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the Environment,
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The International POPs Elimination Project

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

Global Day of Action on POPs in Russia

Ural Environmental Union

**Russian Federation
April 2005**

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>

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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.

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In the course of implementation of the project "Acting against POPs", regional NGO "Ural Environmental Union", jointly with specialists of the Committee for Environment of Yekaterinburg City Administration, the Waste Management Program of Yekaterinburg, Ural State University, the Municipal State Inspection of Pollution Sources and other organisations, selected priority regional actions under the project, namely:

- Identification of potential sources of POPs releases (particularly PCBs) in Yekaterinburg and Sverdlovsk Oblast
- Initiation of activities to reduce PCBs pollution
- Compiling the list of facilities that apply dioxin-generating technologies
- Reduction of household PVC waste
- Development of awareness raising programs on the problem of POPs for different population groups
- Development of the program of joint actions of authorities, businesses, NGOs and media for reduction of POPs impacts

The project implementation activities resulted in development of 3 awareness raising programs for pre-schoolers, schoolchildren (6th-8th grades), teachers of ecology, chemistry and biology. Awareness raising and media information actions were conducted. Three press-releases were issued on the problem of persistent organic pollutants. Booklets "Persistent Organic Pollutants Endanger Your Life" and "A Reminder for a Responsible Consumer" were published. The project implementation allowed awareness raising of local residents of POPs-related hazards, to intensify public actions of NGOs, the youth and educators aimed on reduction of POPs contamination levels, to raise awareness of local authorities and production facilities of the problem of POPs (they expressed their willingness to participate in joint actions to reduce adverse POPs impacts). For additional information on the project, please contact: Olga Podosenova, regional NGO "Ural Environmental Union", eco@ural.ru