

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

BCRC-Egypt

Towards the achievement of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development



BCRC-Egypt Director Word 2022

The issue of the hazardous waste generation and the control of the pollution resulting from the poor waste treatment in the Arab region has been considered a pressing and very serious challenge. So, there is an urgent need to delve into the roots of the problem, since every individual in the society is polluting and everyone needs to realize that they have a collective responsibility to control that pollution and reduce it by increasing the mechanisms which protect the environment and

modifying current practices, whether governmental or societal, in addition to complying with plans to confront that challenge, through the enforcement of national, regional and international legislations. The Basel Convention and the rest of the international multilateral environmental agreements concerned with the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, the minimization of their generation in the states (parties) that they serve and supporting them in implementing those agreements, were initiated with the aim of protecting human health and the environment from inappropriate and illegal management of hazardous waste and other wastes. This will contribute to supporting and strengthening the leading role played by BCRC-Egypt in the Arab states, which will result in their fulfillment of their obligations towards the international multilateral environmental agreements. This, in turn, will contribute to the achievement of these states for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, since there is a strong transverse relationship between the environmentally sound management of the hazardous chemicals and waste and those goals, especially those related to health, water quality, sanitation, energy, production and consumption sustainability.

BCRC-Egypt was established in Egypt in 2004 as an international non-profit organization, to enhance the ability of 22 Arab states in North Africa and West Asia to fulfill their obligations towards the Basel Convention and the rest of the international multilateral environmental agreements. BCRC-Egypt receives unlimited welcome and support from the Egyptian state, which hosts the BCRC-Egypt headquarters, represented by the Egyptian government, especially the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment, that play a great role in pushing BCRC-Egypt to carry out the regional role entrusted to it and strengthening the center tireless efforts to help the parties to fulfill their regional and international obligations. Thanks to its presence in one of the most prestigious universities in the Middle East, Cairo University has enhanced the BCRC-Egypt ability to benefit from Cairo University experts and facilities in providing the Arab states with the required technical support regarding their duties related to the implementation of the Basel Convention. BCRC-Egypt links the Arab states with each other and with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to provide the required exchange of ideas, opinions, experiences and the technology transfer between the Arab states and with other parties, regarding the best ways to manage hazardous waste. BCRC-Egypt also provides cost-effective means to assist the states in the region, especially those with limited resources and capabilities necessary to implement the Basel Convention, in line with the difficult economic circumstances that the world is facing in parallel with the spread of epidemics in the world with its negative impact on the world economy in general and the Arab economy in particular. Furthermore, BCRC-Egypt shares recommendations from workshops and implemented projects with the international and local agencies, so that Arab states can take the necessary steps to reform and integrate a common policy for the future of hazardous waste management. BCRC-Egypt works in coordination with its Steering Committee, the competent authorities and the focal points of the Arab states, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the rest of



the relevant parties, success partners and sponsors supporting the activities of BCRC-Egypt, at the regional (especially the League of Arab States) and international levels (especially organizations affiliated with the United Nations), to develop plans that, when implemented, will ensure the sustainability and strengthening of its professional workforce and improve the infrastructure which support it. The priorities of BCRC-Egypt at the present time are to develop and highlight the priority needs of the region for the sound management of hazardous waste, to execute the necessary projects to meet those needs, and to put in place mechanisms to implement these projects.

BCRC-Egypt has been also keen to follow the directions of the Secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions to achieve synergies with other international entities and regional centers, which in turn will enhance knowledge exchange and technology transfer between parties related to hazardous waste management. Accordingly BCRC-Egypt was keen to initiate several cooperation agreements with regional centers of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in the continents of Asia and Africa to enhance joint cooperation and enrich integration between the regional centers.

Cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the Arab region has always been a priority of BCRC-Egypt, given the import role played by the non-governmental sector in Arab societies, in terms of raising public awareness of the environmental problems in general and the issue of hazardous waste management in particular, and its impact on achieving sustainable development in Arab societies. BCRC-Egypt realizes the importance of that role, that it initiated cooperation agreements and extending contacts with several Arab NGOs.

Out of BCRC-Egypt responsibility to play its direct role of raising public awareness of the hazardous waste management issue in the Arab states, BCRC-Egypt established an advanced website (www.bcrc-egypt.com) alongside the rest of the social media, so that it can disseminate the most important news about the international environmental agreements and communicate with the Arab states, in addition to making available all the publications issued by BCRC-Egypt, including workshop reports, project outputs, guidelines and newsletters, as well as many newsletters and guidelines were printed.

Last but not least, BCRC-Egypt is proud of all the efforts made over the past years to serve the Arab states and confirms its efforts to continue this service through very ambitious future plans to help the Arab states to fulfill their obligations in implementing all international multilateral environmental agreements.

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.

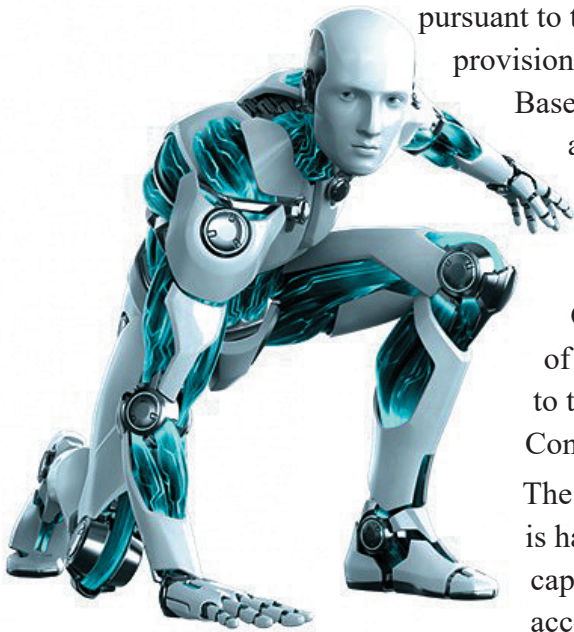
BCRC-Egypt Background

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 approves the framework agreement signed between the Egyptian Government (represented by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, EEAA) and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) in 24th October 2004. This agreement came into force on the 22nd June 2005. The agreement was extended for the 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 Centre (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 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 a new premises inside the University Student Hostel, to host it. The University

is providing BCRC-Egypt 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.

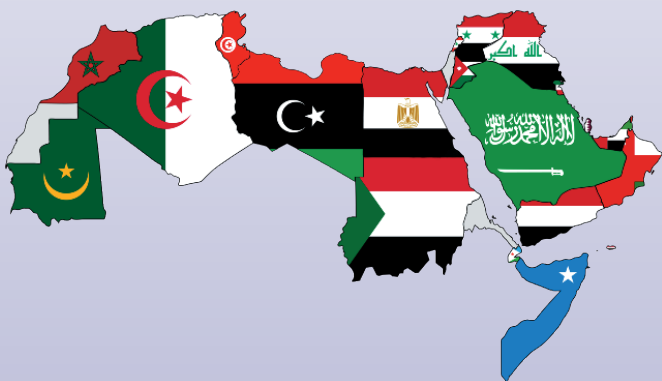
BCRC- Egypt Objectives

- 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