



## Basel Convention Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the Arab States

**BCRC-Egypt**  
*Leading Civilizations to  
Sustainable Development*

**20113 - 2017**



## Message from the Director



Since its establishment in 2004, BCR-Egypt has been tirelessly serving the 22 Arab states in North Africa and West Asia to implement the Basel Convention. Being located at one of the most prestigious Universities in the Middle East, Cairo University enhanced the ability of BCRC-Egypt to benefit from the Experts and the Facilities of Cairo University

in providing the Arab states with the required technical support concerning their duties related to the implementation of Basel Convention.

Through the years 2013-2016, BCRC-Egypt managed to conduct more than 25 activities, addressing more than 18 hot topics such as Hazardous waste management, raising the capacity of the customs officers and most recent of all is the SDGs, which may share in the capacity building of the Arab states in areas related to the hazardous waste and chemicals management. The activities BCRC-Egypt conducted varied, according to the needs of the Arab states, into workshops, training programs, roundtable discussions and conferences.

In all its activities, there were many partners with BCRC-Egypt, such as and above all, Cairo University, The Egyptian Ministry of Environment, The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UNDP, the BRS Secretariat and the League of Arab states, which have strongly supported BCRC-Egypt efforts either financially, technically or even logistically, to maximize the benefit the Arab states may gain from all the activities conducted by BCRC-Egypt and grantee the success of these activities.

BCRC-Egypt has been always keen to follow the BRS Secretariat instructions to initiate synergy with other international entities and regional centers, which in turn, will enhance the exchange of knowledge and the transfer of technology between the parties related to the hazardous waste management. Therefore, BCRC-Egypt made agreements of collaboration with 4 regional centers of Basel and Stockholm in Asia and Africa and indeed is seeking more cooperation with other international bodies.

Cooperation with the NGOs in the Arab Region has been always one of the priorities of BCRC-Egypt, due to the hue importance of the role of the private sector, a role which BCRC-Egypt is fully aware of its importance and is always willing to maximize. Accordingly, BCRC-Egypt managed to make agreements of collaboration with more than 4 Arab NGOs.

Building the capacity of the Arab states, in areas related to the POPs analysis has been always considered a keystone in the work plan of BCRC-Egypt, since BCRC-Egypt is aware of the critical need of the Arab states for addressing this issue, which causes a lot of environmental problems in most of the Arab states. Therefore, BCRC-Egypt, managed to sign an agreement with Cairo University Research Park (CURP) located at The Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, to specify two rooms for BCRC-Egypt to establish a reference accredited lab for POPs analysis, annexed to it a meeting and class. Also Cairo University offered to make available for BCRC-Egypt brand new equipment, that worth more than one Million dollars, to be used in Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Analysis. BCRC-Egypt, with the help of the generous funding of the Finnish Government, is in the process of finalizing all the details with the CURP to start establishing the lab. Operation of this lab will, in deed, assist BCRC-Egypt to achieve its financial sustainability. Also with the help of the same funding, BCRC-Egypt has purchased two portable analyzers which complement the lab testing facilities. We do hope all these preparations may qualify BCRC-Egypt to be designated as a Stockholm Convention regional center as well.

Dissemination the news about BCRC-Egypt and Basel Convention and communication with the Arab states triggered BCRC-Egypt efforts to start up a fully operating website and other social media tools and also to print out many newsletters and guidelines.

We, in BCRC-Egypt, are proud of all the efforts we did to serve the Arab states and have very ambitious future plans to assist the Arab states to fulfill their commitments in implementing all the International Environmental Multilateral agreements.

Director

*Prof. M. H. Kamel*

## Basel Convention

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal is the most comprehensive global environmental agreement on hazardous and other wastes. It has over 160 Parties and aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous and other wastes. The Basel Convention regulates the transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes and obliges its Parties to ensure that such wastes are managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. The Convention covers toxic, poisonous, explosive, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic and infectious wastes. Parties are also expected to minimize the quantities that are transported, to treat and dispose of wastes as close as possible to their place of generation and to prevent or minimize the generation of wastes at source. The Basel Convention is currently supported by 14 Basel Convention Regional Centers in the following locations: Argentina, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovak Republic, South Pacific Regional Programme, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. They deliver training and technology transfer for the implementation of the Convention. The Basel Convention came into force in 1992.

## BCRC-Egypt Background

In 1995, by Decision III/19 of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Egypt was selected as the site of a Sub-Regional Centre “for Arabic-speaking countries in Africa, which will serve the other Arabic-speaking countries”, and in 2002, by Decision VI/9 for Arab speaking countries instead. Currently, BCRC-Egypt is serving the 22 Arab States in Africa and West Asia. The Framework Agreement signed in October, 2004, between the



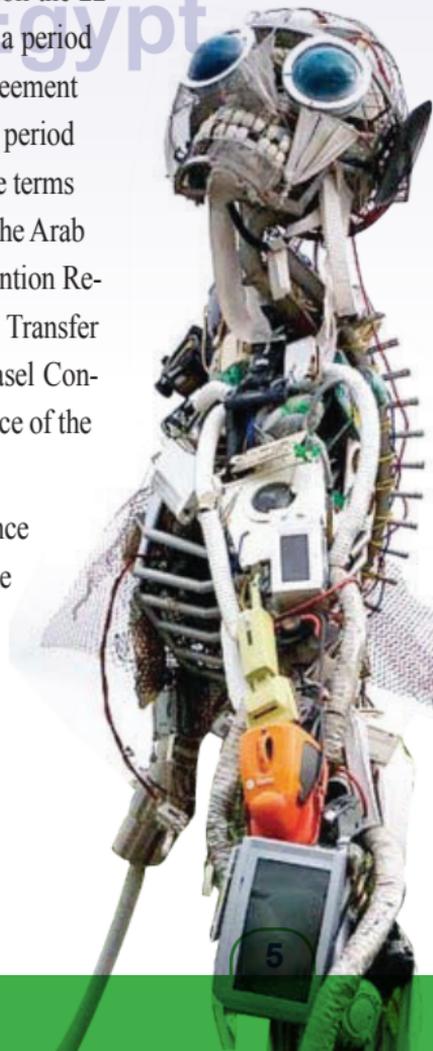
Government of Egypt and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, on behalf of the parties, set forth the terms and conditions under which BCRC-Egypt acts as a Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Basel Convention and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Following the ratification of the Framework Agreement by the Egyptian Parliament in 2005, BCRC-Egypt was established as a non-profit intergovernmental organization, which has its own structure and bank account with flexibility to assign part-time consultants and administrative staff for implementing projects and other capacity building activities.

## BCRC-Egypt Legal Status

BCRC-Egypt became into official existence as a non-profit intergovernmental organization following the approval of the Egyptian Peoples' Assembly on the 22/5/2005 to the Presidential decree number 81/2005 which approve the framework agreement signed between the Egyptian Government (represented by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, EEAA) and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2004. This agreement came into force on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005. The agreement was extended for a period of five (5) years, from 2014-2018. This agreement shall be automatically extended for another period of five (5) years. The framework sets forth the terms and conditions under which an institution in the Arab Republic of Egypt shall act as a Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Basel Convention and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

The Centre is having the capacity, in accordance with the national laws and regulations of the Arab Republic of Egypt:

- To contract
- To acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property;
- To institute legal proceedings.

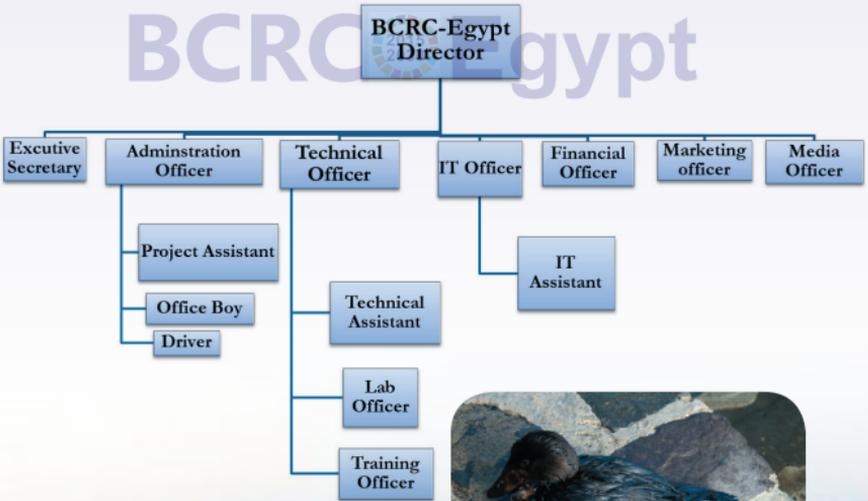




## BCRC-Egypt Steering Committee

BCRC-Egypt structure includes a Steering Committee of the Center (CSC) with membership of representatives of four rotating member countries (currently Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Bahrain and Djibouti), the host country, Egypt, a representative of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, a representative of the Arab League, President of Cairo University (Observer), Vice President of Cairo University for Environmental Affairs (Observer) and the Director of BCRC-Egypt.

## BCRC-Egypt Hierarchy



## BCRC-Egypt Location



The Egyptian government instituted BCRC-Egypt within one of the most outstanding academic and research institutes in the region, Cairo University. First, the Centre was hosted inside Cairo University Centre for Environmental Hazard Mitigation (CEHM), with significant geophysical

and chemical lab facilities and vast national and regional

expertise in environmental issues. In 2013, BCRC-

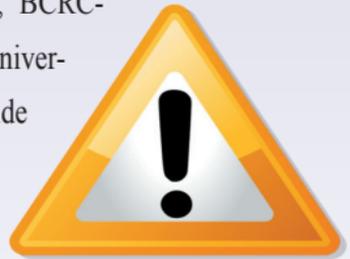
Egypt was separated from CEHM and Cairo University donated BCRC-Egypt new premises inside

the University Student Hostel, to host it. The

University is providing BCRC-Egypt with

the office space and staff for its operation.

Also Cairo University donated BCRC-Egypt two rooms inside Cairo University Research Park (CURP) building inside its premises to be renovated by BCRC-Egypt to be used as BCRC-Egypt official POPs analysis and studies laboratory and training center.



## BCRC- Egypt Vision



To be a reliable and effective facilitator for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes under the Basel Convention to the Basel Convention Parties within the region, in order to assist these Parties to achieve the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs) within the 2030 Agenda.

## BCRC-Egypt Mission

Provide services for implementation of the Basel Convention to the Arab States in Africa/ West Asia.



## BCRC- Egypt Objectives

- Develop and conduct training programs, workshops, seminars and associated projects in the fields of the environmentally sound management and minimization of generation of hazardous wastes, with specific emphasis on training the trainers and the promotion of ratification and implementation of the Basel Convention and its instruments
- Identifying, developing and strengthening mechanisms for the transfer of technology in the field of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or their minimization in the region.
- Gathering, assessing and disseminating information in the field of hazardous wastes and other wastes to Parties of the region and to the Secretariat.
- Collecting information on new or proven environmentally sound technologies and their know-how, related to environmentally sound management and minimization of generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disseminating to Parties of the region at their request.
- Establishing and maintaining regular exchange of information relevant to the provisions of the Basel Convention, and networking at the national and regional levels.
- Providing assistance and advise to the Parties and non-Parties of the region, at their request, on matters relevant to the environmentally sound management or minimization of generation of hazardous wastes, the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and other related matters
- Promoting public awareness.
- Encouraging the best approaches, practices and methodologies for the environmentally sound management and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes, e.g. through case studies and pilot projects.



- Cooperate with UN and its bodies, in particular UNEP, UNDP and the Specialized Agencies, and with other relevant intergovernmental organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations, and, where appropriate, with any institution, in order to coordinate activities, develop and implement joint projects related to the provisions of the Basel Convention and develop synergies where appropriate with other multilateral environmental agreements.
- Developing, within the general financial strategy approved by the Parties, the Center own strategy for financial sustainability.
- Cooperating in mobilization of human, financial and material means in order to meet the urgent needs at the request of the Party (ies) of the region faced with incidents or accidents which cannot be solved with the means of the individual Party (ies) concerned.
- Performing any other functions assigned to it by relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention or by Parties of the region, consistent with such decisions.

### **BCRC-Egypt Topics of Interest**

- Monitoring, Detection and Prevention of Illegal Trade in Toxic Chemicals, Hazardous Waste and environmentally-Sensitive commodities.
- Environmentally sound management of Healthcare Wastes.
- Oil and Gas Waste Management.
- Hazardous Waste Identification and Classification.



- National Reporting of Basel Convention.
- Environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic wastes (e-waste).
- Environmentally sound management of household waste.
- Environmentally sound management of Persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- Environmentally sound management of Mercury and Asbestos.
- Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).
- Hazardous Waste management legislation.
- Environmentally Sound Management of polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCBs).
- Environmentally sound management of the Disposal of Pesticides Waste.
- Risk Assessment of Pesticides and their Impact on Humans and the Environment.
- Occupational Health and Safety in the Work environment.

### **BCRC-Egypt Core Functions**

- Training
- Technology Transfer
- Information
- Consulting
- Awareness Raising

BCRC Egypt



## BCRC-Egypt Activities Summary 2013-2016

BCRC-Egypt through the three years focused its efforts on strengthening the regional cooperation of Arab states in hazardous waste management and trans-boundary control which should support compliance with the Basel Convention in the Arab states, inspite of the political instability facing few States in the region.

Accordingly, through the past 3 years, BCRC-Egypt conducted 17 workshops (16 Regional and 1 National in Egypt), 8 Trainings (6 Regional and 2 National in Tunisia and Lebanon). All the activities focused on the capacity building, knowledge sharing and transfer among the Arab States. The workshops covered 12 different topics related to the Hazardous waste management according to the Basel convention including:

1. Green Customs Initiative.
2. National Reporting of Basel Convention for Arab States.
3. Safe Management of Healthcare Wastes
4. Sustainable Wastes Management.
5. E-waste Management.
6. Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous wastes.
7. Chemicals and Hazardous waste in the Arab Countries.
8. The Environmentally Sound Management of Asbestos.
9. The Environmentally Sound Management polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCBs).
10. The Environmentally Sound Management persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
11. Enhancing the Capacity of Customs & Ports Personnel in the Arab Countries.
12. The Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) Of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes and Clearing-house Mechanism (CHM).

The Trainings covered 7 different topics related to the Hazardous waste management according to the Basel convention including:

1. The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).
2. The Management of the Disposal of Pesticides Waste.
3. The Risk Assessment of Pesticides and their Impact on Humans and the Environment.
4. The Analysis of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in environmental samples.
5. The Occupational Health and Safety in the Work environment.
6. Enhancing the Capacity of customs Personnel.
7. Hazardous Waste Management for Basel Convention National Focal Points from the Arab States

BCRC-Egypt repeated activities on some topics due to the needs the Arab States which requested more focus from BCRC-Egypt on such topics.

Also BCRC-Egypt conducted a “Hands-on” training on The Analysis of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in environmental Samples in Nigeria in cooperation with the Basel Convention Coordinating Center in Nigeria. This training was a result of the synergy that was adopted by the Basel/Stockholm/ Rotterdam Secretariat and the MoU signed between BCRC-Egypt and BCCC-Nigeria.

BCRC-Egypt signed MoUs with Regional Centers of Basel and Stockholm convention in China and India, in order to enhance collaboration and synergy between the regional centers of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAS).

Also it was essential to have a reference accredited lab for POPs analysis, annexed to it a meeting and class rooms to support organizing training courses for member states. Due to budget limitations, Cairo University allocated BCRC-Egypt space for the lab and training center at Cairo University Research Park (CURP)

located at The Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University. Besides, Cairo University offered to make available for BCRC-Egypt the brand new equipment, that worth more than one Million dollars, to be used in Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Analysis. In return, BCRC-Egypt will furnish the preparation lab and the training center. Accordingly, BCRC-Egypt signed a final MoU with Cairo University Research Park to finalize all details related to establishment of these two facilities in their premises. BCRC-Egypt shall directly proceed with the operationalization of the lab and the training center, which is expected to be finished and fully operating in not less than 6 months and not more than 1 year. The operation of this lab and training center shall generate income for BCRC-Egypt, which in turn, will contribute its financial sustainability. Also establishment of this lab will support BCRC-Egypt request to be a Stockholm Convention Regional Center, in addition to being a Basel Convention Regional Center. This request will be facilitated by the synergetic activities between the Basel and Stockholm Conventions that the center conducted and also due to the Arab need for a specialized regional accredited institute to detect POPs and Hazardous wastes.

On the other hand, BCRC-Egypt proceeded with purchasing two portable analyzers that will complement the CURP testing facilities.:

1. Infrared XL Ambient Air Analyzer
2. PCB/Chloride Analyzer System

In initiating partnerships with NGOs, BCRC-Egypt initiated cooperation with The Society of Arab Businesswomen, Sharaf Foundation for Sustainable Development, Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA), The Institute of



Human Development- Ministry of Interior and the Higher Institute of Public Health, University of Alexandria.

Out of BCRC-Egypt commitment towards the International environmental society and out of its responsibility to represent the Arab states in that society, BCRC-Egypt, represented by its director, was keen to participate in many international meetings which is organized by the BRS Secretariat and other international entities to present the Arab states and BCRC-Egypt vision and discuss the priority environmental issues for Arab states.

BCRC-Egypt managed to maintain and update its website to include all the news, activities and structure of BCRC-Egypt and all the international entities that are related to BCRC-Egypt areas of interest ([bcrcegypt.com](http://bcrcegypt.com)). The website provides users with all the multilateral environmental agreements (Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam) documents and guidelines. Also the website can provide its users with information related to other relevant conventions and issues, such as Minamata Convention, the SAICM and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were adopted by the UN in 2015 to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Also BCRC-Egypt continued its communication with the Arab members through social media, such as Facebook ([www.facebook.com/BCRCEgypt.Official-Page](http://www.facebook.com/BCRCEgypt.Official-Page)), twitter ([www.twitter.com/bcrcegypt](http://www.twitter.com/bcrcegypt)) and YouTube ([www.youtube.com/user/bcrcegypt](http://www.youtube.com/user/bcrcegypt)). On the other side, the media and the press (local and regional) have followed BCRC-Egypt activities due to the importance of the topics addressed in those activities on environment. Finally, BCRC-Egypt issued many non-periodic newsletters in Arabic language which summarized some of its activities.

BCRC-Egypt has completed, with the help of international professional experts, a draft for e-waste legislation, as guidance for the Arab states in e-waste management. BCRC-Egypt aims to translate the legislation into English language, to allow discussions with Parties worldwide.

Finally, In September, 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted package of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to be globally implemented to achieve sustainable development of its countries. Furthermore, it was also adopted that the implementation of these goals should have a timeframe plan until 2030. The environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste is clearly in close cross-cutting with all the SDGs, especially those related to health, water quality, sanitation, energy and sustainable production and consumption. In this regard, and according to BCRC-Egypt regional role entrusted with training and technology transfer to the Arab countries in the field of hazardous waste safe management, BCRC-Egypt proceeded with organizing a 3 days round-table consultation meeting to discuss the appropriate and adequate measures which should be taken by the Arab States to enhance the implementation of the SDGs and in order to integrate the SDGs into the national and regional strategies to grantee the empowerment of the international multilateral environmental agreements relevant to chemicals and hazardous waste management.



## WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS & MOUs



The National Workshop on Green Customs Initiative For ports officers and customs officials ,  
Alexandria, Egypt, 28-30th of October, 2013



The Regional Workshop on National Reporting of Basel Convention for Arab States  
Hurghada, Egypt, 16-17th of December, 2013



The Regional workshop for Safe Management of Healthcare Wastes  
Hurghada, Egypt, 19th-21st of December, 2013



The Second Regional Workshop on National Reporting of Basel Convention for Arab States ,  
Alexandria, Egypt, 24-26th of March, 2014

# Egypt



The Regional Symposium on Sustainable Wastes Management  
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 21-24th of June, 2014



The regional E-waste Management Symposium  
Alexandria, Egypt 23-25th of September, 2014



Regional Conference on Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous wastes  
Alexandria, Egypt, 23-25th of November, 2014



The Preparatory Regional Workshop on the Inventory of the Chemicals and Hazardous Waste in the Arab Countries  
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 18-19th of February 2015

## Egypt



The Regional Training on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)  
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 21-22nd of February 2015



Regional Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of Asbestos for Arab Countries  
Alexandria, Egypt 28th of March, 2015

## Egypt



Regional Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) for Arab Countries  
Alexandria, Egypt 29th of March, 2015



Regional Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) for Arab Countries  
Alexandria, Egypt 30th of March, 2015



Regional Training on the Management of the Disposal of Pesticide Wastes for Arab Countries  
Alexandria, Egypt 31 March – 1 April, 2015



Regional Training on the Risk Assessment of Pesticides and their Impact on Humans and the Environment  
Alexandria, Egypt 2 April, 2015

## Egypt



The Regional Workshop on Enhancing the Capacity of Customs and Ports Personnel in the Arab Countries to Monitor, Detect and Prevent Illegal Trade in Toxic Chemicals, Hazardous Waste and environmentally-Sensitive commodities covered by the relevant Multilateral environmental agreement (MEAs)  
Alexandria, Egypt, 12-15th of August, 2015



Regional Workshop on Ways and Technologies for HWM in the light of the Tunisia Experience  
Cartage, Tunis, 7-10th of September 2015



National Training Program On Enhancing the Capacity of customs Personnel in Tunis to Monitor, Detect and Prevent Illegal Trade in Toxic Chemicals, Hazardous Waste and environmentally-Sensitive commodities covered by the relevant Multilateral environmental agreement (MEAs)  
Cartage, Tunis , 9-10th of September 2015



Regional Training of Experts from Arab-Speaking African Countries on the Analysis of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Environmental Samples .  
Ibadan, Nigeria, 26 October – 6 November, 2015

## Egypt



Regional workshop for the Arab Countries on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) Of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes and the Clearing-house Mechanism to Enhance Synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions  
Sharm El-Sheikh , Egypt 7-9 December 2015



Regional training program on Occupational Health and Safety in the Work environment in the light of the Synergy between Environmental Conventions on Chemicals and Hazardous Waste  
Mercuore Hotel - Luxor – Egypt, 20 – 22, March 2016



Regional Workshop on medical waste management in the light of the experience of the Lebanese and Arab countries  
Le Royal Hotels & Resorts Beirut -Lebanon 5-7, April 2016



National Training Program  
On Enhancing the Capacity of customs Personnel to Monitor, Detect and Prevent Illegal Trade in Toxic Chemicals, Hazardous Waste and environmentally-Sensitive commodities covered by the relevant Multilateral environmental agreement (MEAs)  
Beirut-Lebanon Hotel 6-8, April 2016



Regional Round-Table Consultation for Integrating SDGs in the implementation of Chemicals and Wastes Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Context of 2030 Agenda  
Alexandria, Egypt, 22-24 May 2016



Regional Consultation on Enhancing and following the Implementation of Chemicals Waste MEAs, COPs Decision  
Alexandria, Egypt, 25-26 May 2016



The Regional Training Program Concerned with the Safe Management of Chemical, Medical and Oil waste in the Framework of the International Multilateral Environmental Agreement in the view of 2030 Agenda  
Alexandria, Egypt, 25-29 September 2016



The Regional Roundtable On Enhancing The Supporting Environment for The Technology Transfer in the Arab States  
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 10-12 December 2016

## Egypt



Regional preparatory meeting for the 2017 COPs for the Asia-Pacific region  
Bangkok, Thailand 6-10 March 2017



Regional preparatory meeting for the 2017 COPs for the African region  
Dakar, Senegal 14-17 March 2017



The implementation of the  
Regional Training on Hazardous  
Waste Management for Basel  
Convention National Focal  
Points from the Arab States  
Helsinki, Finland 27-31 March  
2017

BCRC  Egypt



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