

CPNEWS [24]

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR CLEANER PRODUCTION

Newsletter from the RAC/CP and its National Focal Points

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Summary



1. Workshop on sustainable tourism in Al Bayda' (Libya) 2
2. New publication of the CP/RAC: *Good Housekeeping Practices for Offices* 2
3. National Workshop on Structural Ceramic Sector in Casablanca (Morocco) 3
4. 6th Biannual Meeting of CP/RAC National Focal Points 4
5. Arab Regional Workshop on the Sound Management of Used Oils and the Management of Wastes from the Oil/Gas Sector 4
6. Central and Eastern Europe Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) regional meeting in Riga (Latvia) 5
7. Workshops in Cairo (Egypt): Best Environmental Practices in the Tanning Industry of Egypt and Improving Municipal Wastewater Management in Egypt 5

Dear Friends,

In this edition of CPNews we provide an overview of the activities carried out by the CP/RAC in 2006, as well as a preview of future projects.

In 2006, the CP/RAC organized twelve workshops, three of which were regional, in Barcelona (Spain), Portoroz (Slovenia) and Antalya (Turkey), and nine national workshops in Fes and Casablanca (Morocco), Istanbul (Turkey), Thessalonica (Greece), Tunis (Tunisia), Al Bayda' (Libya) and Cairo (Egypt). A total of 388 experts, including university professors, businesspeople and investors from different industries, representatives of government bodies, engineers and industrialists participated in the workshops, which addressed issues such as managing toxic and hazardous industrial waste, and integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), among others.

The CP/RAC also published five guidelines: *Pollution Prevention Alternatives in the Batch Chemical Sector*, *Pollution Prevention in the Structural Ceramics Sector*,

Good Housekeeping Practices for Offices, *Good Housekeeping Practices in Hotels*, and *State of the Art of Sustainable Production* and created a database of 40 technologies in the batch chemical sector as well as a 60-hour e-course on Cleaner Production.

It jointly organized events such as the meetings Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and Four Motors for Europe: Towards Sustainable Development and Green Technologies in the Mediterranean Basin. It reached numerous partnerships and participated in more than 30 strategic activities and meetings in Mediterranean countries, such as the Park Life Fair in Italy, the International Environmental Film Festival of Catalonia (FICMAC) in Barcelona and the Blue Week in Turkey.

All these activities are carried out to disseminate, promote, advise, train and exchange experiences and knowledge between Mediterranean countries on matters related to cleaner production and eco-efficiency as tools the economic and industrial sectors can use to progress towards sustainable development.

Virginia Alzina, Ph.D.
CP/RAC Director

1. Workshop on sustainable tourism in Al Bayda' (Libya)



The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production has begun its activities in the tourism industry with the preparation of the guideline *Good Environmental Practices in Hotels* and its participation in the seminar on sustainable tourism held in Al Bayda' (Libya) on 28-30 November 2006.

The workshop was held at Omar Mukhtar University and inaugurated by Libya's Minister of Tourism. It was attended by more than 100 people, including representatives from the government and the hotel industry, investors, university professors and different non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The seminar was organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Environmental General Authority of Libya (EGA), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the CP/RAC. This seminar was the first one organized by the CP/RAC in collaboration with NGOs and universities.

The language of the workshop was Arabic and the meeting provided an opportunity to compare points of view between the tourism industry in Libya and groups working on environmental issues and the protection of natural and archaeological areas. The aim was to implement national and local policies to develop

sustainable tourism, given that these areas are expected to undergo greater structural development.

Four different topics were discussed: the relationship between the development of tourism and the conservation of nature: Libya's experience and its international perspectives; tools and processes for more sustainable tourism; the opportunities provided by cultural and natural heritage for tourism; and the role of the private sector.

Dr. Virginia Alzina, CP/RAC Director, presented the guideline *Good Environmental Practices in Hotels* in the section on the private sector. The publication will soon be available on the centre's website:

<http://www.cprac.org>

At the last session, the points of priority action identified during the previous sessions were presented and the discussion focused on the steps to be followed and the immediate action that should be taken, which included the need to receive advice on the management of natural and cultural resources, basing development on results, and the possibility of setting up coordination mechanisms.

Other actions to be carried out involve the need for countries in the region to exchange information and for the private and public sectors working in tourism to share information as well. Action codes must also be set up for tour operators and responsible behaviour codes must be followed by tourists. The university community should also get involved by drafting a tourism plan and promoting sustainable tourism, as well as raising awareness in schools and universities. Coastal and inland natural and cultural spaces need to be classified. International organizations should be asked for their help in planning coastal areas, carrying out plans for mass tourism and establishing strict regulations for the protection of the environment. ■

2. New publication of the CP/RAC: *Good Housekeeping Practices for Offices*

Given the environmental condition of the Mediterranean, the change in government policies, society's involvement and the new priority sectors of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development

(MSSD), the CP/RAC is expanding its field of action, objectives and strategy by carrying out activities in other key sectors such as agriculture and services.

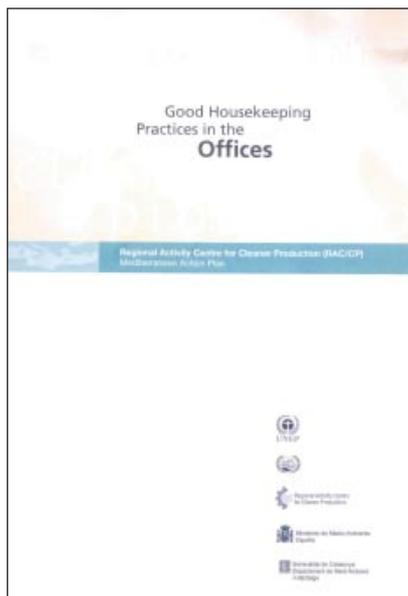
Good Housekeeping Practices

for Offices is the first in a series of guidebooks and manuals the CP/RAC plans to issue on the services industry.

The main objective of this guideline is to inform companies that have

offices and/or an administrative area at their headquarters about the opportunities to apply good housekeeping practices to minimize the environmental impact of their activity and, at the same time, to encourage them to look for new opportunities to prevent pollution in their operations.

The study presents the most important good practices in administrative procedures and groups them in seven categories that refer to the main vectors involved: purchasing criteria, efficiency in the use of water, paper and energy, suitable maintenance, waste management and cleaning.



It provides simple, proven methods for implementing a good housekeeping programme in offices and the factors and requirements that should be taken into account in its application.

The guideline goes on to present the indicators that inform the groups implementing the programmes of the improvements achieved and contains a chapter with real examples from pilot studies.

The guideline will be soon available at:

<http://www.cprac.org>

To obtain a copy on paper or CD-ROM, send an email to:

prodnet@cpnac.org ■

3. National Workshop on Structural Ceramic Sector in Casablanca (Morocco)

The ceramic industry in Morocco is currently undergoing a key stage in terms of development and environmental performance as a result of new legislation that will shortly enter into force, establishing the permitted emission limits for the structural-ceramic industry.

At the request of the Moroccan National Focal Point, the CP/RAC contributed its experience in the structural-ceramic industry and organized a workshop in Casablanca on 4 December 2006, entitled “National Workshop on Cleaner Production in the Ceramics Industry”.

The workshop enjoyed the close collaboration of the leading bodies and organizations in the country. These included Morocco’s Ministries of the Environment and Housing, which are, respectively, drafting the new legislation and studying the question of constructing sustainable buildings; the Centre for Construction Technology and Materials (CETEMCO), the industry’s specific technology centre; and the Moroccan Centre for Cleaner Production (CMPP), which is in direct contact with companies in the industry. The Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Mediterranean (ASCAME) publicized the event.

The workshop was held in French and was structured in three thematic sections:

- Pollution Prevention Techniques in the Ceramics Sector, during which the CP/RAC presented its study Pollution Prevention in the Structural Ceramics Sector.

- Support Tools on Questions of Emissions in the Industry, during which industrialists were informed about the available aid for projects to minimize the impact on



the environment, and the requirements and procedures for applying for said aid.

- Role of the Ceramics Industry in Eco-construction, during which the Catalan experience was explained and discussions were held on energy efficiency in the construction industry.

This workshop, which had significant media coverage owing to the importance of the subject for Morocco, was attended by approximately 40 representatives of ministries, industrialists and environmental consultants. ■

4. 6th Biannual Meeting of CP/RAC National Focal Points

The National Focal Points of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention (21 countries plus the European Union) will hold a meeting with the CP/RAC within the framework of the ECO-MEDA FORUM, the third Euro-Mediterranean forum on sustainable development, which will be held at the Barcelona Trade Fair on 27-28 February 2007.

The aims of this meeting are to review the activities of the previous two years, seek means of cooperation between the CP/RAC and the countries

participating in the United Nations-Mediterranean Action Plan and propose activities for the forthcoming two-year period.

On this occasion, the participation of those attending will be of key importance when proposals are made.

The activities to be held during the meeting will include:

— An overview of the CP/RAC's activities and projects during the past two-year period. Said activities constitute the measures taken in compliance with the National Focal

Points' recommendations at the previous meeting in 2005.

— A review of new action proposals identified by the National Focal Points and possible projects to be developed by the CP/RAC.

— Lastly, group discussions of two or three issues, previously chosen from a list drawn up by the participants themselves. These discussions will deal with topics of interest and current affairs, focusing on environmental approaches within the framework of the Mediterranean area. ■

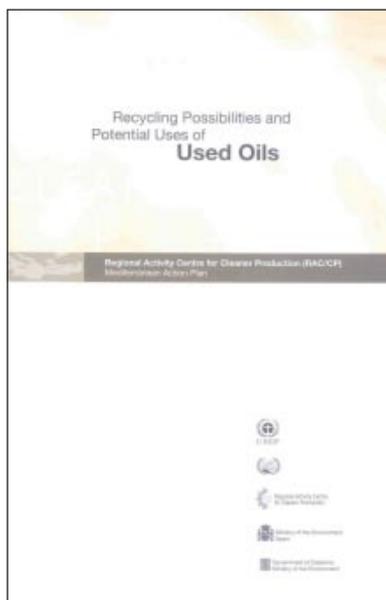
5. Arab Regional Workshop on the Sound Management of Used Oils and the Management of Wastes from the Oil/Gas Sector

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) contributed its experience in the management of used oils by presenting the manual *Possibilities for the Recycling and Reuse of Used Oils* at a workshop held in Aden (Yemen) on 11-13 December 2006.

The manual has been used as a reference document by university professors in Cairo and as the starting point for different studies carried out by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States in Egypt (BCRC-Egypt).

The manual presents the main processes and technologies that offer the possible of taking advantage and making use of used oils, such as mineral oils from the industrial sector, and vegetable oils from the catering industry.

The study focuses on the Mediterranean Action Plan countries, which have very different characteristics in the management of mineral and vegetable used oils. The



study is structured bearing in mind existing differences in terms of the origin, treatment and application of used mineral and vegetable oils.

The CP/RAC's participation in this workshop was the first joint action between the CP/RAC and the BCRC-Egypt since the two groups recently signed a partnership.

The workshop was organized by the BCRC-Egypt in collaboration with Cairo University's Centre for Environmental Hazard Mitigation (CHEM), Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Arab States in Cairo and Cairo University.

The seminar was attended by 60 people from 10 different countries: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Mauritania, Yemen, Morocco, Egypt, Bahrain,

Libya, Syria and Spain.

Some of the topics discussed at the sessions included managing radioactive waste from the oil industry, the options for the prevention of waste from oil

refineries, and standard methods for processing used oils.

With the aim of encouraging the exchange of experiences between participants, working groups were set up to debate the need for regulations on mineral and plant oils given the lack of specific legislation in most cases, the need to exchange data between countries, the

possible applications in Arab countries of guidebooks from other countries, and how to implement awareness programmes.

To download the study, visit:

[http:// www.cprac.org](http://www.cprac.org)

To obtain a copy on paper or CD-ROM, send an email to: prodnet@cpac.org ■

6. Central and Eastern Europe Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) regional meeting in Riga (Latvia)

After the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting (European Union, Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Norway and New Zealand) held in Barcelona on 20-22 October, a meeting was held between Eastern and Central European countries in Riga (Latvia) on 4-6 December.

On this occasion, the meeting was attended by representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Czech Republic, Rumania, Serbia and the Ukraine, as well

as non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations.

During the meeting, which was held in Russian and English, it was stressed to what extent some countries in the region were at a disadvantage because they do not belong to the EC, and it was agreed that terms of reference should be sought for the region; the contrary to the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting, which had not considered them necessary.

Furthermore, the possibility of changing the terms of reference

for the National Focal Points was put forward, but not approved. Also rejected was the proposal to carry out a Global Action Plan.

Finally, the need for procedures for the International Conference on Chemicals Management was discussed, as were the need for a legal and technical group, and plans for holding a conference of experts.

Distribution of the \$5 million corresponding to SAICM's trust fund will begin in January 2007. ■

7. Workshops in Cairo (Egypt): Best Environmental Practices in the Tanning Industry of Egypt and Improving Municipal Wastewater Management in Egypt

Two workshops were held in Cairo (Egypt) from 10 to 14 December 2006: Best Environmental Practices in the Tanning Industry of Egypt and Improving Municipal Wastewater Management in Egypt.

The language used in the workshops was Arabic. They were organized and presented jointly by the United Nations Educational,



Scientific and Cultural Organisation-Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE) in Delft (Netherlands), the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN/DOALOS) in New York, and the United Nations Environment Programme, Coordination Office for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine

Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA) in The Hague, in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and its Quality Management Unit and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production. Forty participants attended both workshops.

The workshop Improving Municipal Wastewater Management, designed for engineers and representatives of government bodies, presented a number of innovative approaches to managing wastewater in rural areas with the aim of equipping the participants with new skills for



analysing the problem (only 4% of rural areas in Egypt have efficient, sanitary systems), as well as the objectives and the stakeholders involved.

The workshop Best Environmental Practices in the Tanning Industry

was opened by Dr. Virginia Alzina, CP/RAC Director. The manual *Best Environmental Practices in the Tanning Industry*, published by CP/RAC, was presented during the workshop and a roundtable was held to exchange experiences. ■