

UNIDO signs US \$ 14.5 million GEF-funded PCB project with Government of India

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) signed a US \$ 14.5 million project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with the Government of India for the phase-out of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the country. PCBs are among the polluting chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and are found in electrical equipments, additives for paints and lubricants, plastics and others.

The project was signed by the Director-General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, in the presence of the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Mr. Vijai Sharma, and GEF Operational Focal Point in India and Joint Secretary, Mr. Hem Pande. Mr. Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, signed on behalf of Government of India.

The objective of the new project is to eliminate the use and release of PCBs into the environment through the disposal of PCB-containing equipment, and related wastes in three pilot projects for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of PCBs in India, catering to the needs of 13 states.

The project aims at the development and implementation of an ESM system for PCBs and the development of an action plan for their timely phase-out from the use and final disposal of PCB-containing equipment and related wastes.

The project envisages co-financing of US \$ 29 million and is to be implemented by Ministry of Environment and Forest in collaboration with UNIDO. The Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), which is the only specialized national institution on PCB management and research with the required infrastructure and trained manpower, has been tasked as national executing institution for the project. The project is expected to lead to phasing out of outdated PCB-containing equipment in India. This in turn will contribute to India achieving its obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.



Director-General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, in the presence of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Mr. Vijai Sharma, GEF Operational Focal Point in India and Joint Secretary, Mr. Hem Pande. and Mr. Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Director-General visits M.S. Ramaiah Medical College & Hospital in Bangalore



The Director-General addresses the Press

On the 9th of February 2010, the UNIDO Director General along with Ms. Amita Misra, Special Adviser and Mr. Philippe Scholtes, UNIDO Rep. at the time, visited the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) and the M.S. Ramaiah Medical College & Hospitals in Bangalore. The visit started at the CPRI where the National Implementation Plan (NIP) and post NIP project outlines pertaining to the “Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs in India” inventory preparation and the management and disposal were presented. In the afternoon, the delegation visited the M.S. Ramaiah Medical College & Hospital where the hazardous medical waste management practices in the various waste generating



The Director-General with the Chairman of the MS Ramaiah Hospital

departments of the hospital and the scientific methods adopted for safe segregation and handling for disposal were shown. They were presented with the project brief on “Environmentally Sound Management of Medical Wastes in India”. This was followed by a press meet which was attended by the senior representatives of all the leading national dailies and the electronic media of the national TV channels.

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PROJECT FEATURE

Technology Vendors workshop “State of the Art in Alternative Technologies for Management and Disposal of PCBs stockpiles and wastes” convened

The Technology Vendors Workshop, which took place from 24 -26 August 2010 in Delhi, India, was opened by Dr. S.P. Dhua, Regional Coordinator by introducing the following participants: Mr. Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF); Ms. Chandra Chowdhury, Director, MoEF; Ms. Ayumi Fujino, UNIDO Representative & Director, UNIDO Regional Office in India; Mr. N. Murugesan, Director-General, Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) and Mr. Mohamed Eisa, Deputy Director & Chief, Stockholm Convention Unit, UNIDO.

Ms. Ayumi Fujino welcomed all participants and said that India, in order to facilitate early action on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, initiated in early 2008 its National Implementation Plan (NIP) preparation under the Convention through a GEF-supported Enabling Activities (EA) project implemented by MoEF and UNIDO, which identified the development of an action plan for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) and final disposal of PCBs as an integral part of the NIP project. During the course of NIP preparation, she mentioned, some observations were made on 3 challenges India would face in this endeavor. Firstly, India requires infrastructure and capacity to manage and dispose of PCBs in an environmentally sound manner. Secondly, the legal and regulatory framework at the National as well as the State level needs to be strengthened. Thirdly, India's low PCB destruction capacity in terms of technology.



Workshop Attendees



Technology Providers Workshop

The welcome remark by the UNIDO Rep. was followed by the inaugural address of Mr. Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary, MoEF who recognized that the workshop is a very important milestone and has an eventual objective of disposal of all PCBs-containing equipment and PCB waste in the country.

Mr. Eisa explained UNIDO's POPs programme policy and projects and introduced Ms. Pinjo-dzagal, UNIDO Contracts Officer who made a presentation highlighting UNIDO's rules and procedures for the tender process while answering all questions from participants and Government officials during the two days of the workshop.

Mr. N. Murugesan, Director General of CPRI presented the overview of PCB wastes in India as findings of the NIP, sector wise and distribution in the country in addition to the objectives and outcomes of the post-NIP project for environmentally sound management and final disposal of PCBs where he reiterated the criteria for the selection of technology.

Several treatment technologies were presented by technology providers which varied from low PCBs to 100% PCBs (Askarel) types. Japan has presented technologies from Kanden, Toshiba, Regenne and Kebelco. Other technologies were presented by companies from Europe, USA and Canada, e.g. Sea Marconi, Kinectrics, Bilger GmbH, Orion B.V. and SD Myers. The details of the these presentations can be found on UNIDO's website.

The workshop concluded with a day site visit to Bhilai Steel Plant, which was attended by Technology vendors from Canada, Japan, the Netherlands as well as representatives from CPRI, Indian companies and UNIDO

INDIA PIPELINE PROJECTS 2011

- ★ **Management of PVC Plastic Waste to avoid incineration/dumping the Landfill for preventing releases of dioxins and furans due to burning**
- ★ **Development and Promotion of Non-POPs Alternatives to DDT usage in India**
- ★ **Implementation of the BAT/BEP strategies for reduction/elimination of U-POPs emissions of the priority industry sectors identified in the NIP of India**

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All issues are available on the internet: <http://www.unido.org/POPs>

This document has not been formally edited.