



## **IPEN MENA Regional Meeting, October 31st - November 2nd, 2017**

### **Hammamet, Tunisia**

The IPEN Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Meeting was hosted and organized by Association d'Education Environnementale pour la Future Génération (AEEFG), the IPEN Hub for the MENA region. Topics covered at the meeting focused on the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), lead in paint, women and chemicals, building capacities, and the GEF Small Grants Program. Participating Organizations (POs) in attendance were also updated on the outcomes of the Minamata Convention's 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP1) and the Stockholm Convention's 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP8).

Working groups were set up so that POs could have an in-depth exploration of each topic. The working groups discussed a broad range of goals from bridging contacts between POs of the MENA region, to brainstorming together and developing achievable plans for work on the ground. During each session, IPEN documents were used to support regional planning. It was also an educational opportunity to flip through the pages of different booklets and to explore the richness of data already available.

All POs participated in the success of the meeting and provided presentations on their activities in their respective countries. Educational videos were shown and websites were explored to facilitate the use of their data.

Tunisian coordinator of UNIDO, Mr. Saber Ben Mbarek, was invited to participate in the meeting, and to explain the Small Grants Program (SGP).

POs shared that the meeting was a positive experience, and left with goals to expand their activities.

Meeting overall goal: Raise awareness of chemical issues, improve collaboration between NGOs in the region, and exchange information on NGO priorities

Expected key outcomes: A better understanding of the IPEN 2020 Agenda; greater familiarity with the Stockholm Convention, Mercury Convention, and SAICM; Stronger capacity to

implement National Implementation Plans; and Stronger relationships between POs in the region.

Language: Arabic

Participants:

Bahrain: Mahnez Kadhemi - Women's Association-for Human Development

Egypt: Andrassy Banislav – Kenana NGO for Sustainable Development; Essam Nada – Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)

Jordan: Ziyad Alawneh and Oruba Ahmad AL-Refa’I – Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP)

Iraq: Saadiyah Hassoon and Ghayda Hassoon – Together to Protect Human & the Environment Association

Lebanon: Hiam Kreidie – Window to Environment; Marie Therese Merhej Seiif – Human Environmental Association for Development (HEAD); Rebecca Baissari – Lebanese Environment Forum (LEF)

Sudan: Sumaia Mohamed Elsayed – Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS)

Tunisia: Rim Bouhrizi - Association Tunisienne d'Agriculture Environnementale (ATAE); Najwa Bourawi – Association de la Protection de l'environnement et de Développement de Bizerte (APEDDUB); Ramzi Mezlini - Association Tunisienne de Biosécurité et d'Education Environnementale (ATB2E); Moez Gharsalli - L'association pour la protection de l'environnement et du patrimoine APEPd; Semia Gharbi, Ibtissem Hajri, Tarek Gharbi and Wided Nasri - Association d'Education Environnementale pour la Future Génération (AEEFG)

USA: Tiffany Tool - IPEN

The youth representation of the meeting (24-30 in age range) was 40%.

The IPEN MENA Regional Meeting enjoyed successful outcomes and a better understanding of different IPEN goals and activities.

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