



Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Twenty-fifth Issue of **REN NEWSFLASH!**

Highlights in this issue:

- Environmental crime highlighted in regional Intelligence conference
- PAN welcomes the ICCM4 resolution on highly hazardous pesticides
- EPA proposes new protections for international hazardous waste shipments
- Philippines' Bureau of Customs seizes illegal used TV shipment

REN Newsflash, a monthly newsletter, covers REN activities and achievements, highlights of partners' activities and general news on combating illegal transboundary movements of waste and chemicals, and synergies and linkages on chemicals/waste related MEAs.

REN Activities

[Environmental Crime highlighted in Regional Intelligence Conference](#)

REN attended the 27th Administrative Meeting of National Contact Points of RILO A/P which was organized by Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P) and Indonesia Customs on 15-17 September 2015. The meeting was attended by 36 delegates from 18 Customs administrations, 4 representatives each from RILO for East and Central

Europe, RILO for Mid-East, WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building and UNEP, and 5 Customs Attaché.



The meeting reviewed the progress of RILO enforcement operations including Sky Hole Patching, progress of Customs Enforcement Network (CEN), trafficking trends of drug, Intellectual Property Right infringement products, and etc. Survey on intelligence needs and operation needs were presented in the meeting. The action plan of RILO for 2016 was adopted.

In the environmental crime session, REN introduced the trends in illegal chemicals and waste trade and recent REN activities including national training workshops, Asia Environmental Enforcement Award and others. REN suggested further enhancing cooperation between UNEP and RILO in capacity building, information exchange, research and facilitation of law enforcement operations.

RILO A/P confirmed the long term partnership between UNEP and RILO A/P, and hoped to continue cooperation with UNEP.

Partners' Activities

[PAN Welcomes the ICCM4 Resolution on Highly Hazardous Pesticides](#)

Pesticide Action Network welcomes the decision by the Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) in Geneva to recognize highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) as an "issue of concern." The conference today (2 October 2015) supported concerted action to address HHPs and welcomed a strategy to address them that has been developed by UNEP, FAO and WHO. Significantly, the ICCM4 placed emphasis on the need to promote agroecological alternatives instead of replacing them with another chemical pesticide.

Many delegates, particularly from Africa, the Arab region and Latin America, supported by PAN, IPEN and the international labour movement had favoured a Global Alliance of Phase out HHPs, dissention from the pesticide industry, and several high income countries prevented this from being agreed.

The resolution acknowledges that HHPs causes severe adverse effects on human health and the environment. "We believe that the call for concerted actions to address HHPs would help developing countries to deal with the ongoing pesticide poisoning of people particularly children and contamination of the environment" said Sarojeni V. Rengam, Pesticide Action Network.

Throughout the week, PAN has released materials in support of its campaign for a global phase-out of HHPs.

Source: *Pesticide Action Network for Asia and the Pacific* (Click [here](#) to read more)

[INECE Delivers Waste Control Training to Sri Lankan Customs](#)

On 25 September 2015, INECE's Seaport Environmental Security Network delivered a capacity building program on controlling shipments of hazardous and electronic wastes to officers from Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The two hour short introductory course was a modified version of INECE's capacity building program Controlling Illegal Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste at Seaports. During the course, participants received training on the international framework for controlling hazardous waste shipments, drivers of the hazardous waste trade, the value of international cooperation, the basics of conducting environmental inspections at ports, and safety considerations when inspecting containers. The lecture also included an in-depth discussion of challenges specific to detecting and inspecting illegal shipments of electronic wastes. The lectures were complemented by a short group exercise on prioritizing containers for physical inspection.

The Port of Colombo is among the world's top 35 largest ports. The Port is a natural transshipment hub port for the South Asian region, and approximately 70% of containers handled in Colombo are transshipments. According to the African Development Bank, the Port currently is building three more container terminals that will add 7.5 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units, a standard-size container) to the existing port capacity and that will provide adequate depth to berth the current generation of container ships.

Source: *The International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement* (Click [here](#) to read more)



[Matson Agrees to Stop Sending its Old Ships to the "Killing Beaches" of South Asia](#)

Following an alarm we raised, Matson Inc., the shipping company, agreed to prohibit scrapping its vessels on the beaches of India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

While this decision doesn't apply to the Horizon Trader, and old Matson vessel now on its way to India, it's hugely significant. Twenty-three vessels in Matson's fleet will need to be scrapped in the next few years.

Because this decision doesn't apply to the Horizon Trader, BAN and the NGO Shipbreaking Platform call on All Star Metals, the last holder of the Horizon Trader, to return the ship to the U.S. for proper recycling in All Star Metal's Brownsville, TX ship recycling yard.

Source: Basel Action Network (Click [here](#) to read more)

Activities in Combating Illegal Transboundary Movement and Border Control of Waste and Chemicals

[EPA Proposes New Protections for International Hazardous Waste Shipments](#)

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing enhancements to the oversight of hazardous waste shipments to help ensure safe management of imported and exported hazardous wastes.

“When hazardous waste is shipped across multiple countries there can be a higher risk of mismanagement from unsafe transport, recycling and disposal practices,” said Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator of EPA’s

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. “This proposal will provide greater protection to communities and the environment through increased transparency, better data sharing and more efficient compliance monitoring.”

The rule proposes consolidation of the regulations so that one set of protective requirements will apply to transboundary movements of hazardous waste. The proposal, when finalized, will affect the approximately 3,000 hazardous waste import shipments and 49,000 hazardous waste export shipments that largely occur within North America.

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (Click [here](#) to read more)

[Waigani Convention on Hazardous Waste Management Opens Today](#)

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Nine of the 13 Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Members that are Parties to the Waigani Convention were present at the meeting. SPREP is the



Secretariat of the Waigani Convention that entered into force in 2001.

“Hazardous waste management remains a critically important issue for our region. The islands we live on are often very small and vulnerable to the impacts of hazardous waste, which particularly impact on water tables and waterways which are the lifeline of our Pacific communities,” said Mr. David Sheppard, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Source: *Pacific.Scoop* (Click [here](#) to read more)

New Federal Pesticide Regulations Approved

United Farm Workers President Arturo Rodriguez praised the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Labor for taking steps to change federal laws to better protect farm laborers from adverse exposure to pesticides.

In a press conference Thursday, Rodriguez said he has seen the effects of workers exposed to pesticides, resulting in medical problems ranging from cancer to children of field workers being born with birth defects, all because protections that have existed for years for workers in other industries didn't extend to laborers in the agricultural industry.

“This is a dream so big” he said, noting that these are the sorts of protections organizers of the UFW have sought since members banded with another union to initiate the start of the five-year Dinuba Grape Strike just over five years ago.

The new rules on pesticides essentially provide equal protection for all Americans, said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, who took part in a phone press conference with reporters Monday morning, along with Rodriguez and U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez.

Source: *Visalia Times-Delta* (Click [here](#) to read more)

Philippines' Bureau of Customs Seizes Illegal Used TV Shipment

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has impounded a shipment containing 602 units of used television (TV) sets which arrived at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) without an import clearance.

The seizure of the used TV sets came after Special Agent 1 Jonathan Belmonte of the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) discovered that the importer had no pre-shipment import clearance (PSIC) for its importation last June.

It is the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which issues the PSIC for importation of TV sets.

Under DENR regulations, used TV sets are considered recyclable material containing hazardous substances, thus, an import clearance is required.

Belmonte checked with the DENR's EMB about the status of the importer.

But upon verification, he found that importer had expired clearances, making its shipment illegal.

Source: *Manila Bulletin* (Click [here](#) to read more)

Banned Chemicals 'Slip through Cracks'

Cape Town - South Africa is being used as a dumping ground for hazardous chemicals banned in the countries that make and export



them, Environment Minister Edna Molewa said on Tuesday.

Addressing the Chemical and Land Remediation Summit in Pretoria yesterday, Molewa said it was a problem that there was currently no legal authority ensuring that industrial chemicals were subjected to a rigorous risk assessment before they were introduced into South Africa.

This needed to be addressed urgently.

“Otherwise we will find ourselves needing to remediate more and more contaminated land in the not-too-distant future. Our approach to the remediation of contaminated land is based on the polluter pays principle.”

The World Health Organisation had estimated that chemical-induced disease contributed to 25 percent of the global burden of disease.

Source: *Business Report* (Click [here](#) to read more)

[Around 10.6 mn tonne of food production to be lost due to illegal pesticides: Ficci study](#)

About 10.6 million tonne of food production will be lost this year due to illegal or counterfeit pesticides, as per a recent study by industry body Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ficci). This is almost 4% of the entire production.

The study points out that counterfeit pesticides are growing and were 30% of the total market in volume terms and 25% in value terms in 2013.

It further warns that the problem is growing at 20% annually and if not challenged, almost 40% of all pesticides sold in 2019 will be spurious.

Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal are the worst effected states, as per the study.

The study puts the market valuation of the agro-chemical industry at about Rs 25,000 crore. Of this, illegal pesticides accounted for Rs 3,200 crore in 2013.

Among primary reasons cited for the proliferation of illegal pesticides is price, which can be almost 30-40% lower than the average market price of an authentic product. Also, for manufacturers and sellers, profit margins on illegal products is around 25-30% as compared to 3-5% for branded products.

The study also blames the long product registration process. It says the 1-3 duration acts as an entry barrier for new businesses and incentivises illegal routes into the market.

Source: *Business Standard* (Click [here](#) to read more)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

<http://www.projectren.org/>

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