR is very important to understand that this research will try to involve the local communities as much as possible, not only to demystify the border between scientists and the public, since efforts will be made to identify what are the main aspects of their daily life that can expose than to different chemicals.

Outreach project

In 2002 an outreach project was started based on boat trips that visited several communities along the Madeira river from Porto Velho to Itacoatiara in the River Amazon, and a more detailed research is being carried-out at the Puruzinho Lake, near Humaita (c. 300 km downstream from Porto Velho). In 2004, data were collected related to some neurologic (visual acuity, visual field, color sensibility) and on the status of the autonomic nervous system (variability of the cardiac frequency) of this population for the first time. Another community is identified within the borders of Rondônia State to repeat this analysis and other excursions are being planned towards the Mamoré and Guaporé rivers, in the Border between Brazil and Bolivia to initiate the characterization of the heavy metals and POPs load, if possible we intend to analyze organochlorine pesticides and PCBs in more samples of fish, breast milk and try to adapt a method for the analyse of hair of people for this substances.

Historical Aspects of Pollution: Natural X Antrophogenic inputs, diseases...

The sediments carried by the Madeira river are naturally very enriched with different minerals, including heavy metals, mostly because the Andean Mountains are a highly mineralized area, with different ores being found there. An attempt is planned to study deep sediment cores in remote lakes in order to try to understand this process.

In the middle of the 18th century, the importance of the Amazon was related to rubber production from the latex of *Hevea sp.* Porto Velho, was created during the first efforts to build a railway to transpose the Madeira river water falls. Nowadays rubber production is still present, but is one among Rondônia products but forest fires, destroys massive amounts of native forest to clear land, and sometimes the smoke were so intense that the airports remain closed for long periods. The atmospheric contamination due to this kind of pollution is unknown. The epiphytic biomonitoring using *Tillandsia usneoides* (L.) was carried-out in order to characterize the deposition and presence of mercury, PAHs and organochlorines, it is a good contribution in this field. The fires are clearly seasonal and more intense during dry times.

Goldmining is responsible for a significant amount of the inputs of mercury in the Madeira river. Goldmines using mercury are flourishing in the neighbour countries. Tin ores impact on the environment remains to be studied.

Malária in Rondônia is a very common disease; although dengue fever is also very prevalent and very serious. DDT was used until 1997 in the vector control of both illnesses. Now the main insecticide is malathion and temephos to kill larvae. Bed nets, sometimes impregnated with pyrethroids are another prophylactic measure.

Pesticides in agriculture and urban areas

The area of cleared land is increasing and several pesticides are used to protect pastures and different types of plantations. For example, herbicides are frequently used also in the towns, in order to control weeds that grow on the front of most houses. This may be an important source of human exposure, since this contamination may affect children, due to soil-mouth behavior (“pica” behavior).

Finally, intention is triggered to study the chemical dependence in the State of Rondônia, especially in relation to human health and environmental issues.

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8. INNOVATIVE POPS CAPACITY BUILDING – THE CASE OF NETWORKING WITH AFRICAN PESTICIDE REGULATORS

Hanna-Andrea Rother, Ph.D., Programme Leader - Health Risk Management, Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research (COEHR), School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa, andrea.rother@uct.ac.za

Most developing countries and many Economies in Transition (EIT) struggle to initiate effective and sustainable approaches to managing and reducing the risks associated with pesticide use and exposure often as a result of a lack of “capacity”. That is the “capacity” to regulate, ensure enforcement of regulations, control illegal trade of pesticides across borders, conduct surveillance/monitoring, provide standardized non-industry lead training, implement awareness raising campaigns, dispose of obsolete pesticides, comply with international conventions and the list continues. This lack of “capacity” is often attributed to the need for human and financial resources, access to up-to-date information, better connectivity to the internet and control measures that are applicable in complex pesticide use contexts which are appropriate for developing countries and EIT. Although many pesticide related initiatives and international conventions/approaches (e.g., SAICM) highlight the need for capacity building in these countries implementing this process sustainably often falls short due to lack of continuity in financial and human resources rendering the process to limited effectiveness or merely staying at the level of rhetoric.

The Health Risk Management Programme (HRMP) in the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Research (COEHR) at the University of Cape Town (UCT) has embarked on a process of providing some capacity building support for those involved in pesticide regulation based on the COEHR’s long standing research and policy experience with pesticides. As a result, in 1997 the **Pesticide e-list server** was launched providing the latest health and environmental research findings, global regulatory status of particular pesticides, upcoming meetings/training, funding, etc. In 2006 the **Regulators e-list server** was launched after participants at an African pesticide regulators workshop requested networking support.

In 2009 the **Regulators Pesticide Discussion Forum** was launched to provide a low cost but consistent way for regulators to “meet” with each other rather than the traditional once a year physical meeting. These initiatives are currently funded by the Swedish Chemical Agency (KemI) and a process for making these sustainable through membership support is being undertaken.

The **Regulators Pesticide Discussion Forum** operates through UCT’s internet based educational platform - Vula – and currently has 145 members. Members set the themes and topics they wish to discuss at the beginning of the year. The discussions take place bi-monthly at the same time in the “chat room” of Vula. Each discussion has a presenter which is either a member or guest presenter and a chair person. Each member is identified by a different colour in the chat room as they type their message. Although the discussion is predominately held in English, members may write their comments in French and Portuguese which is then translated by the support staff (currently a master’s student at UCT).

Since February 2011 the Pesticide Discussion Forum has already met eight times in the chat room where different presenters and chairs led the discussion on various topics for addressing pesticide registration effectively in Africa which is the first theme of the year. Topics included:

- How registration fees could be justified and utilized to promote pesticide risk reduction;
- Relevance of International Conventions (Stockholm) in Pesticide Risk Management;
- Regional collaboration and registration initiatives in Africa
- Type of information requested from industry for pesticide registration; whose responsibility to provide risk assessment data?
- Can pesticide risk analysis procedures be simplified for registration in developing countries?
- Do countries have enough information on Endosulfan to make a decision at COP 5?
- Pesticide effects on the environment – how to obtain compliance from organizations?

The list of topics and presenters is compiled at the beginning of the year so that members are able to diarize the bi-monthly discussions. In the evaluation conducted at the end of the year, members have provided useful inputs to continually improve on this forum. As result the topic and questions to be discussed are posted on a blog a week prior to the discussion in order for members who have prior engagements or find the times inconvenient are able to post their response. During the on-line chat discussion, comments from the blog are added so that these are addressed and discussed by others. Another suggestion made was to circulate the discussion via e-mail while it is underway for people struggling to stay connected to Vula or for those travelling and who wish to read the discussion on their phones. After each discussion a 2-page newsletter is circulated summarizing the key points and the way forward. This newsletter is translated into French and Portuguese by the support staff and then two members have agreed to edit for language.

Several United Nations bodies (FAO, WHO, UNEP) are not only members of the discussion forum, present sessions and provide current relevant information, but several of these agencies use the discussion forum and electronic list servers as an opportunity to circulate draft guidance materials for pesticide regulators, academics and others to comment on before these are finalized.

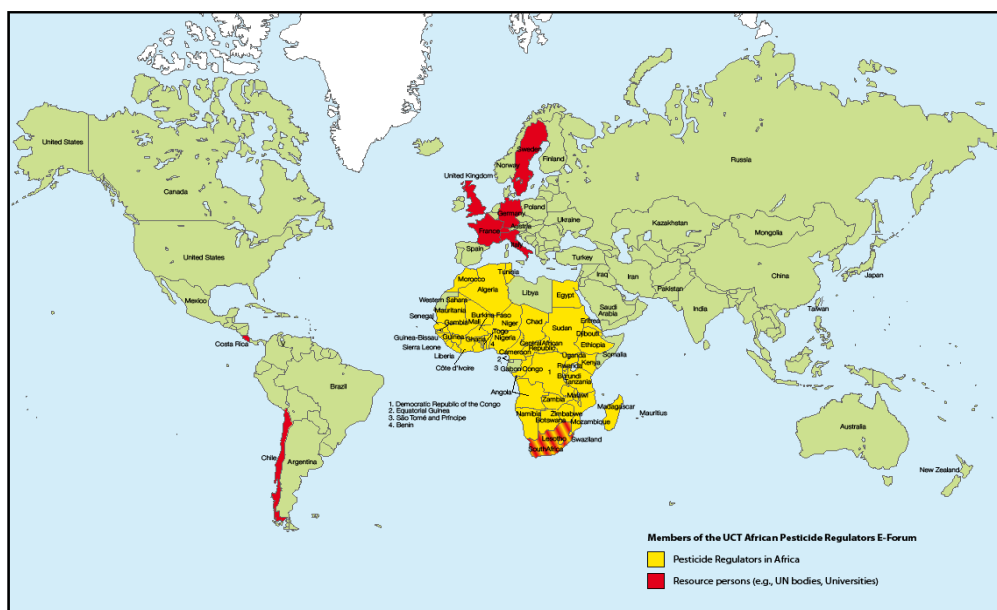


Figure: Members of the Regulators Pesticide Discussion Forum

The latest HRMP/COEHR regulators capacity building initiative to be launched is a distance learning course through Vula to support post graduate studies in Pesticide Risk Management. In March 2011 the Post Graduate (PG) Diploma program commenced with the first intake of 18 students – 15 students from Africa, 2 from Fiji and 1 from St Lucia. The course is an UCT/FAO (UN Food and Agricultural Organization) initiative creating a unique course that is structured around the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, as well as the Life Cycle Approach to pesticide risk management and risk reduction. The two-year part time PG Diploma will in future lead into a Masters and short courses.

As a result of this networking through the e-list servers, discussion forum and PG course, regulators have started collaborating with each other on registration issues, sharing resources and information, inputting conventions into regulatory activities, informing on regulator matters in each country and alerting each other to illegal movement of pesticides cross borders. Effective pesticide risk reduction capacity building requires a driver, financial support, a functioning platform for networking and consistency, regular support/meetings, innovative approaches and the willingness to change and upgrade the process to meet the needs and challenges of the members it is servicing.

Further Information:

For Pesticide Risk Communication materials developed by COEHR, go to:

<http://www.coehr.uct.ac.za/publications/pestrel.php>

To join Pesticide Info e-list server run by COEHR go to:

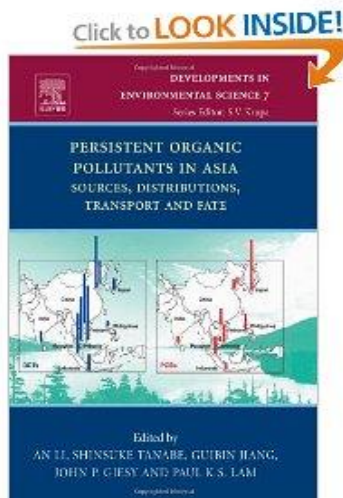
<https://lists.uct.ac.za/mailman/listinfo/pesticides-l>

For more information on the Post Graduate Diploma in Pesticide Risk Management send an e-mail of enquiry to: cynthia.lewis@uct.ac.za

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9. INFORMATION SOURCES OF POPs IN ASIA

Md. Mahbubar Rahman



PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS IN ASIA

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<http://ebooktoyou.net/ebook/persistent-organic-pollutants-in-asia.php>

Description

Large amounts of data obtained through environmental monitoring of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in 10 Asian countries and Australia have been compiled and explored using principles of environmental chemistry, toxicology, and risk assessment. This book also includes descriptions and discussions of current governmental policies, monitoring and surveillance programs, history of manufacturing and applications, emission sources, impacts on human health, and cross-boundary transport of POPs in these countries.

The World Bank is engaged in on-going work on POPs aiming to assist its client countries to protect human health and the environment from POPs throughout the globe.

Permanent URL for this page: <http://go.worldbank.org/EXM1HL14T0>

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10. SIDE EVENT AT STOCKHOLM CONVENTION COP-5 IN GENEVA: PESTICIDES IN EASTERN EUROPEAN, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES. SOLUTIONS IN PRACTICE

Mihaela Ciobanu and Mark Davis



The fifth meeting of the Conference of Parties of Stockholm Convention (COP-5) took place from 25-29 April 2011, in Geneva, Switzerland. A side event of COP-5, namely "**Pesticides in Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian Countries. Solutions in Practice**" on the GEF/FAO project "*Capacity Building on Obsolete and POPs Pesticides in Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian Countries*" was held on 27th of April 2011.

The side event was chaired by Mr. Mark Davis, Senior Officer -Pesticides Management, of the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO who emphasized FAO's role in the area of pesticides and obsolete pesticides management and FAO's strategic objective of supporting the countries in developing sustainable agriculture. Also, Mr. Davis defined the problem imposed by obsolete pesticides and unsustainable use of pesticides and what is being done at the present time to support countries. His introduction was followed by some of the success stories in this regard, namely:

- Experience of Macedonia concerning raising awareness and quantifying the problem of obsolete pesticides, introduced by Mrs. Emilija Kjupeva Nedelkova, Head of Division for Chemicals and Industrial Accidents, Industrial Pollution and Risk Management, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning;
- Experience of Romania in dealing with HCH/Lindane problem, introduced by Ms. Mihaela Ciobanu, Official Contact Point and National Focal Point for Stockholm Convention, Pollution Control and Impact Assessment Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Forests;
- Experience of Uzbekistan in reducing risks through Integrated Pest Management, prepared by Dr. Zulfiya Suleymanova, State Committee for Nature Protection, presented by Peter Kenmore, Principal Officer of the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO;
- Factors for success in ensuring sustainability in pesticides projects, introduced by Mr. Jerphaas Donner, Director of Milieukontakt International, Netherlands.

The presentations were followed by an interactive session of questions and answers. Finally, Mr. Mark Davis and Mr. Jerphaas Donner concluded the discussions stressing that important work has been done but still a lot of challenges remain, such as:

- continued need for capacity development in pesticides and hazardous waste management;
- additional tools, systems and guidance to support countries in various technical areas;
- ensuring sustainability of actions taken to reduce risks from pesticides and obsolete pesticides;
- lack of facilities for the treatment of hazardous wastes such as obsolete pesticides and POPs;
- shortage of funds for continuation of work.



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11. LATEST NEWS: MULTI-PRICE WINNING JOURNALIST JAN VAN DEN BERG IS COMING TO THE 11TH FORUM TO SHOW HIS DAZZLING MOVIE "SILENT SNOW"

John Vijgen

This is just great news that Jan van den Berg is willing to come to the forum and show global consequences directly affecting our population. He has shown, in spite of non-interest and lack of funding, that it is still possible to bring the problem to our citizens and politicians and that such a movie can help to make a change.

The whole 71 minutes film we will see at the forum and I am convinced the movie will inspire participants, ambassadors and politicians and all other decision-makers to work even harder on the solution of obsolete and POPs pesticides.



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