

PHARMACEUTICAL AND CHEMICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN URUGUAY

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Uruguay is a South American country between Argentina and Brasil. In its main environmental law the first political guideline is “*Uruguay Natural*”. Uruguay occupies the third place, after Finland and Norway, in the 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index from Yale and Columbia Universities (1).

In this context, the pharmaceutical and chemical waste management has to meet a great challenge dealing with an important lack of regulations, no public budget available for development of waste treatment technologies, non-attractive market for private investments and a social-environmental conscious society, who is awake to prevent implementation of industrial waste management plants with potential negative environmental impacts.

Since eight years ago, a group of chemists decided to offer operations in this area, developing an economic and environmental sustainable enterprise, very closed to the local Government and the public University.

This paper presents the IUPAC-UNESCO-ONUUDI Safety Training Program contribution to the above-mentioned process.

(1) - 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index. Benchmarking National Environmental Stewardships. Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Yale University and Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University. www.yale.edu/esi/