



BASEL CONVENTION



The Regional Workshop on the ESM of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes and the Clearing House Mechanism to Enhance Synergies under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for the Arab States

7-9th of December 2015, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

The Executive Summary

Preface

BCRC-Egypt, with the assistance of BRS, organized a three days regional workshop for the Arab states. The main objective of the workshop is to raise awareness on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes and Clearing House Mechanism to Enhance Synergies under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Objectives

- To expand the knowledge of the participants on the concepts, principles and standards for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of chemicals and Hazardous wastes.
- To raise awareness on the importance of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and Hazardous waste throughout the region.
- To obtain feedback from participants concerning needs, challenges and opportunities for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and Hazardous waste in the region.
- To provide opportunities for information exchange and networking according to the synergies of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- To introduce the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) draft strategy.
- To identify the role to be played by the regional centers in the Clearing-house mechanism

Participants

The meeting targeted:

National Focal Points of the Basel Convention and National officials from the Arab States, who are concerned with the chemicals and Hazardous wastes management process at the national level, specifically the issues related to the Basel Convention. In addition, representatives of Regional Centers in Africa, private sector and the civil society organizations were invited to participate in the workshop.

20 participants from 10 Arab countries attended this workshop: Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan, Tunisia and Libya. Among the participants, there were 2 female participants in the workshop.

The Opening Ceremony

The opening words were delivered by:

- **Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**, (By **Prof. Mostafa Hussein Kamel**, Director of BCRC-Egypt).
- **Prof. Mostafa Hussein Kamel**, Director of BCRC-Egypt.
- **Mr. Walid ElAraby**, representative of the League of Arab States
- **Prof. Oladele Ozibanju**, Director of the Basel Convention Coordinating Center in Africa, Nigeria.
- **Dr. Michael Sik**, Director of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries
- **General, Abdul Fattah Helmy**, Governor Deputy of South-Sinai.

-By the end of the speeches, Prof. Mostafa Kamel congratulated the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the selection of Dr. Mohammed Khashashneh for the presidency of the Parties Conference 2015-2017.

Summary

The meeting, through its sessions, addressed many issues related to:

- The Awareness Raising and Experience Sharing on the ESM of Hazardous Waste.
- Experience and Challenges on Management of ESM of POPs.
- Laboratories Analyzing Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- Clearing -House Mechanism (CHM).

Recommendations

- Set up a database and an electronic network between the Arab countries concerning chemicals and hazardous waste, by the national focal points, through the preparation of a Clear house mechanism project for the Arab States and conducting a training course for the drafting of this project which should be financed by the Arab States.
- Signature of memorandums of understanding with laboratories which are capable of conducting trainings in the analysis of persistent organic pollutants field with providing the required financial support.
- Conduct training programs in the field of persistent organic pollutants analysis.
- Support the addition of the Stockholm Convention activities to BCRC-Egypt to be a Stockholm center to enhance its effectiveness.
- Provide BCRC-Egypt with financial support.
- Explore the feasibility of setting up a regional environmental accredited laboratory by BCRC-Egypt, to follow up with the environmental situation in the Arab countries.
- Arrange a visit to the Cairo University Research Park.
- Present projects on conducting inventory of chemicals and hazardous waste through BCRC-Egypt.
- Prepare a study to analyze the current situation:
 - ❖ The inventory of POPs labs in the Arab region, to form an idea of the human and physical resources available.
 - ❖ Creating a database of the experts in the field of hazardous waste and chemicals.
- BCRC-Egypt should set up a clearing house mechanism and the Basel Secretariat should be requested to provide BCRC-Egypt with the required financial support.