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International POPs Elimination Project

*Fostering Active and Efficient Civil Society Participation in
Preparation for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

Global Day of Action on POPs in Belarus

Foundation for Realization of Ideas (FRI)

P.O. BOX 21, Minsk-220004, Belarus

Contact person: Eugeniy Lobanov

Phone: +375 29 658 74 45

Fax: +375 17 285 81 44

e-mail: lobanow@yahoo.com

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About the International POPs Elimination Project

On May 1, 2004, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN <http://www.ipen.org>) began a global NGO project called the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided core funding for the project.

IPEP has three principal objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in activities that provide concrete and immediate contributions to country efforts in preparing for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;
- Enhance the skills and knowledge of NGOs to help build their capacity as effective stakeholders in the Convention implementation process;
- Help establish regional and national NGO coordination and capacity in all regions of the world in support of longer term efforts to achieve chemical safety.

IPEP will support preparation of reports on country situation, hotspots, policy briefs, and regional activities. Three principal types of activities will be supported by IPEP: participation in the National Implementation Plan, training and awareness workshops, and public information and awareness campaigns.

For more information, please see <http://www.ipen.org>

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Global Day of Action on POPs in Belarus

In frame of IPEN Global Day of Action (GDA) 2005 project, the environmental group FRI organized the following activities:

- Launch of informational web site <http://www.friby.org>, devoted to problems of chemical pollution in Belarus. The first materials that were placed into the web-site were the following: Belarus Eggs Report, Verchedvinsk Hot Spot Report, FRI's report on chemical pollution of Daugava River, as well as a press-release, devoted to GDA 2005. At present the web site is under further development. According to independent web monitoring, web site www.friby.org is the only web resource in Belarus, devoted to problems of chemical safety.
- Release of press information (including IPEN press release, FRI supplementary information) to all news agencies in Belarus. The topic has got quite well mass media coverage, because 10 days ago we released Belarusian Eggs Study report, and journalists were interested to get information about Global Eggs Study. FRI representative, Eugeniy Lobanov took part in a talk-show on 2nd National TV Channel that was held on Friday, May 22nd. The talk-show was about the environmental situation in Belarus, so it was a good chance to present the IPEN GDA.
- Dissemination of Dirty Dozen's Keep the Promise Edition, that was prepared by FRI and IPEN for Stockholm Convention COP1. We decided to start dissemination of Russian edition of the magazine during the IPEN GDA, as an opportunity to raise public and authorities' attention to this IPEN Global Day of Action.
- On April 23rd, FRI had a meeting, devoted to GDA with representatives of several Belarusian environment NGOs. During the meetings NGOs activists were informed about GDA. Also we have discussed situation with implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Belarus. This meeting also has got mass media coverage.

The main results of the GDA-2005 project in Belarus:

1. First Belarusian informational web resource on POPs and chemical safety issues was created;
2. We've got wide mass media coverage on GDA issue. We feel that this fact is quite important, because it was a chance to raise additional attention to POPs issues in Belarusian society;
3. We had an opportunity before COP1 to recall attention of our politicians to keep the promise and solve the POPs problem in Belarus.