Sub-regional workshop for Central Asia on Industrial Accident Prevention:

**Chemicals management, identification and notification of hazardous activities and accidental water pollution**

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*Astana, 26-28 May 2015*
Workshop: Background

- Part of the Industrial Accident Convention’s workplan 2015-2016
- First in a series of sub-regional capacity building workshops to support countries in implementing an amended Annex I to the Convention, aligned with GHS
- Broader focus on the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, industrial accident prevention and chemicals management
- Accidental water pollution also covered
Workshop Objectives

• Familiarize the countries in Central Asia with the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention in order to enhance industrial safety and chemicals management, safeguard human health and the environment and enhance sub-regional cooperation

• Increase the expert and administrative capacity in the area of identification and notification of hazardous activities, in line with Annex I of the Convention, aligned with the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

• Increase the capacity of the countries in Central Asia in the area of prevention of accidental water pollution
Organizers

- Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan, as host
- UN Economic Commission for Europe:
  - Secretariat of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, in the framework of its Assistance Programme
- In cooperation with
  - Secretariat of the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
  - Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
  - Water Initiatives Centre, Astana
  - UN Development Programme, Astana office
Workshop: 5 sessions

• **Session 1: Setting the scene (26 May p.m.)**
  
  Introduction, Activities of international organizations, Identification of hazardous activities in Central Asia

• **Session 2: Identification and Classification of hazardous substances (27 May a.m.)**
  
  Amended Annex I to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, GHS, International examples (UK, Belarus), National procedures in Central Asia
Workshop: 5 sessions

• **Session 3: Identification of hazardous activities with a potential transboundary impact (27 May p.m.)**
  Location criteria, International example (Switzerland), Industrial accidents and disaster risk management, Practical exercise

• **Session 4: Notification to neighbouring countries (28 May a.m.)**
  Convention obligations; Next steps in Central Asia

• **Session 5: Accidental Water Pollution (28 May a.m.)**
  Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, national approaches in Central Asia, the way forward
Background: Industrial Accidents Convention

- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000
- Negotiated by ECE member countries in response to several major industrial accidents and their transboundary effects (e.g. Sandoz spill at Schweizerhalle in 1986 effecting all downstream countries along the Rhine)

- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents
- Helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur

- Focus on transboundary cooperation
- 41 Parties
Application of the Convention

- Prevention, preparedness of and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects, including the effects of accidents caused by natural disasters

- International cooperation concerning mutual assistance, R&D, exchange of information & technology
Focus on governance and institutional structures: Cooperation and coordination between authorities, industry & the public

- Industry
- Emergency Situation
- Environment
- Interior
- Other

Levels:
- Regional level
- Local level
Key obligations

- **Identification and notification** of hazardous activities
- Development and implementation of policies, strategies and measures for:
  - **Prevention** of industrial accidents
  - Emergency **preparedness**
  - Emergency **response** incl. industrial accidents notification & mutual assistance
- Information to and participation of the public
Prevention: Transboundary cooperation

- Identification of hazardous activities capable of causing transboundary effects, incl. with Parties concerned
- Notification of existing or proposed hazardous activities capable of causing transboundary effects
- Establishment of policies on the siting of new hazardous activities and on significant modifications to such existing activities
Information to, and participation of the public

• Adequate information to be given to the public in areas capable of being affected by an industrial accident arising out of a hazardous activity
• Public to be provided with opportunity to participate in relevant procedures on prevention and preparedness
• Opportunity to be given to the public of affected Party to be equivalent to the public of the Party of origin
• Access to justice
**Aim:** To assist countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to address the challenges in implementing the Convention.

High-level commitment declaration signed by Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan in 2005. Turkmenistan invited by Conference of the Parties in 2012 to join.
1. Analyze and examine the progress and identify shortcomings

2. Define national action plan and implement it

3. Assess the results

Benchmarks on the Implementation of the Convention / Indicators & Criteria

**Step 1 – Self-Assessment** of national mechanisms, identification of gaps

**Step 2 – Action plan** to eliminate gaps and improve mechanisms

→ Project proposals

**Step 3 – Evaluation of results achieved through the undertaken actions**
The Assistance Programme

8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (December 2014):

- Recognized the progress achieved during the 10 years of the Assistance Programme and the continuous need to provide further assistance to the countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

- Highlighted the need to enhance the exchange of experiences and good practices among beneficiary countries

- Encouraged beneficiary countries to increase their ownership of the Programme, among others, through the submission of self-assessments, action plans and project proposals
Thank you for your attention.

For more information please visit:
www.unece.org/env/teia