



Information Note – 2 February 2012

UNEP OzonAction and SIDA to launch Project REN to combat illegal trade in harmful chemicals and waste

As the most populous region, Asia is a not only major destination for dumping of hazardous waste and is also facing big challenges of the smuggling ozone depleting substances (ODS), chemical waste and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

To help address these challenges, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) recently agreed to support the project *Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (REN)* which will be implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) OzonAction Programme in cooperation with 25 countries in the region. Project REN aims to reduce unwanted transboundary movement of harmful substances and hazardous waste (HSW) in Asia by preventing illegal trade and encouraging legal trade. Through the improved enforcement cooperation regionally and globally, and the targeted problem-solving capacity-building at the national level through a network, the project will enable customs officers and other key enforcement officers to monitor and control transboundary movements of chemicals and waste more efficiently. The duration for the project is three years.

Project REN is built on the Project Multilateral Environmental Agreements Regional Enforcement Network (MEA REN) which has been implemented between 2007 and 2011 and was also funded by SIDA. The MEA REN project has scored a big success in promoting regional enforcement coordination and trade control in harmful chemicals and hazardous waste.

The launching ceremony of Project REN will be on 8 February 2012 at 10:30 am at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand. Dr. Young-Woo Park, UNEP Regional Representative and Director, and Ms. Anna Maria Oltorp, Head of Development Cooperation Section, Embassy of Sweden to Thailand will launch the project, together with other partners and the media. Part of the programme will be the presentation on the trends in the illegal trade of harmful chemicals and hazardous waste and details on Project REN.

The launch webinar will be held on the same day at 7pm.
Interested webinar participants may contact saiful.ridwan@unep.org

For more information, contact:

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