

## Eighth Meeting of The Waigani Convention

Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention)

Apia, Samoa  
18<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### Agenda item 4.3: Project related activities

#### Background:

1. The First Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention requested the Secretariat to cooperate on critical issues for the implementation of the Waigani Convention with relevant United Nations bodies, Secretariats of other chemical convention and other relevant international and regional organisations. This aimed to avoid duplication and promote synergies.
2. In the twelve months since the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat has worked cooperatively and collaboratively with a number of organisations and donor agencies to undertake work relating to chemicals and hazardous waste management in the region.
3. The details of this cooperation together with the other existing working relationships are outlined below.

#### The Waigani Convention and Pacific Regional Centre activities

1. Gained approval and endorsement for the Pacific Regional Centre Business Plan for 2016-2017.
2. Attended the Nov 2014 Regional Centre Steering Committee Meeting in Geneva.
3. Provided support to Pacific island delegates at the pre-COP preparatory meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia in March, 2015 and the BRS Triple COP in Geneva, May 2015.
4. Secured \$US48,000 for the improved management of used lead acid batteries (uLABs) in Kiribati, RMI, Tonga and FSM from the Basel Secretariat.
5. Training provided in the four participating countries on the management of uLABs and their transboundary movement to recycling markets in the Asia-Pacific region.
6. Facilitated the Pacific's representation and participation in the BCRC-Beijing's International Conference in October 2014 on Waste Management and Technology and provided technical input into the conference.
7. Facilitated and conducted a Waigani Convention Training for all PICs Parties on important aspects of the Convention. The training was also attended by two non-Parties within the region and representatives from two Territories.

#### The AFD funded Waste Management Initiative

1. Completed import and export audits and cost benefit analyses of the options for improved used oil management in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu.
2. Completed a review of the solid and hazardous waste management vocational training course and its subject materials for its ongoing delivery in 2015-2016 utilising funding from the GEFPAS uPOPS project.

<b>The management of mercury</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assisted the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to organize a Pacific sub-regional workshop in January 2015 to assist PICs in their process towards ratification/accession and early implementation of their obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury;</li> <li>2. Assisted in the development of a national project and a regional project for six PICs in their participation in the Minamata Initial Assessment.</li> <li>3. Held preliminary discussions with potential collaborators from the Minamata Centre, Japan, on the development and implementation of a Mercury management program in the Pacific region.</li> </ol>
<b>The GEF-PAS uPOPs project activities</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completed oil and lubricant surveys and assessment of re-use options for used oils in 11 Pacific island countries.</li> <li>2. Developed and released Waigani Convention handbook for Member use.</li> <li>3. Commissioned used oil combustion emission testing and background analysis to assess the use of used oil as a diesel extender for electrical power generation.</li> <li>4. Initiated composting and health-care waste management model demonstration projects in Niue and Kiribati.</li> <li>5. Evaluated and revised the solid and hazardous waste management vocational training course for on-going delivery in 2015.</li> <li>6. Commencement of the development of an integrated chemical management training programme for Pacific island countries.</li> <li>7. Delivery of training on education and awareness for uPOPs related issues for 12 Pacific island countries.</li> <li>8. Development of the Pacific POPs website and press releases on project outcomes.</li> </ol>
<b>The PacWaste Project activities</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secured \$US 100,000 from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for a expanded asbestos baseline study and risk assessment in Nauru and \$US 6,000 from EU for an asbestos risk assessment for the St Stephens building in Suva, Fiji.</li> <li>2. Regional baseline assessments of asbestos materials and waste (13 Pacific Island countries) have been completed since October 2014. Technical Advisory Panel meetings were held to endorse the findings of the asbestos surveys, and to endorse recommendations for asbestos management interventions.</li> <li>3. For healthcare waste, a tender was launched for procuring up to 28 new high temperature healthcare waste incinerators for 42 of the hospitals surveyed and 14 offers were received. Healthcare waste incinerators were identified as the best technology for use in the Pacific context by an independent Technical Advisory panel, and their procurement has commenced.</li> <li>4. Training of healthcare workers on the improved management aspects of the healthcare wastes and provision of supporting equipment was commenced in July 2015.</li> <li>5. For asbestos materials and wastes emergency asbestos cleanups were conducted at Twomey Hospital in Suva, Fiji and at Nauru Hospital in Nauru after high risk asbestos situations were discovered during the regional asbestos survey.</li> <li>6. Training of Fijian water sector workers on best practice asbestos waster pipe management was completed in May 2015.</li> <li>7. For Atoll Integrated Solid Waste Management (Majuro Atoll - RM) a needs assessment on current status and recommended improvements was finalised and shared with the RMI Government.</li> <li>8. A twinning mission was organised between RMI and Kiribati to view the MFAT funded integrated solid waste system established on Tarawa and Betio as well as viewing the lagoon style landfill methods.</li> <li>9. Developed PacWaste project facts sheets and website and released periodic press releases, radio stories and web stories for the project and completed development of an asbestos cleanup micro film for the Twomey Hospital in Suva, Fiji.</li> </ol>