

BASEL WASTE NEWS

APRIL, 2014

BASEL CONVENTION COORDINATING CENTRE FOR THE AFRICAN REGION

SOUTH AFRICA LAUNCHES RADWASTE AGENCY

The National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute (NRWDI) has been formally launched by South Africa's energy minister. It will be responsible for the management

and disposal of the country's radioactive waste.

South Africa's National Radioactive Waste Disposal Act of 2008 mandated that a national

agency for dealing with the country's waste should be established. This legislation was adopted by parliament in January 2009.

South African energy minister Dikobe Ben Martins officially launched the new agency in Pretoria on 31 March. In addition to managing the country's radioactive wastes generated through its use of nuclear energy, the NRWDI will also

dispose of radioactive sources used in medical and industrial applications.

Culled from: World Nuclear News

See more: [http://w](http://www.world)
[ww.world](http://www.world)

“Let every individual and institution now think and act as a responsible trustee of Earth, seeking choices in ecology, economics and ethics that will provide a sustainable future, eliminate pollution, poverty and violence, awaken the wonder of life and foster peaceful progress in the human adventure.” - **John**

McConnell, founder of International Earth Day

[-nuclear-news.org/WR-South-African-launches-radwaste-agency-0404145.html](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/WR-South-African-launches-radwaste-agency-0404145.html)

Electronic waste: Is your old computer linked to hearing loss in Africa?

Much of the estimated 50 million tons of discarded electronic waste from around the world ends up at poorly regulated dumping sites in low-income nations. The world's biggest e-waste dump is Agbogbloshie in Accra, Ghana. Workers at such sites attempt to salvage materials from old TVs, computers, cellphones, batteries and other unwanted electronic goods.

“Research suggests that exposure to non-essential heavy metals, such as lead and cadmium, can result in hearing loss,” said Neitzel, assistant professor in the University of Michigan Department of Environmental Health Sciences and co-principal investigator on the project.

See more:

<http://global.umich.edu/2014/04/electronic-waste-is-your-old-computer-causing-hearing-loss-in-africa/>

Culled from: Global Michigan

PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, IPCC WARNS

The world is largely ill-prepared for the risks of a changing climate, according to the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The energy sector is just one of many that must adapt to meet these challenges.

The IPCC's Working Group II - which assesses impacts, adaptation and vulnerability to climate change - says that the effects of climate change are already being felt around the world. Its new report details the impacts of climate change to date, the future risks from a changing climate, and the opportunities for effective action to reduce risks.

"Observed impacts of climate change have already affected agriculture, human health, ecosystems on land and in the oceans, water supplies, and some people's livelihoods," the report says. It says that the nature of the risks of climate change is increasingly clear, "though climate change will

also continue to produce surprises." There are opportunities to respond to the risks, it notes, "though the risks will be difficult to manage with high levels of warming."

Working group co-chair Chris Field said, "Understanding that climate change is a challenge in managing risk opens a wide range of opportunities for integrating adaptation with economic and social development and with initiatives to limit future warming." He added, "We definitely face challenges, but understanding those challenges and tackling them creatively can make climate-change adaptation an important way to build a more vibrant world in the near-term and beyond."

See more: <http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-Prepare-for-climate-change-IPCC-warns-3103144.html>

Culled from: World Nuclear News

EXPERTS WARN AGAINST GROWING FOOD WASTE

As populations expand and food requirements continue to rise, the world cannot afford to

continue squandering one third of total agricultural production. Coordinated and forceful actions are called for, and in many cases, the private sector will need to take the lead, global food experts have stated.

These were among the conclusions of a round-table session of agriculture ministers from across Europe and Central Asia which took place as part of FAO's biennial Regional Conference for Europe.

In a paper prepared for the session, FAO examined food losses and waste in the region, comparing low-, middle- and high-income countries, and looking at seven different supply chains: dairy, fish, meat, fruits and vegetables, oil crops and pulses, roots and tubers, and cereals.

Notable differences in the patterns of food losses and waste were found depending on income levels. Most of the losses in the developed countries occur at the consumption stage, while in the middle and low-income countries the largest losses occur at the production and post-harvest stages of the value chain.

Another source of food waste is aesthetic standards, and consumer preference for products with a longer remaining shelf life. Consumer behaviour is only part of the picture, however. Significant levels of food loss can occur at

farm level, during storage, transport and processing.

Many countries across Europe and Central Asia have already launched campaigns and programmes designed to reduce food losses or food waste, and country delegates outlined many of these during the meeting. Initiatives ranged from the establishment of food banks to the use of bioenergy and recycling, from investment in farm-level technology to improved logistics and infrastructure.

The ministers and other delegates called on FAO to intensify its analytical work to better understand the causes of food losses and waste, and help countries build their own capacity for improved statistics and data.

The Organization will also facilitate exchange of solutions and best practices for addressing the problems, presenting policy options that governments can pursue. Examples include support for the development of producer organizations so that small producers can increase volumes and engage directly with processors or retailers, or develop joint pre-cooling and storage capacity.

See more:

<http://www.elotiv.com/entry/ex-perts-warn-against-growing-food-waste>

Culled from Eloti TV

BIO-SAFETY LAWS WILL SAVE NIGERIA FROM WASTE DUMPING

The passage into law of the Bio-safety bill currently before the National Assembly would provide Nigerians the needed protection against the indiscriminate dumping of the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) from the developed countries, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal has said.

He said the law would streamline the nation's quest to attain food security and economic development by the year 2020.

Tambuwal, represented by the House Leader, Mulikat Akande-Adeola, revealed this at the weekend during an open forum on agricultural biotechnology in Africa, which took place in Abuja.

“This is very timely in the sense that bio-safety is the hallmark of agricultural revolution with regards to increased crop yield benefits and compositions which should be known by the people to build confidence.

“That can only be possible if there is legislation in place to check the abuse of the technology by experts or even the farmers,” he said.

He added that “we need to de-emphasise our over-reliance on oil and focus more on agriculture with regards to the achievement of food security, and that is what the Bio-safety Bill is all about.”

Culled from: Daily Trust

See more:

<http://www.dailytrust.info/index.php/news/20394-bio-safety-laws-will-save-nigeria-from-waste-dumping-tambuwal>

ACCRA RESIDENTS TURN WASTE BINS INTO WATER CONTAINERS

Some residents in Accra have turned waste bins freely distributed to households to store solid waste into water storage facilities.

According to George Rockson, Manager of Research Innovation and Development at waste management company, Zoomlion, the development has gravely affected efforts to collect the waste, particularly in some low income areas in the national capital.

Mr. Rockson says the innovation by the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) and some private companies, including Zoomlion, to distribute free waste

bins to ease waste collection is being abused by residents.

"In some cases [low income areas]...we gave free bins [but] people were keeping them in their houses to store water. So, if you go to the house, you don't even know that this person has been registered...but the bin is not coming out because they [residents] are storing water with the bin".

Accra is said to be generating over 2,200 metric tons of waste daily. According to statistics published by the UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Platform in 2008, Ghana's sanitation coverage stood at 10 per cent as at the end of 2006, hence, Ghana ranks number 48 in Africa, out of the 52 countries reported and 14 out of the 15 countries in West Africa, beating only Niger to the last position.

The packaging revolution has however not had a corresponding backing from appropriate plastic waste management policy, and has in effect left many cities littered with plastic wastes; thus, creating disgusting visual nuisance, nasty sights and other public health challenges.

See more:
<http://www.ghanaweb.com/Gh>

[anaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=305501](http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=305501)

Culled from: GhanaWeb

CITY'S RESIDENTS FEED 40 TONS OF HOUSEHOLD ORGANIC WASTE TO EARTHWORMS

Within only eight months, 40 tons of household organic waste has been diverted from landfill sites through the second phase of the City of Cape Town's home composting study. This follows on the first phase of the City's home composting study with 19 households which was concluded in October 2012.

Of the 1,6 million tons of waste directed to the City's landfills each year, approximately 6% consists of garden and organic waste from households (95 000 tons per annum); while approximately 5% is made up of organic kitchen waste (80 000 tons per annum). This equates to approximately 21 kg per household per month of garden/organic waste and organic kitchen waste which ends up at landfill sites when it could have been re-used.

A total of 644 households from Scottsville, Edgemoor, Heathfield, Elfindale and Bongweni and Khwezi in

Khayelitsha participated in the second phase of the study which started in March 2013 and is nearing conclusion. Each household has been provided with composting containers and the necessary information on how to use these. They have agreed to provide the City with monthly feedback on the progress of their composting efforts, with the data being recorded in the notebooks that were issued to them.

According to the provisional data analysis, the participating households diverted approximately 40 tons of household organic waste from landfill sites through their composting activities. The City will be gathering additional data over the next couple of months by means of 'waste characterisations' – the analysis of the contents of randomly selected participants' wheelie bins in the project areas in order to gain more insight into what materials are still being sent to landfill sites.

See more:
http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/environment/citys_residents_feed_40_tons_of_household_organic_waste_to_earthworms.html

Culled from: South Africa Good News

ABOUT BCCC-AFRICA

The Basel Convention Coordinating Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region (BCCC-Africa) was established on 20th Of September 1994 by the defunct FEPA (which has been absorbed into the Federal Ministry of Environment in June 1999) following Basel Convention COP2 approval. The Center has a dual mandate to serve as a National Institution as well as a Regional Institution. As a National Institution, it serves as Federal Ministry of Environment linkage center with the University of Ibadan. This linkage center has a mandate for Cleaner Production Technology and Hazardous Waste Management. The Center also, as a Regional Institution, has the mandate to serve as the Basel Convention Coordinating Center for the African region, to assist African Countries implement the 1989 Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their disposal. The Centre also coordinates the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for Arabic-speaking African countries based in Egypt, French-speaking African countries based in Senegal and English-speaking African countries based in South-Africa respectively. This is the only Linkage Center of the Ministry that is a United Nations designated capacity building center with mandate to service Wastes and Chemicals Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), these are the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BCCC-AFRICA

All correspondence to:

Omotayo Sindiku

Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region

1, Ijoma Road, University of Ibadan

Ibadan,

Nigeria

Website: www.baselnigeria.org.ng

E-mail: thayor@basel.org.ng, info@basel.org.ng