ARSCP NEWSLETTER

African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production
The ARSCP Newsletter aims at informing members about the organization, its activities, calendar and progress in advancing SCP

Seasons Greetings and Wishing You Prosperity and Success in 2013

Rio +20 ‘The Future We Want’

The Rio +20 Summit was the most important event for SCP this year. Thousands of people gathered in Rio de Janeiro Brazil to discuss the future of our planet.

The meeting was held from 20th to 22nd June, 2012 under the slogan: ‘The Future We Want’. This much awaited meeting was well attended but its outcome was not very inspirational to SCP practitioners.

Delegates from all over the World comprising politicians, scientists, business community, and in particular SCP advocacy groups etc. discussed issues pertaining to climate change and poverty. Among them were our members. The Rio +20 summit endorsed a 10 year framework of programmes as an SCP global operational mechanism for moving towards a sustainable society.

The successful implementation of this programme will go a long way in shaping the way we produce and consume resources, thus protecting our mother earth for future generations.

At Rio, delegates spoke and gave evidence of the problems at hand which the World is facing including melting ice caps, raising sea levels, changing rainfall patterns, floods, droughts which are all caused by climate change.

What is now required is to take concrete actions to tackle climate change and not prolonged political discussions and counter-arguments.

The 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP endorsed at the Rio+20

Thanks to the Marrakech process the Global 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (Global 10YFP on SCP) was finalized through a participatory process and presented for adoption at the Rio+20 summit.

The 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation 2002 called upon the development of a 10YFP on SCP to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. The Rio +20 summit endorsed the Global 10Years Framework of Programmes on SCP presented by UNEP which includes plans from all regions. The summit asked UNEP to establish a Secretariat and Trust Fund for implementation of the framework.

Africa’s 10YFP on SCP was rolled out immediately after Rio +10 and endorsed by the AU and AMCEN in 2006. Thus Africa has demonstrated its readiness to address climate change and poverty alleviation ahead of all nations. The region now requires to update it already 7 year old plan to be consistent with the Global plan.

The Secretariat and the Fund should have a special focus on this region which lags behind in technology and skills. It is our hope that if the World listens and assists Africa, the next decade will witness a lot of positive changes in the region.

See The Resolution A/CONF.216/S - A 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and
**African Ministers of Environment meet in Arusha in Sept 2012**

In September 13-14, 2012, African Ministers of Environment through their regional platform, AMCEN, met in Arusha Tanzania to discuss the outcome of the Rio+20 summit and endorse the African position for the 18th Conference of Parties (COP 18) in Doha, Qatar. The Arusha meeting was attended by over 40 countries as well as UN agencies, regional business and advocacy groups.

The Ministers came up with a series of decisions and programmes for the furtherance of sustainable consumption and production in Africa. The Arusha Declaration on Africa’s Post Rio +20 Strategy for Sustainable Development document states that among others, Africa will have Flagship programmes.

It will have a Partnership on sustainable consumption and production as well as a Partnership for capacity building, technology transfer and skills development. Furthermore the meeting endorsed the African Eco-labelling Mechanism; a pan African process providing eco-labelling as a market based tool.

Closing the meeting Tanzania President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete reiterated his country’s full support for climate mitigation initiatives and measures.

He called upon payments to be made for the upkeep of carbon sinks instead of just paying for new forestation projects. For the full text of the Arusha Declaration see: [https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http://www.unep.org/oua/amcen/Amcen_Events/](https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http://www.unep.org/oua/amcen/Amcen_Events/)

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**COP18/CMP8 Takes Place in Doha from late Nov to early Dec 2012**

Over 200 nations and over 17,000 delegates met in Doha, Qatar from 26th November to 7th December 2012 to discuss climate change in what is known as COP18/CMP8, with aim to push forward the Kyoto Protocol agenda. The Kyoto Protocol aimed to cut greenhouse gas emissions in developed economies and accelerate low carbon adoption in developing economies.

The Doha meeting is now over, with mixed outcome; that greenhouse gases will gradually be cut down and assistance will be forthcoming. No specific figure (year, monies, emission rates) were agreed upon. It could be generally said that, nobody won nor did anyone lose; clear testimony of global politics of the rich nations. Everything has been pushed forward, pending upon more negotiations.

The worst part is the fact that the whole world is already suffering from impacts of climate change and nobody hates to see that we are safe.’’

Africa is experiencing serious effects of climate as droughts, famine and diseases are on the increase yet the responsible parties can’t help. Africa shouted aloud at Doha how prolonged negotiations would increase the sufferings and pain of its people, but little was achieved.

It is rational to say that it is not governments or academicians who will bring change; change will come from us individually and collectively. By becoming pro active, creative and taking simple sensible actions we can make the world stays on course.

Let us show them the benefits of sustainability, they will understand and join.

Lets forge ahead to address and push for reforms for climate change; that is why we are SCP practitioners.
**UNEP launches the Global Outlook on SCP Policies**

The Report by UNEP on Global Outlook on SCP Policies was launched in Accra Ghana during the ARSCP’s seventh roundtable meeting. This 2012 publication includes some of Africa’s policies, initiatives and activities which have been or are under implementation to shift the region towards a SCP development pattern including case studies. Report shows that although Africa was ahead in preparing a framework, its acceleration to shift towards SCP is lowest. Africa has demonstrated a political will, though low education and resources hinder progress.

**ARSCP Successfully held its Seventh Roundtable**

**ARSCP Successful held its Seventh Roundtable Meeting in Accra Ghana, 20-23rd May 2012.** Members of the ARSCP and their stakeholders are very thankful to the Government of Ghana and the Environment Protection Agency Ghana for hosting their seventh meeting. The meeting discussed Africa’s position for Rio +20 and took stock of progress of SCP in the region. Over 300 people attended from all corners of Africa and beyond. The tradition of members holding bi annual roundtable meetings on SCP was sustained. Members were able to exchange knowledge and experiences, learn about the progress of SCP in the region and globally and give their views on important SCP issues. A total of 22 papers and presentations were made by members and international experts on topics ranging from green economy, SCP policies and members gave their deliberations for the Rio+20 summit stating that they preferred a differentiated approach for SCP adoption. Over 100 people joined the ARSCP. The members elected Uganda to host the eighth roundtable meeting in 2014.

**Africa NGO and CSO Chemical Safety Skillshare and Workshop**

Africa NGO and CSO Chemical Safety Skillshare and Workshop was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 10 - 12 Dec 2012. The workshop involved 42 participants representing 20 NGOs/CSOs from 12 African countries, government representatives and media from Tanzania. Participants had the opportunities to share skills on work in the areas of Lead Paint, Mercury Treaty (INC5 preparations, mercury use in ASGM), Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), Toxoc-free malaria control (without DDT and other toxic pesticides) and managing hazardous substances in electronic waste (e-products/waste. Meeting agreed on future priority activities in each area for Africa NGOs and CSOs, developed and endorsed Africa NGOs/CSOs Mercury Statement in the preparation for INC5 towards Mercury Treaty for further endorsement by African NGOs/CSOs. Meeting also drafted the DDT statement towards COP6 of the Stockholm Convention/Super COP to be held in April/May 2013.
ARSCP democratic culture continued during ARSCP-7. Thus the Fifth General Assembly of the ARSCP elected a new Executive Board. It was held back to back with the roundtable meeting in Ghana. In the general assembly, the Secretariat gave the progress of the Organization. Among other things the report showed that membership of the organization has tripled since it was found. It further cautioned that there is strong need to strengthen the Secretariat in order to cope with future workload.

During this meeting elections for EB was held. In the election Mr. Ndivhuho Raphulu, Director, South Africa Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa was elected President while the post of executive Secretary was retained by Hanan eL Hadary of Egypt Cleaner Production Centre. The post of Treasurer went to Mr. Edgar Mugisha a private businessman from Uganda. Other EB members are Mr. Daba Lelissa Director, Ethiopia Cleaner Production Centre, Dr Ife Adegumbi from Niger Delta University in Nigeria, Mr. Lambert Ifaabelu of EPA’ Ghana and Mr. Collins Tawanda, a private consultant from Zimbabwe.

Former ARSCP President Prof Cleophas Migiro becomes EB ex officio member and caretaker of Secretariat. We thank the outgoing executive board members and warmly welcome the new team led by Mr Ndivhuho Raphulu.

Good luck to you all.