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International POPs Elimination Project

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

Capacity building to strengthen community participation in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention: Focusing on Children and Chemical Safety

**Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente
(AAMMA)**

**Argentina
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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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This report is available in the following languages: English

Capacity building to strengthen community participation in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention: Focusing on Children and Chemical Safety

This project activity focused on the development of capacity building in the professional community and among decision makers and other stakeholders involved in chemical safety especially as it relates to children's chemical safety. The goal was to strengthen the participation of all the community partners in the mechanism of implementing the Stockholm Convention.

To reach this goal, the Project developed training workshops on children's environmental health and children's chemical safety in three different regions of Argentina; northern, central and southern.

This Project used a methodology of capacity building and awareness-raising on children's health and environment to promote intervention actions and develop precautionary policies. This training program also promoted the incorporation of environmental health issues in the medical practices of pediatricians since they are obligated to promote children's health and increase the quality of life in their communities. The project created "nucleus forces" which will now work to influence the whole community to produce new changes in environmental issues.

In this way, the training workshops were performed in three different cities:

- Neuquén City, Neuquén Province (central region of Argentina)
- San Salvador City, Jujuy Province (northern region of Argentina)
- Río Gallegos City, Santa Cruz Province (southern region of Argentina)

Moreover, several preparatory meetings for the training workshops among experts were developed to define the work schedules; identify local focal points; and establish the project work plan.

Training Workshop in Neuquén City, Neuquén Province

(Central region of Argentina)

In Neuquén, a training workshop for health care providers on “Environmental Changes and Impacts on Children’s Health” was developed on April 8th and April 9th at the University of Comahue Auditorium.

In addition, an open panel on “Health and Environment” was developed together with the Agency of Children’s Rights in the province of Neuquén. This panel included the participation of the Neuquén Law School, the regional branch of the Argentine Society of Pediatrics, and local decision makers. In this open panel, the following topics were presented: *“POPs and other chemical hazards: Health effects”, “A Follow up on the global POPs situation: NIP, Stockholm Declaration and IPEN Stockholm Declaration”, “A diagnosis of the local POPs situation” and “New emerging environmental diseases and POPs”, “Agenda 21: Precautionary principle, Right to know and other Substantial Principles”;* and *“Plan of Action: what can be done at local level?”*.

The event dissemination was developed through the local media (newspapers, radio and TV), local focal points and through AAMMA’s website and newsletters. In this case, all the activities were co-coordinated together with the Agency of Children’s Rights of the province of Neuquén; with the support of the *International POPs Elimination Network – IPEN*.

Training Workshop in San Salvador City, Jujuy Province

(Northern region of Argentina)

In Jujuy, a training workshop on “Children’s Health and the Environment: Identification of Situations and Actions to Protect Children from Environmental Hazards” was developed on September 5th at the Consejo de Médicos de San Salvador Auditorium. This workshop was developed under the methodology of an open panel oriented to health care providers, other professionals, decision makers and the community. It was co-organized with the regional branch of the Argentine Society of Pediatrics. In this open panel, the following topics were presented: *“POPs and other chemical hazards: Health effects”, “A Follow up on the global POPs situation: NIP, Stockholm Declaration and IPEN Stockholm Declaration”, “A diagnosis of the local POPs situation” and “New emerging environmental diseases and POPs”, “Agenda 21: Precautionary principle, Right to know and others Substantial Principles”;* and *“Plan of Action: what can be done at local level?”*.

In this opportunity, we were accompanied by Ing. Lorenzo González Videla, National Coordinator of the Unit of Chemical Substances of the National Secretary of Environment who is in charge of the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan (NIP). In addition, many local decision makers, who have been in contact with AAMMA before also participated including Dr. Carlos Alberto Cisneros, Ministry of Public Health of the Province of Jujuy; Dr. Stella Garrido, Director of Maternal and Children’s Health of the Province of Jujuy; Dr. Francisco Ruiz, Maternal and Children’s Health; and Ing. Carlos

Territoriale, Director of Health and Environment of the Ministry of Health. The event's methodology facilitated the promotion of actions of interventions and the development of policies to protect children's environment health in the region.

The event dissemination was developed through the local media (newspapers, radio and TV), local focal points and through AAMMA and regional members of the Argentine Society of Pediatrics, website and newsletters. In this case, all the activities were co-ordinated together with the Argentine Society of Pediatrics of Jujuy province; with the support of the *International POPs Elimination Network – IPEN*.

Training Workshop in Río Gallegos City, Santa Cruz Province

(Southern region of Argentina)

In Santa Cruz, a training workshop on “Children's Health and the Environment: Identification of Situations and Actions to Protect Children from Environmental Hazards” was developed on August 26th at the Asociación de Magistrados y Funcionarios del Poder Judicial Auditorium. This workshop was developed under the methodology of an open panel oriented to health care providers, other professionals, decision makers and the community. It was co-organized with the regional branch of Argentine Society of Pediatrics. In this open panel, the following topics were presented: “*POPs and other chemical hazards: Health effects*”, “*A Follow up of the global POPs situation: NIP, Stockholm Declaration and IPEN Stockholm Declaration*”, “*A diagnosis of the local POPs situation*” and “*New emerging environmental diseases and POPs*”, “*Agenda 21: Precautionary principle, Right to know and others Substantial Principles*”; and “*Plan of Action: what can be done at local level?*”.

In this workshop, many local decision makers, who have been in contact with AAMMA before, participated including Dr. Belén Duarte, Secretary of Health of the Province of Santa Cruz; Dr. Marcela González, Director of Maternal and Children's Health of the Province of Santa Cruz; Dr. Hector Tejada, Director of the Río Gallegos Regional Hospital of Pediatrics and President of the Argentine Society of Pediatrics of the Region. Moreover, we were accompanied by Ing. Lorenzo González Videla, National Coordinator of the Unit of Chemical Substances of the National Secretary of Environment who is in charge of the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan (NIP). The event's methodology facilitated the promotion of actions and interventions and the development of policies to prevent children's environment health in the region.

The event dissemination was developed through the local media (newspapers, radio and TV), local focal points and through AAMMA and Regional members of the Argentine Society of Pediatrics, website and newsletters. In this case, all the activities were co-ordinated together with the Argentine Society of Pediatrics of Santa Cruz province; with the support of the *International POPs Elimination Network – IPEN*.

In all the Workshops the following Training Materials were distributed:

- Institutional Flyer “*POPs and Children*” developed by AAMMA to present the Stockholm Convention and the National Implementation Plan in Argentina. This document provides general information on the Convention and the current situation of the National Implementation Plan; with the support of the *International POPs Elimination Network – IPEN*.
- Book “*Children and their Environments. Guide to protect children from environmental hazards*” developed by AAMMA.
- Book “*Protecting children from harmful chemical exposures*”, prepared by an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety Working Group; Spanish version developed by AAMMA.
- Flyer “*Children and Chemical Safety - Recommendations and Plan of Action of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety*” - Forum IV IFCS.

For more information on the Workshops, please visit: www.aamma.org