

Bringing Sound Management of Chemicals & Waste to the Forefront of the Global Agenda

Monday 30 January 2017, 11:00-13:00
International Environment House II (7-9 ch. de Balexert)

Biographies

David AZOULAY

David is the managing attorney of CIEL's Geneva office where he works with our Chemicals Program and leads our new nanotechnologies project.

David is a French attorney who studied public international law in France and Spain before specializing in environmental law. He comes to CIEL from Friends of the Earth Europe in Brussels, where he coordinated their chemical and nanotechnologies campaign. Before that, he worked as an associate in environmental law in the Paris office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

The goals for the new CIEL nanotechnologies project are (1) to increase understanding of how international law, institutions, and processes may be used to promote a precautionary approach to nanotechnologies that protects human health and the environment, and (2) to support effective NGO participation in those institutions and processes. As a Participating Organization of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), one of the ways in which CIEL hopes to accomplish these goals is by chairing the IPEN Nanotechnologies Working Group as it coordinates NGO participation in international processes related to nanotechnologies (SAICM, OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials etc...).

Andrea BROWN

Andrea joined the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) in 2008. Until 2013, she led the process to develop two new international greenhouse gas methodologies, in partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI). From 2013, Andrea was the Director of the Chemical Sector project, bringing together 11 global chemical companies focused on developing collaborative solutions for the industry to help reach WBCSD's Vision 2050. Since 2014, Andrea also leads the organizations activities on the Circular Economy. This work is focused on developing collaborative initiatives to unlock opportunities and pave the way for a 'new normal' in business practices to reach a circular economy and help achieve the UN SDGs.

Prior to joining the WBCSD, Andrea worked in the federal and provincial governments in Canada, focused on international relations and energy policy.

Jacob DUER

Jacob is leading the Minamata Convention and Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management teams at UN Environment.

Jacob joined UN Environment in 2002 and has worked in the Divisions of Policy Development and Law and Environmental Law and Conventions as both Special Assistant to the Director and Programme Office. Having worked in project management, financial and human resource administration and acted as policy and strategic advisor to senior management, Jacob was later appointed to the Strategic Implementation Team as Senior Advisor on Human Resources Planning and Policy. and now he is the principal coordinator of the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Secretariat of Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening.

Before joining UN Environment and following field assignments in West Africa, he worked as the Executive Assistant to the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna. Jacob holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and Management. He is married and has one daughter.

Odile FRANK

Odile has worked on health issues at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Population Council, the World Health Organization, the United Nations (as Chief, Social Integration in the Department for Social Development, DESA), the International Labour Organization (as Senior Research and Policy Adviser & Chief, Research and Policy Analysis Unit in the Global Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work) and most recently at Public Services International (as the Health and Social Services Officer).

Odile holds a Doctorate of Science from Harvard University, where she specialized in the public health, medical and social sciences and Master's degrees in Population Sciences and in Counselling Psychology. Odile has authored numerous papers and articles in technical areas of international development.

Achim HALPAAP

Achim has served as Head of the Chemicals and Waste Branch of UN Environment's since September 2015. He has more than twenty five years of experience in international environment and sustainable development research, policy analysis and capacity development in public, academic, private-sector, and non-governmental organizations. In his previous position, Achim was Head of the Environment Unit and Associate Director of Training at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Before joining the UN, Achim headed the Chemicals and Waste Management Policy Section, Environmental Policy Directorate of the Bayer Corporation. Achim had research appointments at the University of Cape Town (South Africa) and Yale University (US) and holds academic degrees from Yale University (Ph.D.), the University of Oregon (M.A.), and the University of Bonn (B.Sc.).

Brenda KOEKKOEK

Brenda has a leading role in the UN Environment-hosted Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). SAICM is a voluntary policy framework that connects different sectors and stakeholders working towards a chemical-safe future to address agricultural and industrial chemicals throughout their lifecycle.

Brenda's prior role at UN Environment was to lead the development and coordination of UN Environment's Global Mercury Partnership. She focused, in particular, on building a collaborative network of partners in artisanal and small-scale gold mining as well as designing and overseeing projects aimed at achieving reductions in mercury. Brenda also provided technical support to the negotiation process for the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Brenda holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Guelph and a Master's Degree in Environment and Management from Royal Roads University. Before joining UN Environment, she worked at Environment Canada from 2000-2006 working mainly on issues related to transboundary air pollution.

Abiola OLANIPEKUN

Abiola is the Chief of the Scientific Support Branch in the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions. Her responsibilities include leading, planning and implementing the programme of work of the Branch related to technical and scientific aspects; national reporting; coordinating the work on the development of technical guidelines, tools and guidance; providing support on technical and strategic issues to Parties and the Executive Secretary; coordinating the input of the Branch into the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies; in close coordination with other Branches, planning and executing joint activities on scientific matters; and collaborating and liaising with other UN organizations and agencies on scientific and technical cooperation issues.

Abiola, a Nigerian citizen, worked for the Federal Ministry of Environment Nigeria (1987 to 2013) in the Chemicals Management Division of the Department of Pollution Control & Environmental Health, prior to joining the BRS Secretariat. She has led and coordinated the African region for over a decade in major international negotiations, policies and programmes on sound management of chemicals. She served in different key positions as the regional coordinator, spokesperson and focal point for the African region in the development and implementation of the strategic approach to international chemicals management while playing a key role in the intergovernmental negotiating process for the development of Minamata Convention on mercury as the African regional coordinator and INC Bureau Member.

Abiola served as Chairperson on the UN Environment Global Mercury Partnership Programme Advisory Group and member of UN Environment Experts' Groups on a number of recent international chemicals management initiatives. She has been a prominent advocate of key outcomes that have enabled the global community's efforts to achieve sound management of chemicals.

Abiola holds a Bachelors of Science and Masters Degree in Biochemistry and Environmental Science and Technology respectively from University of Benin, Nigeria and UNESCO-IHE, Delft, The Netherlands.

Felix WERTLI

Felix currently works for the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), as the head of its the Global Affairs section.

Felix is a Swiss citizen who is passionate about international cooperation, as proved by his subsequent work with the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) which focused on eradicating prejudices and discrimination, and his involvement in the exchange programme between Brazil and Europe organized by the Franciscans (Missionszentrale der Franziskaner). He

worked between 2008 and 2013 as a program officer for Kenya and Haiti at Fastenopfer / Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund. From 2013 to 2016 he served as Counsellor for Trade and Development at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the World Trade Organization (WTO). His vast expertise in conflict analysis allows him to strengthen NGOs by helping them incorporate conflict sensitivity in their work.

Felix holds a Master's degree in development studies from ETH Zurich and a Master in geography from the University of Geneva.