

## **Term of Reference: National Expert (Philippines)**

Post Title:	National Expert
Project Title:	Environmentally sound management of industrial POPs and addressing POPs in products and articles in the Philippines and neighbouring countries (BRS-SSFA-2602)
Duration:	40 days (intermittent, within the project period April–October 2026)
Duty Station:	Philippines
Implementing Partners:	Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Environmental Management Bureau, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat), and the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (SCRC-SEA), international expert
Donor:	European Union

### **1. Background and Context**

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) lists a growing number of industrial chemicals that pose significant risks to human health and the environment due to their persistence, bioaccumulation, long-range environmental transport and toxicity. Many of these industrial POPs are widely used in products and articles, including plastics, electronics, textiles, construction materials and other consumer goods, making their identification, control and phase-out particularly challenging.

In Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, national authorities continue to face challenges in identifying newly listed industrial POPs used in industrial production processes and supply chains, assessing potential needs for specific exemptions or other relevant provisions under the Stockholm Convention, and evaluating safer and technically feasible alternatives. These challenges are compounded by complex global supply chains, limited availability of data, and constraints in analytical and institutional capacity. Industrial POPs may subsequently be present in domestically produced and imported substances, mixtures, products and articles, making an industry-focused assessment approach a practical and effective entry point.

#### **National legal and policy framework**

The implementation of this project is grounded in the existing national legal and policy framework for chemicals management in the Philippines, which provides the regulatory basis for controlling hazardous substances, including persistent organic pollutants.

Republic Act No. 6969, *The Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990*, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), constitute the primary national legislation governing the importation, manufacture, processing, distribution, use, transport, treatment and disposal of chemical substances and hazardous wastes. The Act mandates the regulation, monitoring and control of toxic substances that pose unreasonable risks to human health and the environment and provides the legal authority for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) to enforce chemical control orders, permitting systems, reporting requirements and compliance mechanisms.

Within this framework, the Philippines has established mechanisms that are directly relevant to the identification and management of industrial POPs, including chemical registration and notification systems, inventory development, restrictions and bans on priority chemicals, and requirements for information disclosure along the supply chain. These national instruments also support the country's obligations under the Stockholm Convention, including the elimination or restriction of listed POPs, control of unintentional releases, and management of POPs in products, articles and wastes.

This project builds on and supports the implementation of Republic Act No. 6969 and its IRR by strengthening technical capacity to identify newly listed industrial POPs in industrial processes, substances, mixtures, products and articles; assess regulatory gaps and implementation challenges; and generate evidence-based

inputs to inform national decision-making. Project activities are intended to complement existing regulatory tools and contribute to the effective implementation of the Philippines' National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention, including future updates as new industrial POPs are listed.

Funded by the European Union and implemented under a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with SCRC-SEA, the project supports the Philippines and neighbouring countries in strengthening national and regional capacities to address industrial POPs, with a particular focus on POPs in plastics and other articles. It also aims to strengthen the science-policy interface through national consultation and regional knowledge-sharing activities.

## **2. Objectives of the Assignment**

The overall objective of the assignment is to support the Government of the Philippines in assessing newly listed industrial POPs in relevant industrial production processes, priority sectors and associated substances and mixtures, and, where relevant, selected products and articles in use. The assignment will also support the preparation of a national policy on the management of industrial POPs, including the identification of potential needs for specific exemptions or other relevant provisions under the Stockholm Convention, and the development of practical phase-out strategies and recommendations for environmentally sound management.

The national expert will work in close coordination with an international expert engaged under the project, SCRC-SEA, and the BRS Secretariat.

## **3. Scope of Work and Key Responsibilities**

Under the guidance of the Government of the Philippines (national project focal point), BRS Secretariat and SCRC-SEA, and in close collaboration with the international expert, the national expert will undertake the following tasks:

### **1. Assessment of the use of industrial POPs in industrial production and supply chains**

- Engage with relevant national stakeholders, including government authorities, industry representatives, importers, manufacturers, recyclers, and other private-sector actors, to identify and assess the use of newly listed industrial POPs in relevant industrial sectors and production processes in the Philippines (e.g. PVC production, rubber manufacturing, paint and coating production, leather processing, textile manufacturing and other relevant sectors).
- Collect, compile and analyse primary and secondary information on priority substances and mixtures associated with industrial POPs use (e.g. lubricants, metal working fluids, fatliquors and other industrial formulations), making use of available regulatory information, safety data sheets and Globally Harmonized System (GHS) information, where applicable.
- Based on the assessment of industrial uses and supply chains, identify priority products and articles where the presence of industrial POPs is likely (e.g. plasticised PVC, rubber products, textiles), and support the identification of cases where targeted monitoring or instrumental analysis may be required.

### **2. Development of a draft national policy on the management of industrial POPs**

- Develop a draft national policy on the management of industrial POPs, including the identification of potential needs for specific exemptions or other relevant provisions under the Stockholm Convention, based on identified industrial uses, supply chains and availability of alternatives in the Philippines.
- Contribute national inputs relevant to ongoing or future reviews under the Convention.

### **3. Alternatives and phase-out considerations**

- Identify safer and technically feasible alternatives to industrial POPs used in identified industrial sectors and applications, drawing on national experience and available international guidance.

- Contribute to the development of practical phase-out strategies and recommendations relevant to the Philippine context.

#### 4. **Consultation and stakeholder engagement**

- Support the organization and conduct of a one-day national consultation meeting in the Philippines, including preparation of technical inputs reflecting findings on industrial uses, alternatives and phase-out options,.
- Facilitate engagement with national stakeholders, including government agencies, industry representatives, academia and civil society, as appropriate.

#### 5. **Reporting and coordination**

- Take primary responsibility for drafting the national assessment and synthesis reports under the project, based on information collected from industry and other national stakeholders.
- Prepare technically sound draft reports, including analysis, findings and recommendations, under the overall guidance of the national project focal point and international expert.
- Coordinate closely with the national project focal point, international expert, BRS Secretariat and SCRC-SEA to receive technical guidance, incorporate review comments, ensure quality control, and deliver final outputs in a timely manner.
- Ensure that all reports, datasets, stakeholder inputs and technical documentation produced under the assignment are submitted to the national project focal point and the BRS Secretariat and maintained in the official project records in accordance with the procedures provided by the national project focal point.
- Acknowledge that all technical outputs produced under the assignment are subject to technical review by the national project focal point and the BRS Secretariat. Final validation and approval of project outputs shall be determined by the Government of the Philippines, in accordance with national procedures.

#### **Confidentiality**

The national expert shall treat as confidential all information obtained in the course of the assignment, including but not limited to technical data, business-sensitive information, stakeholder inputs, draft reports and internal communications. Such information shall not be disclosed to third parties, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the Government of the Philippines and the BRS Secretariat. This obligation shall continue to apply after the completion of the assignment.

#### 4. **Expected results/outputs to be achieved**

The national expert is expected to contribute to the following deliverables, ensuring that the analyses, activities and recommended strategies are consistent with, and supportive of, the Philippines' National Implementation Plan (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention:

1. **Draft national assessment report and draft national policy** on the management of industrial POPs in the Philippines, including:
  - identification of relevant industrial sectors and production processes using newly listed industrial POPs.
  - identification of priority substances, mixtures and downstream products and articles, as relevant;
  - assessment of potential needs for specific exemptions or other relevant provisions under the Stockholm Convention; and

- initial recommendations on alternatives and phase-out strategies, taking into account existing national priorities and measures reflected in the NIP.
2. **Draft set of recommendations** on safer and technically feasible alternatives and practical phase-out strategies, aligned with the objectives, actions and implementation framework of the Philippines' NIP, and supportive of its effective implementation and future updating, as appropriate.
  3. **National consultation meetings** supported, including the provision of technical input and coordinated participation of relevant stakeholders, with discussions structured to inform national implementation priorities under the NIP.
  4. **Meeting documentation and reports** prepared, as required, highlighting key findings, stakeholder inputs and recommendations relevant to the implementation of the NIP under the Stockholm Convention.

## 5. Duration and Timing

The assignment is expected to be carried out over a period of up to 40 days on an intermittent basis, within the overall project period from April to October 2026.

An indicative timeline of key activities, expected outputs, and performance considerations is outlined below. The timing may be adjusted in consultation with the national project focal point, the BRS Secretariat and SCRC-SEA to reflect implementation needs and stakeholder availability.

### Indicative timeline and outputs

- April 2026
  - Inception discussions and coordination with the national project focal point, international expert, BRS Secretariat and SCRC-SEA
  - Initial stakeholder mapping and review of available national and international information  
*Performance indicator: Inception approach and work plan agreed with the national project focal point and international expert*
- May 2026
  - Assessment of industrial uses of newly listed industrial POPs, priority sectors and supply chains
  - Collection and analysis of information on substances, mixtures, products and articles  
*Performance indicator: Preliminary assessment findings and sectoral information compiled and shared for review*
- June 2026
  - Assessment of potential needs for specific exemptions or other relevant provisions under the Stockholm Convention
  - Identification of safer and technically feasible alternatives and initial phase-out considerations  
*Performance indicator: Draft technical inputs on exemptions and alternatives submitted and reviewed*
- July–August 2026
  - Preparation of draft national assessment report and draft recommendations

- Technical review and incorporation of comments from the national project focal point, BRS Secretariat, SCRC-SEA and international expert

Performance indicator: Draft national assessment report submitted in accordance with agreed quality standards and timelines

- September 2026

- Support to the organization and conduct of the national consultation meeting
- Finalization of recommendations based on stakeholder inputs

Performance indicator: National consultation conducted and meeting documentation prepared

- October 2026

- Finalization and submission of revised national assessment report, recommendations and supporting documentation

Performance indicator: Final outputs submitted and accepted by the national project focal point and BRS Secretariat

Progress under the assignment will be assessed based on the timely delivery of agreed outputs, the technical quality and relevance of the analyses and recommendations, and the effective incorporation of review comments and stakeholder inputs, in line with the objectives of the project.

## 6. Qualifications and Experience

### Education:

- Advanced university degree in environmental sciences, environmental engineering, chemistry, or a related field.

### Professional experience:

- At least five years of relevant experience in chemicals management, environmental policy, or implementation of environmental projects.
- Demonstrated experience with persistent organic pollutants, industrial chemicals, or chemicals in products and articles is an asset.
- Experience working with industrial sectors, supply chains, chemicals management systems or regulatory information (e.g. safety data sheets, GHS) is an asset.
- Experience working with government agencies and multi-stakeholder processes in the Philippines is highly desirable.

### Languages:

- Excellent command of English (written and spoken) is required.

## 7. Reporting and Supervision

The national expert will work under the technical supervision of the international expert engaged under the project and in close coordination with the SCRC-SEA and the BRS Secretariat. The national expert will report to the national project focal point for day-to-day coordination and reporting.

The assignment does **not** require the national expert to report physically to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) on a daily basis. The national expert may carry out the assignment remotely and communicate with the national project focal point, the

international expert, the BRS Secretariat and SCRC-SEA through electronic means, as appropriate. Physical presence will be required only for agreed activities, such as stakeholder consultations, meetings or workshops, as determined under the project.

## 8. Payments

The national expert will be remunerated a total fee of **USD 10,000** for up to **40 days of work** carried out on an intermittent basis.

Payments will be administered by the **Basel Convention Regional Centre / Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Southeast Asia (BCRC/SCRC–Indonesia)**, in accordance with its applicable financial rules and procedures.

The indicative payment schedule is as follows, subject to satisfactory performance and acceptance of agreed outputs:

- **First instalment (50%):** Upon submission of initial technical inputs and interim deliverables, including preliminary assessment findings and review contributions, expected around June 2026;
- **Second instalment (50%):** Upon submission and acceptance of final reviewed outputs, including the national assessment report, recommendations and participation in consultation activities, expected around October 2026.

The instalment schedule may be adjusted or restructured, as appropriate, to align payments with the submission and acceptance of multiple reports or deliverables, subject to agreement between the national expert, the BCRC/SCRC–Indonesia and the national project focal point

All payments are subject to satisfactory performance and compliance with the applicable rules, procedures and contractual arrangements of the BCRC/SCRC–Indonesia.

## 9. How to apply

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application by email to [kei.ohno@un.org](mailto:kei.ohno@un.org) **no later than 9 April 2026**.

Applications should include:

- A motivation letter outlining the candidate's suitability for the assignment; and
- A detailed curriculum vitae (CV).

Applications should clearly indicate the title of the assignment in the subject line of the email.