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Minutes of the 1st MEGREC Operational Team Meeting National Center for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Athens, Greece; Friday 4th May 2007.

The meeting started at 10.00 a.m.

The following Operational Team Members (OTMs) were also present
(in alphabetical order according to country of origin):

- Miss Maria Kapassa, University of Athens, Greece;
- Dr. Vittorio Esposito, INCA POPs Laboratory of Lecce, Italy;
- Prof. Hafida Mountacer, University Hassan 1, Settat, Morocco.
- Dr. Svetlana Grujic, University of Belgrade, Serbia.

The following MEGREC Directive Board Members (DBMs) were also present:

- Prof. Tahar SEHILI, University Mentouri-Constantine, Algeria;
- Prof. Mohamed Tawfic AHMED, Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt;
- Prof. Panayotis A. SISKOS; University of Athens, Greece;
- Prof. Pietro R. TUNDO, Chairman; Interuniversity Consortium "Chemistry for the Environment" (INCA), Venice, Italy;
- Prof. Teodor AST; University of Belgrade, Serbia.

The S&T Secretary (SEC) of the Network was present:

- Dr. Fulvio Zecchini; INCA, Venice, Italy.

In order to launch the project, under the auspices of MEGREC, some responsible persons involved in the bilateral Italy-Algeria project "Advanced technologies in the field of Green Chemistry" sponsored by the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs were present:

- Prof. Safia Taleb, Djillali LIABES University, Sidi Bel-Abbes (Algeria);
- Prof. Benghalem Abderrezak, Djillali LIABES University, Sidi Bel-Abbes (Algeria).

The agenda of the OT meeting was as follows:

1. Discussion on proposals for 7th FWP;
2. Discussion on proposals for GEF;
3. Discussion on proposals for QSP-SAICM by UNEP CHEMICALS;
4. Conclusions: next OT meeting, any other issue.

Affiliated to:





In the beginning participants were welcomed by the president of the National Center for the Environment and Sustainable Development (NCESD), Prof. Evangelos Baltas, who is also the General Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works of the Hellenic Republic.

1. Discussion on proposals for 7th FP

Within the 7th Framework Programme, ERA-NET actions were found to be interesting for the MEGREC group. Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) is the funding scheme that will be used.

As it is written on the CORDIS website, the objective of the ERA-NET actions is to increase cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out in the Member States and Associated States through:

- the networking of research activities conducted at national level, and
- the mutual opening of national and regional research programmes.

Among the suggested themes, environment (including climate change) was chosen as the project theme interesting for our group.

Prof. Tawfic will advertise on FP7 website to find partners for possible project. Dr. Fulvio Zecchini and Prof. Tawfic will check on CORDIS website (<http://cordis.europa.eu/en/home.html>) how to apply to the online e-tool for partnership creation (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/partners_en.html) within the end of May 2007.

The deadline for submitting project proposals for ERA-NET is **31st of July, 2007**.

It was decided that Dr. Vittorio Esposito will draft this proposal **by the end of June, 2007**. Prof. Tundo will be in charge as a Directive Board member.

2. Discussion on proposals for Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The GEF Strategic Partnership responds directly to priorities of the countries of the Mediterranean Sea basin. It deals with all transboundary environmental concerns of the Mediterranean.

The most interesting topic for our group is the climate change, i.e. how to reduce climate change in dry land countries. Some of the ideas were water management, crops resistances or reducing and eliminating POPs. Prof. Siskos agreed to talk to the director of the Special Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about how to prepare this project proposal in the best possible way. It will be discussed in detail at the next OT meeting.

It was decided that this project is not the priority, therefore **no deadline** was set.

(Note of the writer: a paper about GEF reports that the final project brief is due for submission to the GEF council by June 2007).

3. Discussion on proposals for Quick Start Program (QSP)-Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) by UNEP CHEMICALS

As extensively discussed at the 3rd Directive Board meeting in Lecce, the best way for submitting QSP applications is that the project proposal is submitted by the government of a developing country (since other states are not eligible). Therefore, the representative of each country (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia) should ask for the support from their government, i.e. for project approval from the QSP National Focal Point. Their list is given in the material on QSP that will be again circulated by the SEC.

It was decided that the representative of each country (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia) will draft project proposal on POPs in which MEGREC partner (Greece, Italy, Serbia or Spain) must be included, providing in this way laboratory networking:

- Prof. Sehili (Algeria) will draft the project on pesticide agricultural pollution, i.e. treatment of drinking water polluted by pesticides or remediation of soil and polluted sites;
- Prof. Tawfic (Egypt) will draft project proposal on indoor pollution, i.e. how to minimize POPs in indoor environment.
- Dr. Hafida Mountacer (Morocco) will draft the proposal on POPs and will discuss it with Prof. Kherbeche;
- Prof. Houas (Tunisia) will draft the proposal.

Then, proposals will be merged for submission.

The next call will be in September. Taking into account the summer vacations, the deadline for drafts of the project proposals was set at **16th of July, 2007**.

4a. Other issues

Discussion on other proposals

Prof. Tawfic has given presentation on Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme. It is a risk management programme that deals with the impact of industrial pollution on people and biota. It is designed for developing countries only. Prof. Tawfic will apply for this programme as the member of MEGREC group.

Building database

The database of available equipment, facilities and major areas of interest of all MEGREC members is needed for preparing of project proposals. Therefore, it was decided that Svetlana will prepare appropriate questioner and sent it to all members by **21st of May, 2007**. The replies should be returned within two weeks, i.e. by **4th of June, 2007**.

Discussion on other OT members

It was stressed that for the next OT meeting all members should be present. Namely, Directive Board members from Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia were asked to bring along their OT member to the next meeting, so the other members could get to know them better. Also, Prof. Tawfic was asked to circulate the CVs of Manal Hefny from Egypt.

4b. Next Operational Team meeting (2nd)

The next OT meeting will be held in Egypt, on November-December 2007. It will take place along with the 5th DB meeting. The probable location is Saint Catherine with organization by Prof. Tawfic.

The meeting ended at 6.00 p.m.