

Minutes

ACAP Working Group Meeting

Hosted by Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Stockholm, Sweden

18-19 March 2009

Participants:

RUS – Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Head of Division for international cooperation on industrial, nuclear safety and waste management, ACAP Chairman – Andrey Peshkov

FIN – Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Expert Services Department, Chemicals Division, Senior Adviser, ACAP Vice-Chairman – Timo Seppälä

CAN – Environment Canada, Chemicals Management Division, Senior Operations Officer – Allan-Paul Dane

DAN – Danish EPA, Programme coordinator – Mikala Klint

FIN – Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Senior adviser – Henna Haapala

NOR – Norwegian Pollution Control Authority, Senior adviser – Hanne Aronsen

NOR – Norwegian Pollution Control Authority, Senior adviser – Stine Husa

NOR – Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, Senior adviser, Barents Euro-Arctic Council Working Group on Environment chair – Anne Berteig

RUS – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation – Eldar Yafarov

RUS – Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation – Maria Smirnova

RUS – FUE SRC "Ecosafety", Director – Venedict Nikolaev

RUS – FUE SRC "Ecosafety", Head of the International Cooperation Department, ACAP Secretariat – Vladislav Barsukov

RUS – FUE SRC "Ecosafety", Deputy Head of the International Cooperation Department, ACAP Executive Secretary – Dmitry Kuznetsov

RUS – NPA Arctic, Project Manager – Ivan Senchenya

SWE – International Secretariat of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Director – Per Thege

SWE – Swedish EPA, Senior adviser – Ann-Sofi Israelson

USA – US EPA, Office of International Affairs – Dona Harris

Arctic Council Secretariat – Senior adviser – Tana Stratton

Indigenous Peoples Secretariat – Executive Secretary – Erik Gant

NEFCO – Special Adviser – Husamuddin Ahmadzai

RAIPON – Dmitriy Berezhkov

RAIPON – Larisa Abryutina

Day 1, 18 March 2009

- Opening Remarks by Per THEGE
- Opening Remarks by Chairman
- Results from the SAO Meeting in Copenhagen on 10-11 February 2009

Chairman informed about the finalization of ACAP working documents for the SAO and Ministerial Meeting.

- Meeting Announcements

1. Working Group for Environment of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) – information and cooperation areas with ACAP

Ms. Anne Berteig - Chair of the BEAC WG on Environment made a presentation and noted that the cooperation between BEAC and ACAP should be continued. Ms. Hanne Aronsen - Chair of the BEAC WGE's sub-group on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption proposed the following fields of possible cooperation: 1) WGE could analyze the hot spots which have relevance for ACAP work (heavy metals and POPs) and provide updated information for ACAP, 2) WGE could involve in IHWMS, after it has prepared, 3) WGE could prepare an overview of the environmentally sound destruction facilities in the Barents countries. Finland proposed that the chairs of ACAP and BEAC WGE should prepare a joint paper on the co-operation to intensify the collaboration between the two organizations.

2. Discussion on inputs for the Ministers Declaration and SAO Report to the Ministers

WG participants developed a shorter version (as requested by AC Chair) of the inputs for the Ministers Declaration and finalized the SAO Report to the Ministers.

3. Status of the Project “Environmentally Safe Management of stocks of obsolete and prohibited pesticides in the Russian Federation” (Finland)

The Project Steering Group has worked on finalizing Altai Krai inventory and storage improvements and studied the possibility of using Surgut high temperature destruction facility for pilot destruction of pesticides, once it will become operational and fully licensed. A consultant from Ekokem Oy in Finland has prepared a technical review based on available information that would suggest possibility of the facility being suitable for some pesticides. However, the PSG intends to carry out testing and emission measurements before making final decisions. In 2009 repackaging and storage (phase 2) of the OP’s should be finalized and the environmentally sound destruction (phase 3) should be started. It is to be noted, though, that more funding is needed for activities in Krasnojarsk.

PSG chair informed about the results of the Obsolete Pesticides Steering Group meeting in November 2008 in Surgut, about the necessity of emissions assessment and technical upgrade of the facility in order to destroy high-chlorinated OP’s in an environmentally sound manner according to Russian and international standards. “Polygon Ltd” is awaiting the conclusion of the RF environmental expertise on destruction of OP’s.

4. Status of the Project “Reduction of Mercury Emissions in Environment in Arctic States” (Denmark, USA)

PSG chair informed about status of the project and readiness to going over to the phase 3, provided a strong Russian commitment. Proposed that recycling of

Mercury should no longer be a part of the project anymore after the GC decision on Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury.

Gunnar (UNEP) informed about the decision of the UN Governing Council to establish an international legally binding instrument to reduce world-wide emissions and discharges of Mercury in the environment.

5. Status of the Project “Phase-out of PCB`s in the Russian Federation” (Russia, USA, NEFCO)

WG chairman noted huge support of Russian Federation, USA and NEFCO according to the project implementation, expressed his concern about the absence of Eleonora Barnes as experienced key expert of ACAP projects related to the POP`s management and stressed the necessity of increasing the activity due to further project implementation.

US will send information (status report) to the ACAP WG on all the US-ACAP projects before the next ACAP WG meeting.

NEFCO informed its decision to include its “Fast Track PCB Project” funding into the PSI funding window.

5.1. Implementation of the UNEP/GEF National Program “Arctic” on elimination of contamination in the Russian Arctic (Russia)

Ivan Senchenya, Project Manager of NPA Arctic, reported on the status of the UNEP/GEF POP`s projects in the Russian Federation, including several scenarios for elimination of PCBs in the RF in an environmentally sound manner.

6. Status of the Project “Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy in the Northern Regions of Russian Federation” (Russia, USA, Norway)

This is the youngest project under ACAP. Russia has started to produce text on the strategy. A document of 100 pages is ready in Russian. It will be translated into English within 2 weeks.

The need for a common understanding of the aim and scope and the role of ACAP in the IHWMS project was addressed, and Norway proposed to take one step back and finalize a project description/project proposal before the IHWMS PSG goes further into details with the PMP and other documents. WG participants decided that the chair and co-chairing countries should prepare a joint draft project proposal/project description and circulate it to the IHWMS PSG (and ACAP WG?) for comments intercessionally. When an IHWMS project proposal has been approved by the ACAP WG the preparation of the final TOR and PMP can continue, taking in account comments provided by Norway, Russia and USA.

NEFCO presented the project "Special Initiative to address destruction of Ozone Depleting Substances and Climate Benefits - Demo Project".

7. Status of the Project "Reduction/Elimination of Sources and Releases of Brominated Flame Retardants" (Norway)

PSG chair Stine Husa reported on the status of the project. The Phase I report has been published on the AMAP website and the ACAP secretariat has been encouraged to make the report available on the ACAP website as well. The PSG will continue as an information exchange network in 2009 and 2010, while searching for suitable phase II projects. Further, the PSG will consider a fact sheet in cooperation with IPS, and prepare a promotional flyer for the phase I report.

8. Indigenous Peoples Community Action Program (IPCAP) (RAIPON)

RAIPON informed about a meeting on 17 March to discuss the structure and work of the new Indigenous Peoples PSG under ACAP:

It was decided to support the initiative of forming the drafting group (including representatives of the interested PPs and ACAP members) with the aim to create a Terms of Reference describing the purpose and structure (mandate) of the new PSG. RAIPON agreed to prepare a letter to the 6 Arctic Council Permanent Participants and member states to participate in this drafting group. RAIPON, jointly with ACAP Secretariat, will then circulate a first draft of the ToR to the members of ACAP WG for comments and input. A first draft should be circulated within 3 months. The “ACAP Project Development Process description” might be of help in preparing the ToR for the new PSG. The ToR and possible project proposals for the new PSG should be presented to the SAOs for endorsement, after finalizing and approval by ACAP WG.

ACAP Project Development Guidelines

Mr. Husamuddin Ahmadzai made a short presentation of the latest version of the “ACAP Project Development Process description”. The document has been circulated to the members of the ACAP WG for comments since the ACAP WG meeting in Helsinki and a telephone conference was conducted in December 2008 to discuss the document. An updated version of the “ACAP Project Development Process description”, taking into account the received comments, was circulated in due time before the ACAP meeting in Stockholm. It was noted that the document now has more flexibility, like the ACAP WG has asked for, and recommended that it should be adopted as a “living document” that will be updated whenever considered necessary by the ACAP WG. The ACAP WG decided to have an intercessional process for adoption of the “ACAP Project Development Process description”. Mr. Ahmadzai will prepare a clean version of the document for the ACAP Secretariat to circulate to the ACAP WG after the meeting, for intercessional adoption.

Day 2, 19 March 2009

9. Project Support Instrument (NEFCO)

Dr. Husamuddin Ahmadzai reported on status of the governmental approval of the PSI contract and PSI Operating Guidelines and explained with the help of representative from Ministry of Finance of Russian Federation about the relationship between REA and ACAP. Russia informed that the governmental decree needed for the transfer of the Russian contribution to PSI will be prepared by the MNRE after appropriate approvals of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Finance of Russian Federation can transfer it to NEFCO.

10. Status of the Project “Reduction/Elimination of Emissions of Dioxins and Furans in the Russian Federation with focus on the Arctic and northern regions impacting the Arctic” (Sweden)

Ms. Ann-Sofi Israelson reported on project implementation.

11. Discussion on results of ACAP WG Meetings in Helsinki 18-19.09.08 and in Copenhagen 20-21.01.09 and ACAP Work Plan 2009-2011

ACAP Secretariat provided revised versions of both minutes considering comments received from WG representatives. It was decided to circulate them in order to receive final comments and adopt them in a silent procedure.

It was noted that minutes from the ACAP WG meeting in Moscow in March 2008 have still not been approved by the ACAP WG. The secretariat will circulate the minutes to the ACAP WG for comments intercessionally. The secretary will also remove the minutes from the Moscow meeting from the ACAP webpage until they have been approved.

Regarding the Work Plan it was decided to add some issues intersessionally due to lack of time.

12. Venue of the next ACAP WG Meeting

Canada was requested to host the next ACAP WG meeting. Preliminary proposal for dates to conduct the next WG meeting was the period from 14 to 16 September 2009.

Adjournment of the Meeting