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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 Armenia**

**Khazer**

**Armenia  
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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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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On April 20, 2005, "Khazer" NGO initiated and co-ordinated a seminar for students and lecturers of Yerevan State University. The seminar was attended by students and lecturers from different departments of the University (inc. Physics, Chemistry, Geography and Biology) - overall about 100 persons. The seminar organisers informed the audience on POPs-related situation in Armenia, on the Stockholm Convention and other international initiatives to address POPs-related problems. Specially developed background documents of the seminar were disseminated. Leading experts in the sphere of chemical pollution were invited to participate in the seminar. Besides that, on May 12 and 13, 2005, in the framework of the project, seminars for school teachers of Yerevan were conducted in the State Museum of Natural History of Armenia. The seminars were attended by representatives of the National Education Institute and about 60 teachers of secondary schools. These seminars focused on existing methods to raise environmental awareness of schoolchildren, particularly in the sphere of health and environmental impacts of POPs. All participants of the above seminars admitted that similar public awareness raising events are fairly important for discussion of issues associated with health and environmental impacts of POPs, including their impacts of children's health, as well as with prevention of child diseases, caused by chemical contamination. For additional information, please contact Amalia Ambartsumyan, "Khazer" NGO, [khazer\\_alla@yahoo.com](mailto:khazer_alla@yahoo.com)