



# Newsletter

Basel Convention Regional  
Center For Training And  
Technology Transfer For  
The Arab States  
(BCRC-Egypt)

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## About BCRC- Egypt

We are a regional center for training and technology transfer affiliated with the Basel Convention on the control and trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes. We are based in Egypt, and hosted in Cairo University. Our mission is "Improved and capable National systems for sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes in the Arab States".

Being located and hosted by Cairo University; one of the leading universities in the region, most of the staff working with the center are academic staff with extensive field experience and are capable of dealing with hazardous waste problems in innovative ways based on extensive and adoptive research.

The center started its activities with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) in 1998 with a workshop on Sound management hazardous wastes via a MOU. Thereafter, the BCRC did with the same arrangements with the SBC several regional activities. In October, 2004 the Government of Egypt and the SBC developed and signed a frame

work agreement for the establishment of the center as an autonomous institute with its own legal personality. According to the framework agreement BCRC-Egypt will provide services for the implementation of the Basel Convention to the Parties served by the center; namely the Arab States. The center is working under the general guidance and in close coordination with the SBC. The center is and will in addition, collaborate with other Basel Convention's sister conventions towards fulfilling the environmental sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. Visit our web site to learn more about BCRC-Egypt at; [WWW.BASELEGYPT.ORG](http://WWW.BASELEGYPT.ORG)



BCRC—Building inside the  
Cairo University campus

## Hazardous waste and the Basel convention

The Convention was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries which was convened at Basel from 20 to 22 March 1989 . Because hazardous wastes pose such a potential threat to human health and the environment, one of the guiding principles of the Basel Convention is that, in order to minimize the threat, hazardous wastes should be dealt with as close to where they are produced as possible. Therefore, under the Convention, trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes can take place only upon prior written notification by

the State of export to the competent authorities of the States of import and transit (if appropriate). The Basel convention in its annexes described the waste streams, the hazardous characteristics and the disposal operations. The Convention provided comprehensive lists of hazardous wastes. For the importance of operations which do not lead to the possibility of resource recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative use, the convention gave a brief description.

For more information visit:  
[www.basel.int](http://www.basel.int)

### BCRC Director:

Prof. Mortada El Aref

### BCRC Facilitator:

Dr. Said Dahroug

### Editorial Board:

Prof. El Aref,

Dr. Said Dahroug,

## Editorial Note

This newsletter came with the objective to both promote the BCRC-Egypt activities in the member countries and to raise the awareness about the Basel Convention and the sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. The BCRC –Egypt congratulate the member countries to have the government of Finland finance the center activities for the first three years. Appreciation to the Finland Government. The newsletter will be issued every six months; related articles are welcomed from member countries.

*Prof. Mortada M. El Aref,  
BCRC-Egypt Director*

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## MANAGEMENT OF USED OILS



*Re-refine of used oil plant.*

Used oil means petroleum or synthetic lubrication oils, hydraulic fluids, metal working fluids and insulating fluids which have been used and are no longer suitable for their original purpose.

Used oil is the largest single source of

surface and ground water pollution. Many of the used oils are extremely persistent and bio-accumulative, toxic, and when burned under suitable conditions, will give rise to toxic and carcinogenic products (Dioxins and Furans).

### Recycling and Recovery

There are many practical uses for used oil. A primary use is to re-refine it into a base stock for lubricating oil. This process is very similar to the refining of crude oil. The result is that the re-refined oil is of as high quality as a virgin oil product. In fact, re-refining used oil takes from 50 to 85 percent less energy than refining crude oil.

The problem of sound management of used oil in our region is addressed by BCRC-Egypt, and with the assistance of the SBC and the Generous contribution of the Government of Finland, BCRC Egypt will update the SBC Guidelines on used oil and will promote through a regional workshop

Guidelines on Sound management of used oil will be prepared.

For further information contact;

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## CALENDAR OF 2006 EVENTS

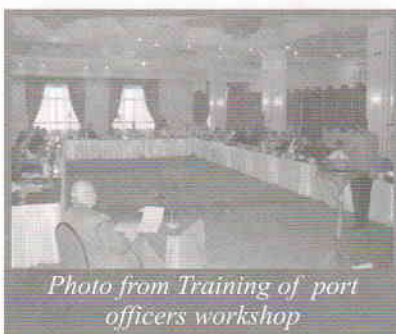
- A Workshop on Medical Waste Management– Damascus, Syria, 17-19 July, 2006, organized by the UNEP ROWA, the Syrian Authorities, the Arab League, and the Arab labor organization.
- A Workshop on “Leadership for Sound Waste Management” Amman, Jordan, 27-30 August, 2006. Organized by the United Nations University in Jordan.
- SAICM Regional Meeting, Cairo-Egypt 11-14 September, 2006.
- A Workshop on “The promotion of the Basel Convention Protocol on Liability and Compensation” Cairo, Egypt, 30/10-1/11/2006 organized by the BCRC- Egypt and The SBC.
- A Workshop on “Sound Management of Used Oils” Aden, Yemen, 10-13 December, 2006.

Organized by the BCRC-Egypt, UNEP ROWA and the Yemen authorities

- Basel Convention Conference of Parties. Nairobi, Kenya, 27 November – 1st. December, 2006.

For more details contact:  
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## REVIEW OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION



*Photo from Training of port officers workshop*

National Legislation is one of the most powerful tools for controlling and limiting the impact of hazardous waste problems. Many of the countries of the region have included in their National legislations provisions to control hazardous waste management practices. With time of law enforcement, weaknesses of the legislations may be noticed, and revision of the legislation deems necessary. The BCRC-Egypt will assist the countries of the region to

review their hazardous wastes national legislations towards more efficient and sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, and to comply with the provisions and fulfill national commitments under the Basel Convention. Countries currently developing their legislations will be also assisted to develop the proper legislation in view of the model national legislation prepared by the legal working group of the SBC. This model legislation along with other supporting documents will be translated into Arabic language and will be made available to all countries served by the BCRC-Egypt.

For more information on this activity please contact

Dr. Said Dahroug at:  
[sdahroug@baselegypt.org](mailto:sdahroug@baselegypt.org)

## Do You Believe This?

"Japanese physicist Professor Yagasaki calculated that the 500+ metric tonnes of depleted Uranium (DU) that the US unleashed on Afghanistan was the radioactive equivalent of 51,875 atomic bombs of the size dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. During the 2003 Gulf War the amount of DU used was the radioactive equivalent of 103,750 atomic bombs the size of that dropped on Nagasaki. DU fallout will travel from the Middle East to the UK, USA and parts of Asia.

(International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War)

## HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILLS IN HYPER-DRY AREAS

The BCRC-Egypt prepared and published Guidelines for hazardous waste landfills in hyper-dry areas. These guidelines are the outputs of the project "Preparation of a set of tools for the selection, design and operation of hazardous waste landfills in hyper-dry areas". This project was generously financed via the trust fund of the Basel Convention. The project started in March 2004 and was completed at the end of November, 2005. The guidelines were prepared as drafts by the BCRC-Egypt and were refined

during three expert group meetings where experts from the member Arab states and the SBC. In addition to the guidelines produced by the project a glossary for all expressions and technical terms used in the guidelines was also prepared for publication. The draft guidelines are prepared in both Arabic and English languages. They were utilized in a regional training program held in Bahrain in November, 2005. BCRC-Egypt decided to keep those guidelines as open files for future update, and welcomes comments



*First expert group meeting*

from those who use or are going to use them. You will find all the guidelines and the glossary on our web site. If you need further information write to us.

## E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

Electronic waste (e-waste) problem became one of the most serious problems that faces the developed and the developing countries. E-waste is the fastest growing source of waste.

Dumping or landfilling e-waste is harmful to the environment because substances such as Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead, Mercury and Nickel can leach out into the ground and water. These substances can be toxic and have been associated with serious diseases in children, such as cancer and neurological disorders. At least 40% of the Lead contamination found in landfills comes from irresponsible disposal of broken electronics. Television sets and computer monitors can contain up to eight pounds of lead in the CRT (Cathode Ray Tube). Among e-waste Categories are Video, TVs, VCRs, Camcorders, digital cameras, and control boxes.

The BCRC-Egypt will assist the countries of the region in formulating and implementing sound e-waste management programs through the Finland Donor funded project. These e-waste management programs will focus on systems and facilities to be used and approaches to assess and evaluate the performance of such wastes. Other outputs will include awareness materials and safety information sheets for handling and manipulating e-wastes. Three member countries will be assisted by the project to develop their e-waste management systems, namely; Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria. Member countries who started programs on e-waste management are encouraged to share their experience with the BCRC-Egypt and the other member countries. For more information email to: [sdahroug@baselegypt.org](mailto:sdahroug@baselegypt.org) Or [afarouk@baselegypt.org](mailto:afarouk@baselegypt.org)

## News Update

- The Republic of Sudan has ratified and confirmed the Basel Convention in Ramadan 1426, October 2005.
- Dr. Said Dahroug has been recruited as the international Facilitator for the BCRC-Egypt. as of the beginning of June 2006.
- Eng. Adel El Shaffi, BC focal point for Egypt and the Government representative to the Steering Committee of the BCRC-Egypt (SCC) has been elected as the Chairman of the SCC for two years.

## PROTOCOL OF LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION

Responding to concerns of developing countries regarding limited financial and technical capacity to respond to and address cases of illegal dumping or accidental spills of hazardous wastes, Article 12 of the Basel Convention provides the Protocol of Liability and Compensation. Parties shall adopt the legislative, regulatory and administrative measures necessary to implement the Protocol. Negotiations for the protocol of liability and compensation started in



*Photo for the BCRC -Egypt, indoors*

1993. It was adopted in 1999. In order to be taken into force 20 ratifications are needed. The BCRC-Egypt will be organizing a workshop to promote the ratification of the Protocol in Cairo from 30/10-1/11/2006. The workshop will depict the basic features of the protocol and clarifies all concerned issues. For more details email to:

[sdahroug@baselegypt.org](mailto:sdahroug@baselegypt.org)  
Or [elaref@baselegypt.org](mailto:elaref@baselegypt.org)



## CAIRO UNIVERSITY

Cairo University, a comprehensive institution of higher education located in Giza, Egypt, is founded in 1908. It is one of the oldest and pioneer universities in the Middle East region. The Cairo University hosts 23 specialized institutes, with staff members exceeding 7800. It also hosts more than 160 center of excellence, the biggest of which is CEHM, which hosts the BCRC Egypt.



*The Cairo University Main campus*

### Basel Convention Regional Center For Training And Technology Transfer

For The Arab States In Egypt (BCRC-Egypt)

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## CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

The BCRC Egypt is serving 22 Arab nation in the region. The Finland project that is currently implemented is covering only 18 countries who are parties to the Basel convention.



*Countries Served by the BCRC-Egypt*

The BCRC-Egypt is urging the member countries to develop project proposals to be funded under the UNEP programs and to be fit with the objectives of the 10-years Strategic Plan of

the Basel Convention. The BCRC-Egypt and the SBC will save no effort to secure required funds from financing Agencies. A donor funding agency has been identified and is ready to finance projects contributing to the environmental sound management of hazardous wastes. The deadline time for submitting the projects proposal is 30th July 2006. The project proposals should contain enough information as to the following project aspects; title of the project, name of the organization or the institute to implement the project, and the reference person name and contact details. The structure of the project should include:

- 1- Background and need to the project.
- 2- Project responsibility and management
- 3- Project description
- 4- Project objectives and justification
- 5- Project work plan; and
- 6- Evaluation plan.

The center will immediately work with successful project to set up the project team and start implementation as soon as funds allocated. For more Details, please, contact:

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