

SUMMARY RECORD
2ND MEETING OF THE IOMC TECHNICAL COORDINATING GROUP
ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)

17 MAY, 2004
WASHINGTON, DC

1. The second meeting of the IOMC Coordinating Group on POPs was held in Washington, DC, at the GEF Headquarters on 17 May 2004. This meeting was a joint meeting of the Coordinating Group and the GEF POPs Task Force. All GEF IAs/EAs with expanded opportunities were present; and UNITAR. The GEF portion of the meeting was chaired by the GEF Secretariat (Laurent Granier); the IOMC portion was chaired by UNITAR (Craig Boljkovac).
2. The IOMC portion of the meeting concentrated on the following subject areas:
 - possible joint projects among Coordinating Group members;
 - possible modalities for improving coordination and cooperation; and
 - progress in related areas; and
 - preparations for COP 1 of the Stockholm Convention.

Possible joint projects among IOMC POs; World Bank and UNDP:

3. All POs agreed in principle that joint projects are desirable, and that there are a number of success stories to-date, including the Africa Stockpiles Project, cooperation between UNIDO and the World Bank in China; between WHO and UNEP on DDT, etc. It was recognized that there are administrative and other challenges to such project, including the different administrative structures that exist for each organization. Nevertheless it was stated that there are numerous complementary strengths among the different organizations that provide an advantage for joint projects over those executed/implemented by one agency alone.
4. Participants agreed to continue to seek opportunities for joint POPs-related projects in the future.

Possible modalities for improving coordination and cooperation:

5. Participants pointed out that a number of tools already exist that can facilitate coordination and cooperation, including, in particular, a comprehensive list, developed by UNEP, of NIP coordinators in each GEF-supported country. The list includes contact details, the Implementing Agency for each country, and other information. It was agreed that the list would be circulated and updated. Organisations were requested to submit updated information to UNEP Chemicals within 2 weeks of the meeting.

6. Other coordination tools that were suggested by participants included: e-networking, including a NIP coordinators e-discussion group facilitated by UNEP Chemicals; joint website development; the Stockholm Convention secretariat clearinghouse mechanism; and the NIPs Global Support Programme proposed by UNEP.
7. It was recognized by participants that substantive coordination and cooperation is possible through recognizing the relative strengths of each organization, and that many barriers still exist to full cooperation and coordination being realized. As a starting point to strengthen coordination and cooperation, and in recognition of the great number of ongoing and planned activities in this area, participants agreed to inform one another, in advance, of activities they are undertaking related to NIPs.

Progress in related areas:

8. **BAT/BEP:** The BAT/BEP Experts Group met in Chile in December 2003. One outcome of the meeting was further work on draft guidance, which has now been posted on the internet for public comment. The next meeting of the Expert group is scheduled for 11-16 October 2004 in Tokyo, Japan. At that meeting, the draft guidance will be finalized for submission to the Stockholm Convention First Conference of the Parties for its consideration. Participants asked a number of key questions regarding the guidance, including questions on its applicability (e.g. to all Parties?); whether BAT/BEP addresses economic and political issues (socio-economic considerations will be taken into account), etc.
9. **NIP Guidance and Action Plan Guidance:** A revised version of the UNEP/WB NIPs guidance was approved by POPs INC7 and is available for country use. UNEP offered Action Plan guidance currently being drafted as a possible contribution to the UNITAR/UNDP/GEF project on Action Plan development for Least Developed Countries. The document may not be publicly available, however.
10. **Other related projects/activities:** UNIDO raised the issue of a number of projects/programmes in related areas, including some related to its Cleaner Production Centres. Lessons learned as well from work in the International Waters focal area regarding progress in GEF projects from the identification of “hotspots” to fully developed investment portfolios was also raised as issue possibly related to POPs. UNIDO also reported that its SAICM PrepCom II INF paper will also raise a number of POPs-related issues. UNEP raised the issue of a GEF project on POPs laboratory capacities that has been recently approved as an important area of progress. It was also reported that the GEF STAP had a POPs Workshop on Emerging Innovative Technologies for the Destruction and Decontamination of Obsolete POPs from 1-3 October 2003, in Washington D.C. A second STAP meeting, on the Use of Bioindicators, Biomarkers and Analytical Methods for the Analysis of POPs in Developing Countries was held from 10-12 December 2003, in Tsukuba, Japan. A draft report of the Japan meeting, and a final report of the non-combustion technologies meeting, are both available on the STAP website:

<http://www.unep.org/stapgef/home/index.htm>

Preparations for COP 1 of the Stockholm Convention:

11. UNEP Chemicals reported that COP 1 of the Stockholm Convention will be held in Punte del Este, Uruguay, from 2-6 May 2005. A number of key issues will likely be up for consideration including: a feasibility study on technical assistance; location of the SC Secretariat; Rules of Procedure (which still contain square bracketed text); the BAT/BEP guidance; and a draft MoU between GEFSEC and the SC COP. There will be a high-level segment where IGOs will also have the opportunity to make interventions. Invitations will be sent out in early 2005.

Next meeting and the possibility of further joint meetings:

12. Participants agreed that there is an advantage in continuing the joint meeting format. A meeting around the time of the next GEF Council in Washington in late 2004 was suggested. Participants agreed to coordinate along these lines.

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Annex 1 – Meeting Agenda
Joint Meeting of GEF POPs Task Force and
IOMC Coordinating Group on POPs
Second Formal Meeting (of IOMC CG)

17 May 2004, GEF Headquarters, Washington DC

Part I (Chaired by the GEF Secretariat)

1. Eligibility

- Enabling activities; MSPs; pipeline entry / PDF-B; full projects

2. NIPs status

- Status (Overview by GEFSEC; report by each Agency)
- Outputs: quality control and dissemination
- Outcomes: consolidation?
- UNITAR project

3. POPs program study and NIP evaluation

4. Implementation

- Obsolete pesticides: ASP and CEITs
- DDT
- PCBs

5. Pipeline

- GEFSEC overview portfolio / GEF III targets
- NIPs implementation and other Agency pipeline activities

Part II (Chaired by UNITAR)

6. Consideration of possible joint projects

- Experiences to date
- Agency specialties (e.g., which agencies have what strengths in what areas)
- General discussion

7. Possible modalities for improving coordination and cooperation

8. Progress in related areas

- BAT/BEP
- NIPs guidelines
- Other related projects or activities

9. Preparations for COP-1

10. Other business, including next meeting

Annex 2 – List of Participants
IOMC COORDINATING GROUP ON POPs
Second Meeting
May 17, 2004
GEF Headquarters
G6-040

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* Participants were present for GEF Task Force portion of the joint meeting only.