Science Fair at the 2015 COPs

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Chief, Scientific Support Branch
Science Fair at the margins of the back-to-back-meetings of the BC, RC and SC COPs

Objective
The event is intended to engage the interest of COPs participants in the theme for the 2015 COPs: “From Science to Action, Working for a Safer Tomorrow”.

- Increase understanding of the scientific basis of the three conventions;
- Clarify the scientific processes established under the Conventions for their effective implementation

*Increased awareness and understanding of the underlying scientific approach and analysis for decision-making under the conventions*
Approach

- 3 days event (7-9 May 2015)
- Scientific information is presented in booths in a user-friendly and interactive manner using visual elements.

- **Special events**: Opening ceremony; panel discussions; side event on mainstreaming of science in smcw; booths events and presentations by experts organized throughout the three days in order to allow for dissemination of information, exchange of views and ideas.

- **Relevant materials** such as hand-outs, videos, clearing-house mechanism platforms and tools are presented on particular topics.
Topics of the Science Fair Booths

- **Topic 1: Accessing science through the clearing house mechanism**

**Main presenter:** BRS Secretariat

**Objective:** Showcase tools that facilitate the dissemination of scientific and technical information/documents developed under the three conventions

**Key Elements:**
- Visual, user-friendly and interactive platform of basic underlying terms and concepts under the three conventions;
- BRS Clearing House Mechanism: demonstration of how the science is made available to Parties and broad public including access to materials developed under the three conventions.
**Topic 2: Scientific processes under the BRS conventions**

**Main presenter(s):** Representatives of subsidiary bodies (CRC, POPRC, OEWG) BRS Secretariat

**Objectives:**

- Enhance understanding of the impact of science on decision-making under the three conventions.

**Key elements:**

- Scientific processes under the conventions (CRC, POPRC, OEWG, etc.) and the underlying scientific elements such as risk evaluation, risk assessment, toxicological interactions, etc.;
**Topic 3: Scientifically sound POPs monitoring**

**Main Presenters:** GMP strategic partners, GMP global coordination group

**Objectives:**
- Demonstrate relevant ongoing POPs monitoring activities and their results;
- Highlight scientific issues and concepts to be considered while interpreting monitoring data

**Key elements:**
- Demonstration of the GMP data warehouse and its outputs;
- Environmental fate and behavior of POPs, including long-range transport of hazardous substances (e.g. modeling)
**Topic 4: Science supporting safe and efficient solutions for hazardous industrial chemicals**

Main presenters: Parties, industry, NGOs

Objective: Demonstrate how science can increase benefits from industrial chemicals while avoiding and preventing the risks.

Key elements:

- Industrial chemicals in today’s world: benefits and risks;
- Protecting human health and the environment (green economy, alternatives, sustainable production and consumption, etc.);
- The life cycle approach and its link to sustainable development;
- Technology transfer, information sharing.
Topic 5: *Science supporting risk reduction from hazardous pesticides*

**Main presenters:** FAO, Parties, pesticide producer association, NGOs

**Objective:** Demonstrating how science can support policy makers and farmers in making informed decisions on hazardous pesticides.

**Key elements:**

- “What are pesticides and severely hazardous pesticide formulations under the Convention(s)?”;
- Pesticides in today’s world: benefits and risks;
- Protecting human health and the environment (Save and Grow: sustainable intensification of crop production”, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable agriculture, strategies to reduce risks from pesticide, IPM etc.).
Topic 6: Science providing sustainable waste management solutions: turning waste to resource

Main presenters: IGOs, Parties, Industry, NGOs

Objectives:

- Explain basic terms and concepts related to hazardous waste and the underlying science;
- Demonstrate examples of science providing sustainable waste management solutions

Key elements:

- “What is waste, non-waste and hazardous waste?”;
- Negative effects of un-sound management of wastes;
- Technologies on prevention, recovery, recycling and treatment of hazardous waste
Topic 7: Science empowering the public: how are we personally affected and what can we do?

Main presenters: BRS Sustainability Task Force, Safe Planet, NGOs

Objective: Demonstrate how science can empower public to make smart choices towards protecting their families and the environment they live in.

Key elements:

- **Pathways of exposure to chemicals listed in the conventions, hazardous wastes, e-waste, etc. and impact on the human health and ecosystem;**

- **Responsible buying and consumption: making smart choices by reading and understanding the small-print**
Topic 8: From science to action: examples of successful actions towards a safer tomorrow

Main presenter(s): Regional centers and any other interested partners

Objectives:
- Present on-ground examples (case studies/projects) of science supporting implementation of the three conventions; and
- Demonstrate how chemicals and waste can contribute to greening the economy.

Key elements:
- Chemicals in today’s world: benefits and risks;
- Green chemistry, urban mining, waste to energy solutions etc.;
- Protecting human health and the environment;
- The life cycle approach and its link to sustainable development
# Scheduling of the events

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<td>Lunch break</td>
<td>Opening ceremony</td>
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<td>Side Event on Mainstreaming of Science</td>
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<td>1:00-3:00 pm</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Booths events</td>
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Special events

- **Opening Ceremony**
  - Presidents of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; DG Environmental Protection Department of Finland; Host Government, Switzerland; UNEP Executive Director and FAO Director General (video messages) and other Dignitaries

- **Closing Ceremony/Reception**
  - Presidents of the COPs of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; DG Environmental Protection Department of Finland; Host Government, Switzerland; UNEP Chief Scientist, Director DEWA and other Dignitaries
Special events

- Moderated by: Ms. Isabelle Valentini (Head of Communications, ROE)

Panelists

- Ms. Fatoumata Keita-Ouane, Former Head, Chemicals Branch, UNEP, DTIE;
- Ms. Maria Ivanova, Associate Professor - Scientific Advisor to the UN Secretary General;
- Amb. Fernando Lugris, Minamata Convention NC Chairman;
- Ms. Lucy Gilliam - Toxicologist and Trans-Atlantic Sailor;
- Mr. Mark Davis, Senior Officer, Pesticides Management Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
Special events

- Side event on: “Mainstreaming of science in the sound management of chemicals and wastes”, Saturday 9 May 2015.
- Moderated by: Ms. Jacqueline McGlade (UNEP Chief Scientist and Director, DEWA)

Panelists

- Ms. Estefania Moreira, Professor, State University of Londrina, Brazil, Chair of the POPs Review Committee;
- Ms. Magdalena Frydrych, Chief Specialist at the Polish Bureau for Chemical Substances; Member of CRC
- Mr. Oladele Osibanjo, Professor, Executive Director, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Africa,
- Mr. Jinhui Li, Professor, BCRC for Asia and Pacific Region in China, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
The financial contribution of the Government of Finland to the organization of the Science Fair is greatly acknowledged.

Contributions of SF Partners (IGOs, Governments, NGOs, Industry, Regional Centres, Academia, Experts, students etc) acknowledged.
For more Information on the SF

Visit the Synergies website at:
http://synergies.pops.int/Decisionmaking/COPsandExCOPs/2015COPs/Sciencefair