

## INTRODUCTION

We hope you will enjoy reading this newsflash of project REN.

Highlights in this issue:

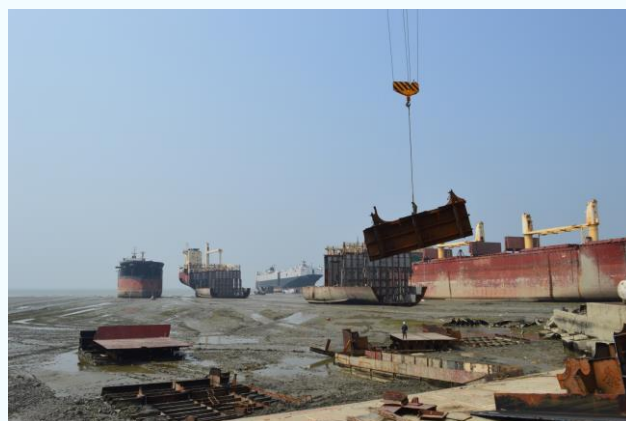
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*REN Newsflash, a monthly newsletter, covers REN activities and achievements, highlights of partners' activities and general news on combating illegal transboundary movements of waste and chemicals, and synergies and linkages on chemicals/waste related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

## REN Activities

### Project on ship dismantling in Bangladesh

On 22 February 2017 UN Environment participated in the closure workshop for Safe and Environmentally Sound Ship Recycling in Bangladesh – Phase I” (SENSREC project).



The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) have jointly implemented this 30-month project. On 21 February there was a fieldtrip organized to the dismantling sites in Chittagong. Three of the more than 140 sites were visited. More than 200 vessels are reportedly dismantled per year at these sites. Health and safety concerns have also been raised by NGO's. The NGO Shipbreaking Platform alleges that approximately 19 persons were killed in Bangladeshi yards in 2016,. It is reported that between 25.000- 40.000 workers are involved in the ship dismantling activities in Chittagong. It has also alleged that many of these workers may be exposed to toxic substances such as asbestos, but practices at some sites are improving. The IMO reports that the Government of Bangladesh is actively seeking international

partnerships and financial support to help make the country's ship-recycling facilities greener and more sustainable.

See for more information on the SENSREC project and the meeting:

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/09-Bangladesh-SENSREC-.aspx>

## Partners' Activities

### Women and the Rising Tide of Environmental Crime

One of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history took place in 2004. Although precise casualty figures will never be known, the Boxing Day Tsunami is believed to have killed up to 280,000 people across 14 countries.



*Photo Credit: Sean Gallagher*

*A woman sorts e-waste as her child stands nearby in the village of Sangrampur*

What many people do not know is that the majority of those killed were women: 80 percent of fatalities in Indonesia, 73 percent in Southern India, and 65 percent in Sri Lanka. While many men from coastal areas had moved to urban centres to find work, more women stayed behind to raise families and earn livelihoods - often from unloading fish from boats. Tragically, few of these women could swim or climb trees to escape the engulfing waters.

The Boxing Day Tsunami is a stark example of how women from lower socio-economic groups suffer disproportionately from negative environmental impacts. These impacts can come in the form of disasters - like the 2004 tsunami – or environmental crimes. Electric and electronic waste

recycling is just one example of where breaches in environmental legislation disproportionately affect women by posing significant harm and risks to their health directly, and through the polluted environments in which they and their families live.

The town of Guiyu in China's Guangdong Province was once the e-waste capital of the world. According to figures cited by Bloomberg, Guiyu processed over 1.6 million metric tons of e-waste annually, with extraction of precious metals, plastics and other reusable parts earning up to US\$800 million a year. Now a boarded-up ghost town, it's hard to imagine that around 3,000 workshops used to operate here, employing mostly rural migrants – often women and children – to dismantle electronic equipment by hand.

Thanks to China's 'war on pollution' these operations in Guiyu were eventually shut down at the end of 2015 after the Chinese government – which is a party to the Basel Convention – ordered all remaining workshops to move to a newly built industrial park or face power cuts and prosecution. This convention – to which UN Environment provides secretariat support – is an international treaty designed to reduce the movement of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent the transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries.

In 1989, when the convention was adopted, far less was known about the impact of informal recycling facilities on the health of women and children. Since then, multiple studies have revealed the scale of the threat. Several health studies outlined in UN Environment's Waste Crime Rapid Assessment Report revealed surges in cases of leukaemia in children in Guiyu and a high incidence of skin damage, headaches, vertigo, nausea, chronic gastritis, and gastric and duodenal ulcers. The studies also found that Guiyu children had higher-than-average levels of lead in their blood and that about 80 percent of Guiyu children suffered from

respiratory diseases. Toxins in electronic equipment also leaked into the soil and water from landfills and into the air through the burning of waste. These toxins accumulated in the food chain, especially in animal tissue but also in plants growing in the area.

A 2015 study by the United Nations University put the global total of e-waste at 42 million tons in 2014, with only around 6 million tons recycled by licensed processors. That left around 36 million tons to be processed informally, threatening the health of hundreds of thousands of women and children and causing long-term environmental damage through heavy metals pollution in towns like Guiyu.

Gender and human rights is a relatively new and emerging issue for many organizations working on environmental, which is why there is a need for more systemic analysis and research that can explain the drivers, involvement and consequences of environmental crime from a gender perspective. As part of UN Environment's long-standing commitment to gender equality and human rights, we have taken strides to identify the economic drivers of gender inequality and to better understand the role of men and women in environmental crime chains, as well as the comparative advantages of increasing representation of female enforcement officers to address corruption.

One example is the recent Asian Regional Partners Forum on Combating Environmental Crime held in Bangkok, which focused on human rights and gender in environmental crime. UN Environment and several organisations – including INTERPOL, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, customs organisations, Traffic, USAID Wildlife Asia, and BAN Toxics – agreed to strengthen collaboration on the development and distribution of learning and advocacy materials on gender and environmental crimes and the joint training of customs officials.

#### About UN Environment

UN Environment as the leading global environmental authority sets the global environmental agenda and promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. For over 40 years, UN Environment has been supporting countries to promote

smart environmental laws, policies, and strengthen institutional frameworks. UN Environment also builds capacities of judiciaries, customs officers and prosecutors other legal stakeholders at global, regional and national levels.

Source: <http://web.unep.org/stories/story/women-and-rising-tide-environmental-crime>

#### [On International Women's Day, remember the gender aspect in relation to chemicals and waste](#)

Posted 08 March 2017 by [Tatiana Terekhova](#) on [www.brsmeas.org](http://www.brsmeas.org)

Gender equality has been recently recognized as one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" calls for the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN Environment also stressed the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting human rights and gender equality in delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Read more:

<http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=4332&blogId=5120>

#### [Regional preparatory meetings for the 2017 COP's](#)

The objective of the regional preparatory meetings is to contribute to successful meetings of the conferences of the Parties (COPs) in 2017 by giving regions the possibility to consult each other in advance of the COPs, consider meeting documents, discuss substantive matters, identify regional priorities and challenges, and facilitate the preparation of regional positions.

In order to assist parties in preparing for the back-to-back meetings, the conferences of the Parties in 2015 requested the Executive Secretary to support, within available resources, regional meetings to

assist regional preparatory processes, coordinated with other regional meetings (decisions BC-12/23, RC-7/13 and SC-7/31). The regional preparatory meetings for the 2017 COPs will be held in a similar manner as the 2015 meetings. These preparatory meetings are being organized in close cooperation with the bureau members of the concerned regions. The programs of the meetings have been developed in close consultation with the bureau members; logistical preparations with the organizers are ongoing. Further information on the regional preparatory meetings, as they become available, will be posted on this web section.

A generous financial contribution has been received from Switzerland for all four meetings.

All four meetings are being organized in close cooperation with the interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and will discuss relevant issues of common interest to the four conventions. Additionally, the interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention is organizing working sessions back-to-back with the regional preparatory meetings of 1-day duration in the Africa and the Central and Eastern Europe regions, and 2-days duration in the Asia-Pacific and the Latin American and Caribbean regions, to address regional specific issues related to ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention (e.g. artisanal and small-scale gold mining, contaminated sites, etc.).

Source:

<http://www.brsmeas.org/2017COPs/RegionalPreparatoryMeetings/Overview/tabid/5379/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### [Customs, playing a key role in protecting the ozone layer and mitigating climate change](#)

By Dr. Ezra Clark, OZONACTION, ECONOMY DIVISION, UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT

THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has been in the news a great deal recently. This is something quite unusual for a 'lesser known' convention. But how has this landmark environmental treaty, which some see as the most successful international agreement of any kind, managed to effectively halt the destruction of the ozone layer as well as making a huge

contribution to combatting climate change? Dedicated and vigilant Customs officers – that's how. The stratospheric ozone layer is the thin layer of the atmosphere that protects life on earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. The objective of the Montreal Protocol is to protect human health and the environment by phasing-out the production and consumption of nearly 100 industrial chemicals known as ozone depleting substances (ODS), which include chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform. Under this treaty, developing and developed countries have equal but differentiated responsibilities with both groups of countries having binding, time-targeted, and measurable commitments. The Montreal Protocol has been ratified by 197 Parties, making it the first universally ratified treaty in the history of the United Nations (UN). The treaty has been successful in phasing out more than 98% of ODS, and it is expected that as a result the ozone layer will recover to its pre-depletion levels by around 2060. In addition, due to the phase-out of ODS, many of which are powerful global warming gases, the Montreal Protocol lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of about 11 gigatonnes (11 billion tonnes) of carbon dioxide per year – a truly huge contribution to protecting the earth's climate.

Please read more:

[http://www.wcoomd.org/~media/wco/public/global/pdf/media/wco-news-magazines/wco\\_news\\_82.pdf](http://www.wcoomd.org/~media/wco/public/global/pdf/media/wco-news-magazines/wco_news_82.pdf)

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

## Huge seizures of illegal waste transports in Rotterdam

The Netherlands Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate in cooperation with Customs have intercepted 4000 tons of contaminated waste paper in the Port of Rotterdam. The waste was mixed with other waste such as diapers, plastic, cans and textiles.

The British waste paper trader had bought the material in Ireland. The Inspectorate is in contact with the Irish authorities to make sure that such shipments will be stopped already in the country of dispatch.

The shipments were on its way from Ireland via Rotterdam to China. In total 475 containers were inspected. In 160 containers contaminated waste was detected. The contaminated shipments were mostly repatriated to Ireland (107 containers), the others were treated in the Netherlands. The export of mixtures from the European Union to China is prohibited without notification and the export of household waste is banned.

Source: <https://www.ilent.nl/actueel/ilt-en-douane-onderscheppen-vervuild-papieraf.aspx>

## Operation National Sword in China

Customs authorities in China have set out more details of their efforts to tackle illegal waste imports under operation National Sword.

A news release from General Administration of Customs (GAC) says: "The GAC, in collaboration with the environmental protection department, police and AQSIQ, will carry a joint action from 1 March-30 November with the

aim of strengthening their supervision and severely cracking down on all illegal activities with regards to foreign waste."

It adds that a task force from the four departments will make "strenuous efforts" in the supervision of imported solid waste from shipments, customs checks and the final destination of the material for recycling.

The GAC said the task force would:

- Thoroughly supervise the enterprises concerned and the materials held in stock
- Follow all leads, perform in-depth investigations towards the full chain of activities, and take immediate legal action against individuals or entities breaking the law
- Identify high-risk goods and enterprises for priority checking, conduct follow-up checks of those enlisted as high-risk targets and penalize those convicted of not really doing recycling or supplying/possessing illegal goods

The task force will target the smuggling of foreign waste (industrial, electronics, household and plastic) and co-operate with international law enforcement channels to "strengthen the intelligence on foreign waste streams".

It promises to maintain "a high profile and unrelenting stance in the crackdown of foreign waste smuggling".

The GAC is promising to issue regular news updates to deter smuggling of solid waste and "malpractice in foreign waste operations".

Operation National Sword is the first significant initiative to tackle the quality of imports of secondary materials into China since the Operation Green Fence exercise in 2013. Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of material were rejected, leading to material being piled up at recycling sites across the world. It has left a lasting legacy of higher quality exports from the UK, Europe and the US.

David Chiao, president of the non-ferrous division of the Bureau of International Recycling, said some people were calling the development “Green Fence II”.

“Many smelters, galvanizers, paper mills, plastics manufacturers, tanneries et cetera have been forced to shut down or penalized for environmental violations,” he said.

“I would urge our members to ensure scrap shipments to China conform with the country’s environmental regulations. A single, small incident could trigger much bigger issues for all of our shipments.”

Source: <https://www.mrw.co.uk/latest/china-spells-out-illegal-waste-strategy/10018078.article>

### [Drums of shabu ingredient seized at Tagoloan port](#)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) announced Wednesday, March 8, it has delisted the consignee of more than 300 drums of hydrochloric acid from India for failing to provide an import permit leading to the confiscation of said items even as the agency vowed to rid its list of erring importers. BOC acting spokesperson and National Chief of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) Neil Anthony Estrella said their campaign to go after importers who have violated customs laws remain in effect with the seizure of the chemical just among the many imported items BOC has seized recently. Estrella was in Cagayan de Oro City Wednesday to inspect the seized contraband currently stored at the Mindanao Container Terminal sub-port in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. Early this year, Estrella said in reports they have already began removing from their list more than a hundred importers and brokers, some of them publicly listed firms, operating in several major ports in the country due to various violations. He said they will remove Juchem Enterprises, a company based in Butuan City, from the BOC’s list of importers for failing to present to the agency the import permit of the seized chemical. BOC identified the company as the consignee of the hydrochloric acid. Among the violations the importer committed, according to the BOC, include the Dangerous Drugs Board Regulation 3 series of 2003 pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 9165. BOC said the company lacked the following: Special permit for Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals

from Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), permit to import from the Philippine National Police Firearms and Explosives Office, Food and Drug Administration permit license pursuant to RA 3720, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources import and license pertaining to RA 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990. The spokesperson added violators will no longer be allowed to import, and most likely, the filing of appropriate charges will follow. CIIS-Northern Mindanao head Alvin Enciso said the company claimed the chemical is intended for mining activities but they received information from the PDEA that hydrochloric acid can also be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, an illegal drug. The hydrochloric acid, which entered the MCT sub-port last January 31, was alerted on request of lawyer Teddy Raval, deputy commissioner for the BOC’s Intelligence Group, Enciso said. Estrella said if an imported item is used for mining operations, the consignee must see to it that they have secured the pertinent papers before shipping the goods to the country. “Mining is also a regulated industry. They (importers) should be aware that necessary documentation is properly intact prior their [their] importation,” he added. BOC-Northern Mindanao Collector Tomas Alcid, in a separate interview, said the Customs will turn over the chemical to the police for safekeeping.

Source: <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cagayan-de-oro/local-news/2017/03/09/customs-purge-list-erring-importers-529942>

Read more: <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cagayan-de-oro/local-news/2017/02/17/drums-shabu-ingredient-seized-tagoloan-port-526291>

### [Oil waste dumping in Nigeria](#)

MEMBERS of the House of Representatives, will today commence debate on the alleged dumping of

substances suspected to be toxic in nature in Koko, Delta State. This was sequel to a motion brought on the floor of the House by Mr. Daniel Reyenieju (PDP, Warri federal constituency, Delta) under matters of national importance. Presenting the motion, Reyenieju recalled: "In June 1988, a national phenomenon of toxic waste with massive sludge, slurry and carcinogenic waste dump occurred in Koko community, Warri North Local Government Area, Delta State, which led to illnesses, including stomach upset, headache, failing sight and deaths, apart from the environmental damage to the aquatic life of the people then. House of Representatives "Over two decades after the above infamous dumping of toxic waste in Koko, another toxic and carcinogenic waste dump has occurred in the same community this year." He prayed that the House Committees on Environment, Petroleum Resources and Gas Resources to investigate the alleged dumping of the toxic waste and the extent of its environmental impact on the community and report to the House within four legislative weeks. Seconding the motion, Mr. Ossai Nicholas Ossai, pleaded with his colleagues to see the urgency in Reyenieju's motion, "considering the fact that the dumped substances are carcinogenous in nature." The House unanimously voted in favor of its being taken as a matter of national importance. But in his ruling, the presiding officer, Mr Yakubu Dogara, following House laid down procedures, ruled that it should be taken today. Laboratory analysis

Meanwhile, Commissioner for Environment in Delta State, Mr. Victor Nani and Area Comptroller, Nigeria Customs Service, Edo/Delta states, Mr. Oyin Obukema, have directed that further laboratory analysis be conducted to ascertain the toxicity or otherwise of the materials dumped at Koko community. The officials, who inspected facilities at Ebenco Global Link Limited, Koko, the oil waste management company accused of dumping toxic materials in the area, however, dismissed the allegation that toxic materials were imported into the country. They were accompanied on the inspection exercise by the chairman of Warri North, Chief Francis Maku, who had earlier described the reported dumping of toxic waste in Koko as false. Nani said: "Our visit is coming on the heels of alleged importation

of industrial toxic waste to Koko to be managed by the company. This has caused apprehension in the minds of stakeholders and thus, there is urgent need to effectively manage the situation for the benefit of Deltans. "I am pleased that the Nigeria Customs Service, led by the Comptroller of the Edo/Delta zone is here with us for the on-the-spot assessments of the waste and the facility. "We are collecting samples of the waste for further laboratory analysis. The outcome of the analysis will be made public in the interest of all," he said. The customs boss said that products that enter the country are normally checked by the organization, noting that the waste was not imported. The duo assured the people that there was no cause for panic.

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/03/rep-debate-alleged-dumping-suspected-toxic-waste-koko-today/>

Read more:

<https://www.nigeriatoday.ng/2017/03/toxic-waste-dont-panic-govt-urges-deltans/>

### **Scottish Police warn of trade in counterfeit pesticides**

The police are to visit farms and agricultural suppliers across Moray to warn of the dangers which illegal and counterfeit pesticides pose to health.

Although there is no evidence that the use of illegal pesticides is widespread, the move is in response to an emerging threat in Europe, which has already seen the loss of farmland in Poland worth 3 million Euros.

The two-week campaign is part of a European-wide initiative coordinated by Europol against the trade, which is often run by organised criminal gangs, and is estimated to be worth £4.4 billion Euros.

Around 10 per cent of all pesticides in use throughout Europe are thought to be illicit.

As these products have not undergone any form of safety checks, they can pose a health risk as well

have serious implications for wildlife and the environment. Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan, Head of Police Scotland's Safer Communities, said: "Counterfeit and illicit pesticides have been identified in parts of Europe as an emerging threat posed by organised criminals.

"Police Scotland has recognized there is potential for them to exploit our communities, and we are keen to prevent this happening." Source: <http://www.northern-scot.co.uk/News/Police-warn-of-trade-in-counterfeit-pesticides-27022017.htm>

### Israeli use of illegal toxic pesticides in settlements 'human rights violation'

Israeli authorities have "knowingly facilitated" the illegal manufacturing, trade, and use of hazardous pesticides inside illegal Israeli settlements, which has resulted in serious human rights violations and contributed to food insecurity among Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, according to a recent investigation.

A joint fact-finding mission announced Monday by the Amman-based Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) and PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) -- a regional branch of the Pesticide Action Network -- revealed that highly toxic pesticides that are banned by the Palestinian Authority (PA) were illegally traded into the occupied territory.

According to the report, hazardous pesticide runoff from agricultural operations and agrochemicals manufacturing inside the illegal settlements poison Palestinian farms, livestock, and water sources.

Dumping toxic waste on Palestinian territory was also documented -- including in areas with a high concentration of schools, while communities near industrial Israeli settlements have reported contamination of their soil and drinking water, proliferation of disease-carrying mosquitoes, and an increase in cases of respiratory and eye diseases, including among children.

The investigation found that 50 percent of pesticides in the occupied territory were illegal, though PA authorities do not have access to information on the chemicals manufactured and used inside the illegal settlements and are "in no

position to dispose of these safely, and Israel refuses to take them back."

"It is unacceptable that the PA, with one of the tightest pesticide registration and compliance systems... is thwarted at every turn by the Israeli authorities who knowingly facilitate the entry of banned highly hazardous pesticides into the occupied West Bank," the report quoted investigation participant Dr. Meriel Watts of PANAP as saying.

APN founder Razan Zuayter noted in the report that some of the offending agrochemical companies have been shut down inside Israel due to environmental and health regulation violations, but meanwhile "operate with impunity inside illegal settlements at the expense of the health, livelihood, and environment of Palestinians."

APN and PANAP's report said that they held the state of Israel and agrochemical corporations accountable for violations to Palestinians' rights to information, self-determination, water, highest attainable standard of health and healthy environment, and livelihood.

"These human rights violations are perpetrated in the context of the Israeli occupation and expansion of the illegal settlements," Razan highlighted, noting the fact that Israeli authorities prevent the PA from fully enforcing policies to restrict the trade, manufacture, and use of around 200 registered active ingredients in occupied West Bank.

Israel has also been the target of condemnation for crop spraying Palestinian farmland in the besieged Gaza Strip and causing long-term and serious damage, with a group of Palestinian human rights organizations demanding an investigation into the practice last year.

Source: <http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=775585>

### Illegal Chemical factories in Bangladesh





The sheer number of risky, illegal chemical factories in Old Dhaka has turned the place into a ticking time bomb. As per a report in a leading Bangla daily, of the 25,000 chemical warehouses in Old Dhaka, 15,000 are located in residential buildings, and 22,000 are illegal. According to an official of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, only two percent of chemical godowns have permits, and the rest of the 98 percent are operating without license from the City Corporation.

These numbers are shocking and disturbing to say the least. Only last month, three people died in a fire in a plastics warehouse in Islambagh, and a fire broke out in the PVC unit storing large amounts of chemicals in a footwear factory in Jatrabari.

It seems that we have learnt nothing from past tragedies. The glaring lack of effective measures by concerned authorities to remove illegal chemical warehouses from the area and to stop these from proliferating is all the more unacceptable in light of previous catastrophes such as the Nimtoli fire incident of 2010 that killed more than 100 people and left hundreds injured.

While the Industries Minister's recent statement on the government's plan to shift all chemical and plastic factories outside Dhaka is reassuring, we urge the authorities to make good on their word. This will require coordination among various entities, including City Corporation, Fire Service and Department of Explosives. Responsible authorities cannot continue to turn a blind eye to these illegal businesses and must beware of the impending disaster.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/editorial/illegal-chemical-factories-1369378>

### Swedish agency finds banned substances in third of jewelry

Random checks on jewelry sold in Sweden have shown that nearly a third of the marketed items tested contain levels of lead and cadmium above permitted levels.

The Swedish Chemicals Agency (Kemi) analyzed 143 pieces of jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets and earrings. Thirty per cent of the items contained harmful substances at prohibited levels.

Most of the offending articles were imported from Asia, often after having been bought online from websites specializing in low-priced products.

The most common problem concerned the presence of cadmium and lead. However three of the products examined leaked too much nickel. One piece also contained low levels of mercury, and a leather bracelet had prohibited azo dyes.

Kemi says most of the jewelry with banned substances came from small businesses that sell unbranded articles. It has reported 19 companies to prosecutors for suspected environmental crime.

"Companies that do not live up to the law need to strengthen their knowledge of the regulations so that they can set distinct chemical requirements when purchasing goods," says agency inspector Camilla Westlund.

"It is the responsibility of companies to ensure that their jewelry does not contain prohibited substances. Taking steps to comply with the legislation helps companies [strive towards] a non-toxic living, and a non-toxic environment."

Kemi carried out the checks in 2016 and stresses their findings do not reflect the entire jewelry market. The work is a follow up to a 2014 project. The agency says some companies with many

deficiencies then were revisited again this time. Overall, the results indicate that they are increasingly following the rules compared with similar companies that were not previously checked.

Source: <https://chemicalwatch.com/54359/swedish-agency-finds-banned-substances-in-third-of-jewellery>

### [Indian Minister warns apple growers of illegal pesticide use](#)

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today warned that the Public Safety Act would be slapped on the dealers found to be involved in the adulteration or selling of spurious pesticides and fungicides in the State.

"I have directed the concerned officials to impose PSA against the dealers found conclusively to be involved in adulteration or selling of spurious pesticides and fungicides in the State," Ms Mufti said while addressing a well-attended gathering of fruit growers and progressive farmers here after formally launching the High Density Apple Plantation Scheme.

"We are using the Public Safety Act against those into drugs and timber smugglers," Mehbooba said. "I am directing police to use the PSA against all those who are marketing sub-standard pesticides." She said her government cannot go after the manufacturers because they live elsewhere. "So we will catch hold of their dealers," she said, "let the dealers ensure that they sell the right product".

Ms Mufti assured the growers that the State Government has flagged their concerns as a priority and steps are being taken to address them properly. The decision to act tough against the dealers involved in the adulteration of pesticides and fungicides has been taken against the backdrop of concerns raised by the fruit growers.

Source: <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/171123/Indian-Minister-warns-apple-growers-of-illegal-pesticide-use>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT**

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

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Information presented under 'partner activities' is obtained from external sources. UN Environment and SIDA do not verify its accuracy or endorse this information in any way.

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