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the Environment,
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The International POPs Elimination Project

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

Global Day of Action on POPs in Mexico

**Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas en México
(RAPAM)**

**Mexico
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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RAPAM the focal point of IPEN in Mexico together with a local NGO, Organización y Desarrollo Social, presented the results of the egg sampling for POPs near the petrochemical complex of Pajaritos, in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz State. The results were presented in a press conference on April 21 (see photo attached) and on April 23 in a national forum about the impacts of the oil industry organized by a network of environmental and grassroots organizations (see photo). As a result of the event specific demands regarding the Stockholm Convention were included in the statement signed by 120 people representing 29 organizations mainly from Veracruz, Oaxaca and Tabasco States.

The statement demands the enforcement of the Stockholm Convention by the Mexican Government with special attention to the South of Veracruz region, a potential POPs hot spot; public participation mechanisms to intervene in the national implementation plan and the cancellation of the new incinerator of chlorinated wastes in the petrochemical complex under consideration by the environmental authorities. For more information please contact: Fernando Bejarano, rapam@prodigy.net.mx