

Subject: International Workshop on Hazardous Substances within the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products

One of the important outcomes of the Second International Conference of Chemical Management (ICCM2) that took place in Geneva in May 2009 was Resolution II/4 on emerging policy issues. In particular, the Resolution on Hazardous Substances within the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products, among other things, invites the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the Secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention to plan, develop, and convene, within available resources, a workshop to consider issues relating to electrical and electronic products, based on the life cycle approach.

Unfortunately, due to unavoidable circumstances, the proposed workshop, which was planned to be held in May 2010 back-to-back with the Seventh Session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, was postponed. The Workshop is now scheduled for **28-31 March 2011; International Conference Centre; Vienna, UNIDO HQRTS , Austria.**

The general objectives of the Workshop are to:

- offer a platform for key public and private stakeholders, including academia, to present their work, perspectives and solutions;
- promote concrete programmatic opportunities for cooperation among the chemicals and waste conventions and programs;
- identify where action is required, at both the international and national level; to support, complement, enhance or consolidate existing efforts towards the sound management of harmful chemicals in EEE with the aim of preventing redundancy and duplication of effort; and
- develop recommendations for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in 2011 and by the Third International Conference of Chemical Management (ICCM3) in 2012.

The specific objectives of the Workshop are:

- To collate and then evaluate, existing knowledge with the goal of stimulating robust discussion concerning the elimination of hazardous substances in EEE. The dialogue will cover what progress has been made and the challenges and future directions towards eliminating hazardous substances in EEE, especially through green chemistry
- To review the needs for capacity-building and technology transfer in terms of the environmentally sound management of chemicals in EEE, along the supply chain, with emphasis on the needs of developing countries and countries with economy in transition;
- To identify where cooperation could be enhanced with the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and other institutions within UNEP, as well as with the private sector, academia and the civil society.
- To provide a road map for possible global action regarding green chemistry, including elimination and substitution of toxic substances; information exchange concerning chemicals in electrical and electronic equipment and e-waste, recycling and disposal of the hazardous substances contained in electrical and electronic equipment for consideration by SAICM/ICCM3, the IOMC participating organizations and the chemicals and waste conventions and programs, as well as other initiatives such as the future mercury convention.

As the Chairman of the Workshop Steering Group and on behalf of the main organizers of the above workshop, I am pleased to invite you and your colleagues to provide expertise or/and financial resources to support the organization of the workshop. Without the active participation and support of industry, this workshop may not become a reality.. Your positive response to participate and provide financial resources for the organisation of this important workshop will be greatly appreciated as we all come together to achieve these important objectives. Please communicate your interest to Ibrahim Shafii of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention at Ibrahim. Shafii @unep.org with a copy to me at osibanjo@yahoo.com copy to: osibanjo@basel.org.ng.

I thank you in advance for your kind attention and consideration.
Be assured of my highest personal regard.

Yours Sincerely,



Prof. Oladele Osibanjo
Chairman of the Workshop Steering Group
Director, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training & Technology Transfer for the African Region, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.