



Swiss Agency for  
Development  
and Cooperation  
SDC



Swiss Agency for  
the Environment,  
Forests and  
Landscape SAEFL

## **International POPs Elimination Project**

*Fostering Active and Efficient Civil Society Participation in  
Preparation for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

---

# **Developing regional NGO strategies on POPs and chemicals management**

**Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)**

**Egypt  
March 2006**

## **About the International POPs Elimination Project**

On May 1, 2004, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN <http://www.ipen.org>) began a global NGO project called the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided core funding for the project.

IPEP has three principal objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in activities that provide concrete and immediate contributions to country efforts in preparing for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;
- Enhance the skills and knowledge of NGOs to help build their capacity as effective stakeholders in the Convention implementation process;
- Help establish regional and national NGO coordination and capacity in all regions of the world in support of longer term efforts to achieve chemical safety.

IPEP will support preparation of reports on country situation, hotspots, policy briefs, and regional activities. Three principal types of activities will be supported by IPEP: participation in the National Implementation Plan, training and awareness workshops, and public information and awareness campaigns.

For more information, please see <http://www.ipen.org>

IPEN gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Global Environment Facility, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Swiss Agency for the Environment Forests and Landscape, the Canada POPs Fund, the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), Mitchell Kapor Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, New York Community Trust and others.

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the institutions providing management and/or financial support.

This report is available in the following languages: English

# **Developing regional NGO strategies on POPs and chemicals management**

## **Consultative meeting to follow up Johannesburg declaration concerning International Chemicals Management**

### **Organized By**

**The Arab Network for Environment and IPEP Arab HUB  
League of the Arab States (LAS), December, 20th, 2005**

RAED is a network of Arab non-governmental organizations including more than 200 NGOs from Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

RAED in cooperation with UNIDO held a regional workshop to follow up on the Johannesburg declaration concerning a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals on human health by 2020.

The meeting was headed by Mr. Klaus Töpfer, UNEP Executive Director, Dr. Abdel Salam El-Banna, UNIDO and Dr. Emad Adly, RAED General Coordinator, In the presence of more than 35 experts representing NGOs from 12 Arab Countries: Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, and Egypt.

Thanks to IPEP, RAED could invite five participants from Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine as their travel and accommodation expenses were been covered through the contribution donated from IPEP.

The RAED meetings were executed in parallel to the meetings of Executive Office to the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment "CAMRE". LAS hosted RAED members and at the meeting for three days and permitted some participants to attend the CAMRE meetings as observers.

During the period of 18th – 21st the attendees discussed the major critical issues to follow up the Johannesburg Declaration and achieving the Millennium Development Goals concerning Water and Sanitation (18th Dec), Poverty and Sustainable Development (19th Dec), and Integrated Chemicals Management (20th Dec).

### **Integrated Chemical Management In the Arab World**

The meeting was held near in time to the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, Feb. 2006 which finalized the SAICM process. Most of the audience was involved in the process of preparation for the Dubai meeting either in their home countries or in their region.

So, the meeting was a great opportunity to review all efforts and ideas and get them all together before they would share into setting the strategy of chemical management in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region.

The meeting started at 9:00 am by a welcoming note from Dr. Emad Adly, RAED General Coordinator. He conveyed his thanks to all the participants from the Arab countries and explained that the meeting had been organized by RAED, in cooperation with UNIDO. He said that RAED was deeply committed to improving chemical safety in the Arab Region and, fully committed to the SAICM process at the regional and national level.

He also focused on the important role of NGOs in the Arab countries in mobilizing the community to participate in the responsibility of protecting the environment, and to raise community awareness about this issue.

In special attendance, Mr. Klaus Töpfer, UNEP Executive Director, gave the attendees a great opportunity to hear from him. He thanked RAED for its hospitality and UNIDO for its financial contribution towards the meeting, also he emphasized the importance of cooperation at the regional level and thanked the UNIDO for funding this regional consultation.

He was highlighting the link between the Millennium Development Goals "MDGs" and chemicals management and the need to integrate chemicals management into the overall development agenda, he urged participants to encourage high-level participation at the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai given the importance of chemicals in overcoming poverty.

He also added that UNEP stood ready to perform those functions, and expressed the willingness of UNEP to establish a trust fund for SAICM implementation, insisting on the real need to develop an agreement to establish such a fund.

After that Dr. El Banna gave a speech about the effective role of the IPEP HUB in raising awareness about POPs and the Stockholm Convention between Arab NGOs in the region and other stakeholders and the different steps of implementation of IPEP project. Also he presented some documents related to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management which sets out a global plan of action containing "concrete measures" to be taken by stakeholders in order to fulfill the commitment expressed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to minimize significant adverse effects from the production and use of chemicals on human health and the environment by 2020.

Finally Dr. El Banna expressed the willingness of IPEP to fund some projects related to chemical management in the future.

The workshop discussed many issues that were considered the most critical points in the process of integrated chemical management, the points were as follows:

Ways of Monitoring Progress with Implementation of SAICM

Roles of NGOs in Implementing SAICM

Current situation in each country concerning chemicals management of POPs and other toxic substances.

### **Recommendations**

To give an opportunity for all chemical safety interests to participate in discussions about how to improve chemicals management

To facilitate full participation by all stakeholders, including governments at all stages of development

To focus on the important role of the NGOs in monitoring country progress in reaching chemical safety goals

To promote the exchange of information and scientific and technical cooperation

To facilitate the establishment and maintenance of a network of SAICM stakeholders at national, regional and, in the case of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international levels

To promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information

To enhance efforts to implement values of corporate social and environmental responsibility

## Annex 1. Meeting participants

No	Name	Country	IPEP Coverage
1.	Dr. Mohamed Ftouhi	Morocco	√
2.	Dr. Yousef Nouri	Tunisia	√
3.	Ambassador. Abdel Hai El saghier	Tunisia	
4.	Mr. Ali Magrabi	Tunisia	
5.	Mr. Reda Ben Omar	Libya	
6.	Dr. Marghani Tag El-sead	Sudan	
7.	Eng. Malik Ghandour	Lebanon	√
8.	Ms. Haiam Kredieh	Lebanon	
9.	Ms. Mari Trez	Lebanon	
10.	Mr. Lotfi Saloum	Lebanon	
11.	Mr. Ziyad Alwneh	Jordan	√
12.	Eng. Islam Maghaireh	Jordan	
13.	Mr. Ali Yamani	Jordan	
14.	Mr. Reyad Catan	Jordan	
15.	Ms. Ruba Anber	Jordan	
16.	Mr. Ahmed Barghouth	Palestine	√
17.	Ms. Nasra Abo El Nasr	Palestine	
18.	Dr. Abdullah Nusser	Saudi Arabia	
19.	Eng. Emad Saad	United Arab Emirates	
20.	Eng. Ahmed Hussien Abdel Rahman	Qatar	
21.	Ms. Meena Kadhimi	EL Bahrain	
22.	Dr. Emad Adly	Egypt	
23.	Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud	Egypt	
24.	Eng. Essam Ashour	Egypt	
25.	Dr. Mohamed Gamil	Egypt	
26.	Dr. Abdel Salam El-Banna	Egypt	
27.	Eng. Essam Nada	Egypt	