

ECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents: Implementation Infrastructure

Two new ECE Regional Coordination Centres in countries in transition [to full industrialization] have been created to provide for an effective infrastructure to implement the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. By means of this infrastructure, countries — in particular those in transition — can be assisted in strengthening their capabilities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to, industrial accidents.

During the transition period which is characterized by dismantling old administrative, legal, and economic, systems, many countries need to develop and implement risk-reduction policy plans in order to improve industrial safety management and safety technology. The Centres will provide assistance to develop such policy plans and risk-reduction programmes, to make them fully operational.

A Regional Coordinating Centre for the prevention of industrial accidents is being established in Budapest, Hungary, to assist countries in transition to develop and put into operation policy plans regarding the prevention of industrial accidents. It will help to establish a network of interested agencies and institutions in ECE member countries, and exchange information and experience on the prevention of industrial accidents. Common or harmonized methodologies, standards, terminology, and defini-

tions, regarding hazardous activities, will be promoted, as well as guidance on the development and implementation of legislation and regulations.

Another Regional Coordinating Centre on industrial accident training and exercises is being established in Warsaw, Poland, to assist countries in transition in the development and implementation of national training and education systems. Preparedness, response, and mitigation of effects related to industrial accidents, and promotion of networks in the national training and exercise centres, as well as the organization of regular, joint training for different target groups, will be in the focus of the Warsaw Centre.

In order to guide and oversee the activities of these two new Regional Centres, a Steering Group, consisting of representatives from Hungary, The Netherlands, Poland, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America, has been established. The Group will also assist in raising funds to support these activities.

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Focus on Your World: The UNEP International Photographic Competition on the Environment, 1994–1995

Following the highly successful photographic competition which was held to coincide with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is organizing another international photographic competition which is, once again, supported by generous sponsorship from Canon Inc.

This new competition is timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in 1995, and will again seek to draw world attention to global environmental problems. Our objective is to have humanity understand that the world is one integrated entity, and that its Biosphere is what we need to take care of above all else.

The competition invites the submission of photographs with the theme 'Focus on Your World', from professional and amateur photographers world-wide, of all ages and nationalities. This time, however, there will also be a separate category of prizes for children.

The prizes will be awarded in New York in October 1995, and the winning photographs will then be exhibited internationally in subsequent travelling photographic exhibitions set up on a regional basis.

The most suitable entries will also be preserved in a photographic library administered by UNEP on behalf of the United Nations, and they may be used to further the awareness of global problems.

So, send us your photographs: show us how much you care!

Fig. 1 is a photo collage of winning photographs from our first such competition, held in 1991–1992. It was a great success, attracting some 32,000 entries from 144 countries. Further information and entry forms may be obtained from Miss Xuejun Zhou, UNEP Photographic Competition, PO Box 47767, Nairobi, Kenya.


 **UNEP** **Canon**
International Photographic Competition
on the Environment
1994 – 1995
 — in the 50th anniversary year of the United Nations —



FIG. 1. Photo collage of winning photographs from the 1991–92 competition.

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