



Sound management of Waste Containing Nanomaterials

The Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

26 March 2024, 13:00-15:00 CET | 19:00 UTC+7 | 9:00 UTC-3, Online

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Background

In recent years, the emergence of nanomaterials and nanotechnologies and their diverse applications has presented novel challenges including concerns over their potential adverse effects on human health and the environment. The predicted increase in the production and use of engineered nanomaterials (ENMs) will be associated with possible emissions during their entire life-cycle. Moreover, their applications in a variety of products and their manufacturing in large quantities will translate into a larger presence in the waste streams.

The **Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions** play a pivotal role in international environmental diplomacy, focusing on the management of hazardous chemicals and wastes. The **Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal** was adopted on 22 March 1989, with an overarching objective to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.

In May 2017, at the thirteenth meeting by decision BC-13/17, **the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP)** requested to consider further work in relation to waste containing nanomaterials (WCNMs), including a mandate to prepare a report by the BRS Secretariat on issues related to such waste¹.

At its sixteenth meeting (May 2023), the COP invited Parties and others to make available to the Secretariat, information related to activities aimed at addressing issues related to WCNMs, including case studies about and best practices relating to the management of WCNMs².

The **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)** has been undertaking capacity building and training activities concerning nanomaterials since 2010. These efforts aim to equip stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage nanomaterials responsibly and sustainably, including the development of an e-learning course on “Nanomaterials safety”.

In response to these evolving needs, BRS and UNITAR are organizing a webinar focused on discussing the challenges posed by WCNMs and exploring sound management practices and safe handling.

¹ [UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/24](#)

² [WCNMs activities \(basel.int\)](#)



Objectives of the Forum

- Enhancing understanding of nanomaterials, and implications for waste management;
- Providing an overview of the existing body of knowledge, including scientific developments, regulatory frameworks, and best practices in the management of WCNM;
- Facilitating a dialogue among Parties to the Basel Convention, academia, NGOs, private sector and all stakeholders to share insights, experiences, and innovative approaches to sound management of WCNM;
- Discuss further activities that may be carried out under the Basel Convention related to WCNM.

Webinar Programme

Speaker	Topic	Time (CET)
The BRS Secretariat, Ms. Mehrnoosh Azodi, Ph.D.	Welcome and introduction	13:00-13:05
The BRS Secretariat, Ms. Melisa Lim, Ph.D.	Report on “issues related to waste containing nanomaterials and options for further work under the Basel Convention”.	13:05-13:25
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Mr. Oliver Wootton	UNITAR's activities on nanomaterials: Presentation on UNITAR's training programmes, capacity-building initiatives, and efforts to enhance global competencies in managing nanomaterials	13:25-13:40
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD), Ms. Mar Gonzalez	OECD's role in fostering international collaboration, standard-setting, and policy development related to nanomaterials and advance materials.	13:40-13:55
Adolphe Merkle Institute, University of Fribourg, Ms. Fabienne Schwab, Ph.D.	Latest research findings on best practices for the sound management of waste containing nanomaterials	13:55-14:10
National Nanotechnology Center (Nanotec), Government of Thailand, Ms. Pavadee Aungkavattana, Ph.D.	From Thailand's Perspective: Insight into national strategies and practical experiences in value-added to your business with Nano Label	14:10-14:25
BASF	The challenges, and best practices in sound management of waste containing nanomaterials	14:25-14:40
All speakers, moderated by M. Azodi	Q&A session	14:40-15:00