

PROMOTING CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BY REGIONAL CENTRES: CETESB'S EXPERIENCY IN GRULAC COUNTRIES

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Introduction

CETESB, created in 1968, is the Environmental Company of São Paulo State, one of the Brazilian States and its mission is to develop and to monitor the environmental and sustainable development policies, ensuring the continuous environmental quality improvement. Since 2009, CETESB, indicated by the Brazilian Government, has played the role of Stockholm Convention Regional Centre on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer in the Latin American and Caribbean Region¹, supporting Parties to comply with the obligations under the Convention. Because of CETESB's activities implemented as Regional Centre it was assessed as an excellent Regional Centre, reached the maximum punctuation and ratified for a period of four years to work as a Regional Centre of the Stockholm Convention for Latin America and the Caribbean Region².

Methodology

As Regional Centre's work, ETESB analyzed the GRULAC's countries NIPs, submitted to the Secretariat, and based on them, identified priorities. So, taking into consideration CETESB's expertise and the availability of resources, the Regional Centre devised its activities and projects in order to cover and to tackle to the problems which the GRULAC parties addressed. The main directives are:

1. Supporting countries in order to strengthen them in laboratory capacity, including the promotion of standard sampling and analysis procedures;
2. Developing, implementing and enforcement of regulatory controls and incentives for the sound management of persistent organic pollutants;
3. Promoting the identification and disposal of persistent organic pollutant wastes, including transfer of environmentally sound technologies for the destruction of such wastes;
4. Supporting countries related to the identification and promotion of best available techniques and best environmental practices;
5. Supporting countries related to the identification and remediation of sites contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;
6. Promoting the awareness-raising and information-dissemination programs, including awareness-raising among the general public, of issues related to the Convention;
7. Supporting countries related to the identification of obstacles and barriers to the transfer of technology and identification of the means to overcome them;
8. Supporting countries related to the effectiveness evaluation, including monitoring of levels of persistent organic pollutants and
9. Supporting countries on legislation.

Results and discussion

Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC)/CETESB in Brazil has developed a global project, got financial resources and then implemented several activities in order to assist the beneficiary countries in complying the cluster on Chemical and Wastes Conventions' obligations, especially on POPs³ and Mercury⁴. In this regard, since May 2009, SCRC/CETESB⁵ has trained 485 professionals from Latin America and Caribbean Region, as well as Portuguese Speaking countries from African Region by means of the Program on Capacity-Building and Technology Transfer on POPs and Mercury. This Program covers the long-term project courses (3-4 weeks) funded by JICA - International Cooperation Agency of Japan and ABC- Brazilian Cooperation Agency⁶; short courses (1 week) under the SGP - Small Grant Programme, managed by UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme, and e-Learning Distance Course on POPs, under the cooperation with UNEP, by Brazilian

Environmental Ministry⁷. Also, the SCRC has been provided Technical Assistance to the countries in order to support them on developing their work plans on obsolete pesticides, contaminated sites, PCBs, dioxins and furans and new POPs industrial use.

Pilot projects have been developed and implemented in Sao Paulo State and their issues are on managing for elimination of POPs obsolete pesticide residues/ wastes; managing the dioxins and furans emission factors from vegetal charcoal production furnaces and on developing BEP's measures to control the ant baits/ insecticides with sulfloramid application in an agricultural area. In order to raise awareness on chemical and waste Conventions, the Regional Centre has been implemented a website for Chemicals and Waste Convention cluster POPs besides to promote cooperation and to synergize with others Regional Centres by means of-Memorandum of Understandings.

In the scope of CETESB, the SCRC can transfer knowledge in themes as pre-operation permits, installation licenses, control and enforcement of different sources of pollution categories, listed in Parts II and III in Annex C of Stockholm Convention, and develop several technical criteria which take into consideration processes, techniques or practices that avoid the formation and release of chemicals listed in Part I of Annex C. Also, can offer appropriated installations and laboratories set up with modern facilities, equipped with analytical instruments based on leading-edge technology, that provide analytical assistance necessary for investigations of POPs

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