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International POPs Elimination Project

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

Global Day of Action on POPs in Azerbaijan

"Ruzgyar" Environmental Society

**Azerbaijan
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>

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Global Day of Action on POPs in Azerbaijan

In the course of implementation of the project "Environmental Field Study of the Pesticide Elimination Site", on April 29, 2005, "Ruzgyar" Environmental Society (Azerbaijan) organised a field visit to the site for elimination of banned and obsolete pesticides with participation of representatives of Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture and Public Health, academic community, mass media outlets and NGOs. The field visit participants made a video-record, demonstrating the sanitary and environmental situation at the site.

Ruzgyar organised a press conference dedicated to "Pesticides, Environment and Health". The press-conference participants noted that in order to address POPs-related environmental problems it is necessary: - to develop inter-sectoral and inter-agency partnerships for improvement of the POPs elimination site; - to implement a detailed POPs inventory in the country and to identify "hot spots"; - to transport obsolete pesticides to the "burial site"; to raise public awareness of POPs-related problems.

Results of the event were covered by newspaper articles and presentations. On behalf of the NGO group, a letter was sent to the Ministry of Economic Development of Azerbaijan, requesting assistance for reconstruction of the site for elimination of obsolete pesticides. For additional information, please contact Islam Mustafaev, "Ruzgyar" NGO, imustafaev@iatp.az