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## **International POPs Elimination Project**

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

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# **Global Day of Action on POPs in Sudan**

**Environment Protection Society**

**Sudan  
June 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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# Global Day of Action on POPs in Sudan

Mrs. Somya Al Sayed, Society Board Chairman, welcomed the people present and said that no other day would be better than the day of Earth Day Celebrations for talking about the Global Day of Action and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and their effect on health and environment. The aim of the celebrations is to promote awareness of the persistent organic pollutants, and highlight the Stockholm Convention.

## Main Ideas of the Lectures

No.	Topic	Lecturer
1	Definition and Properties of Persistent Organic Pollutants	Mr. Adam Ali Mohamed
2	Introduction to the Stockholm Convention	Mr. Adam Ali Mohamed
3	The Effects of Persistent Organic Pollutants on Health and Environment	Mr. Ali Mahmood Ali Mahmood
4	The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations	Mrs. Somya Al Sayed

Talking about the definition and properties of persistent organic pollutants, Mr. Adam Ali Mohamed said the following: Persistent organic pollutants are a group of chemicals having poisonous properties. They do not disintegrate but remain in the environment for a long period. It is well-known that such substances are concentrated in fats, and therefore they are stored in living organisms for a long period. They biologically multiply for a long period.

Persistent organic pollutants include pesticides (aldrin, endrin, chlordane, heptachlor, DDT, mirex, dieldrin and toxaphene), industrial chemicals (hexachlorobenzene and PCBs), and byproducts of incineration (dioxins and furans). These are called the Dirty Dozen.

### 1. Aldrin

It is a strong pesticide used to fight soil insects.  
It protects cotton, corn and potatoes.  
It is used for fighting white-footed ant and locust.  
It fights rice moth.  
It fights wire worms.  
It fights some cattle parasites.

### 2. Chlordane

It is a long term pesticide.  
It fights insects found in crops, vegetables and oily cereals.

It fights white-footed ant and beetles.  
It protects cotton and jute crops.  
It protects sugar cane, beet and fruit.

### 3. Endrin

It is a pesticide used for fighting rodents and insects.  
It is used to protect cotton, rice, corn and sugar cane.  
It is used for fighting the insects of tree leaves.

### 4. Heptachlor

It is a pesticide used for fighting soil insects and white-footed ant.  
It is used for fighting the insects of cotton and locust.  
It is used for fighting stem cutting worms.  
It is used for fighting mosquito.  
It is used for processing timber and underground cables against ants.

### 5. Hexachlorobenzene

It is a fungicide for cereals, onion and wheat.  
It is a product of the pesticide manufacturing process.  
It is used for protecting timber and unnatural rubber.  
It is used for the preparation of paints and ammunition.

### 6. Mirex

It is a pesticide used for fighting lice, ants, bugs and wasps.  
It is a deactivator of flaming in plastics and rubber.  
It is used with in electrical equipment.

### 7. Toxaphene

It is a mixture of 670 chemical substances.  
It is a pesticide for fighting the pests of cotton, cereals, fruit, vegetables and beans.  
It is used for fighting moth and mites.

### 8. PCBs

It is a mixture of 209 chemical substances.  
It is used with electrical transformers, condensers, hydraulic systems, heat transmission systems, coolers and insulators.  
It is added to paints, adhesives, colouring materials and greases.

### 9. Dioxin

It is a mixture of 75 chemical substances.  
It is produced by the incineration of plastic, paper whitening, metal fusion and chlorine industries.  
It is produced by the incineration of human and hazardous waste.  
It is produced by the incineration of gasoline and diesel.  
96% of the Earth's population is exposed to it through food.

## 10. Furans

They are a mixture of 135 chemical substances.

They are produced through the manufacture of PCBs.

They are accompanied by dioxins.

## 11. DDT

It was used during the Second World War to protect soldiers and civilians from malaria, typhoid and other disease carrying insects.

It is still used for fighting mosquitoes carrying malaria.

It is used for fighting moths.

About 50,000 tonnes of DDT are produced annually.

## 12. Dieldrin

It is a pesticide for protecting fruit, corn, cotton and potato crops.

It is used for killing root worms.

It is used for fighting beetles and white-footed ant.

It is used for protecting stored crops: World Health Organisation 1989.

Its use has been limited to fighting white-footed ant, wood cutting insects and textile insects.

After that, Mr. Adam Ali Mohamed went on to define the Stockholm Convention. He stated the following: The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was approved in May 2001 to protect human and environmental health against persistent organic pollutants.

### Convention Aim

\*Protection of Public Health and Environment

The convention aims at protecting public health and environment against persistent organic pollutants by the prevention or elimination of chemical emissions which are the most toxic (Dirty Dozen). The convention defines 12 persistent organic pollutants as the most harmful substances to environment and man.

After that, Mr. Ali Mahmood Ali Mahmood talked about the effect of persistent organic pollutants on health and environment, mentioning the following:

Hormones that control growth, fertility and the nervous system

They can cause cancer.

Underweight in newly born children

Slow growth of children's nervous system from birth until two years of age.

It affects children's visual memory from seven months to four years

Slow growth in children's recognition until the age of eleven

Late maturity in male and female

Overgrowth of the outer skin, appearance of spots, gastritis and various inflammations of the limb nerves

Liver dysfunction in children

He concluded saying that societies must adopt the idea of raising awareness among all classes and all age groups, especially children and women. He thanked all the people who were present.

Mrs. Somya Al Sayed said that chemicals undoubtedly played an important role in the development of human communities through their use in all scientific, industrial, agricultural, petroleum, medical, commercial, military and domestic activities. Chemicals play a vital role in the development of life but they expose man's health and environment to many hazards while they are produced, transported, stored, used and disposed of.

To lessen the hazards arising from dealing in chemicals, special policies and systems should be established on sound scientific bases, and with the help of accurate, clear and current information and data. The public should be warned against the hazards of chemicals. It is very important to ensure that anyone dealing in chemicals is aware of the properties of such chemicals, their effects, the best ways to reduce their hazards as well as ways of protection and treatment.

She pointed out the role played by societies and other departments. These are some of their recommendations:

- Fixing levels for the emissions arising from incineration and the control of such levels
- Ensuring that hazardous substances are not produced or imported
- Studying the possibility of banning any chemical substance
- Raising awareness of such substances and reducing their use.
- Introducing restrictions on the use of hazardous chemicals
- Suggesting alternatives for the chemical substances currently used.
- Adoption of a food inspection programme for consumer protection
- Adoption of a programme that uses school students for raising awareness among farmers regarding the hazards of pesticides and how to handle them safely
- Launching a call for restricting the profession of dealing in pesticides to professionals who are graduates of the faculties of agriculture, science and pharmacy