



Basel Convention



Rotterdam Convention



Stockholm Convention



Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
International Environment House 1
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine – Geneva
Switzerland
E-mail: SafePlanet@unep.org

The PCBs Elimination Network (PEN) – Let's share information!

Simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions aim to enhance cooperation and coordination among the three conventions

Bali, Indonesia, 22-24 February 2010

22 February 2010, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia. In a move involving all players in the sharing of information on the most used persistent organic pollutant (POP) in the world, the Stockholm Convention Parties are launching the PCBs Elimination Network (PEN) during the opening of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in Bali, on 22 February 2010.

The PCBs Elimination Network (PEN) is intended to assist Governments and owners of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) oils and contaminated equipment to gain the required expertise to manage this oily persistent organic pollutant in an environmentally sound manner.

“For too long we have been asking Governments to fulfil their obligations while others stood by passively being observers” said Donald Cooper, the Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. “This programme is geared to involving all the relevant stakeholders by offering benefits for their participation,” Cooper continued. “Experts, industry, NGOs, donors, owners and others will be stimulated to join the network to access the benefits to be gained by all”.

The PEN features an online social network where owners of equipment containing and contaminated with PCBs can gain information on where to find suitable expertise and be guided on how best to maintain their equipment in an environmentally sound manner. This networking system is scheduled to open on 1 June 2010.

The goal of the PEN is to improve communication between players and to establish linkages within regions.

“Firstly, we will talk to each other in the six United Nations languages” Cooper insisted. Besides having the network available in the six U.N. languages for forum discussions and for exchanging information on upcoming events, and relevant reports, the PEN will also produce a PEN magazine in each language. For the first time, users will be provided a comprehensive written dossier on issues falling under four PCBs themes: Inventories, Maintenance of equipment, Disposal and Open applications of PCBs.

In addition, an “Oscar”-styled award honouring effective results among each sector will be bestowed to stimulate membership toward environmentally sound management of PCBs.

“We do not intend to lose sight of the Convention’s goal of having all PCB oils and contaminated equipment managed in an environmentally sound manner by 2028,” said Cooper. “Now it is up to potential members from the various sectors to join in and start sharing information.”

Contact

Nick Nuttall, UNEP Spokesperson/Head of Media, Nairobi, + 254-20-7623084; + 254-733-632755 (m); +41-79-596-5737 (m2), e-mail: nick.nuttall@unep.org

Michael Stanley-Jones, Press Focal Point/Public Information Officer, Joint Convention Services, Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, + 41-22-917-8668; (m) + 41-79-730-4495, e-mail: msjones@pic.int or SafePlanet@unep.org

Organization: Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, + 41-22-917-8305; fax + 41-22-917-8098
web: www.pops.int/pen

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