

**Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals**

**Sub-Committees of Experts
on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

Thirty-ninth session

Geneva, 20 – 24 June 2011

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Other business

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally
Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling
of Chemicals**

Twenty-first session

Geneva, 27–29 June 2011

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Other business

**RPMASA feedback and acknowledgements – March 2011
Transport of Dangerous Goods Conference and GHS
Training**

**Transmitted by the Responsible Packaging Management Association of
Southern Africa**

**I. RPMASA second International Conference – Producer
Responsibility a value chain approach to protect people and
the environment**

1. The RPMASA would like to thank all who contributed to the success of the Conference, in particular the following experts of the UN sub-committees:

Irfan Rahim of IMO, for expertly setting the scene with his keynote presentation
“Producer responsibility to minimise risk – most sea incidents start ashore!”

Chris Lind, ICPP – “Safe packaging- safe supply chain, compatibility is key”
Jurgen Bruder, ICPP – “Sustainable Plastic Packaging – myths, facts and
perspectives”

Volker Krampe, FEA and AISE – “Regulations for small quantities and consumer
dangerous goods”

Jonathan Krueger, UNITAR – “What is the GHS?”

ANTT, Brazilian Transport Agency for their Poster presentation – “Denials and
delays on ground transportation of radioactive materials in Brazil”

2. The Conference was well supported by the SA Transnet National Port Authority and Port Captains, SA Maritime Safety Authority, Civil Aviation Authority and Road Freight Association, with presentations by each organisation. The SA Marine Biology Research Unit hosted a dolphin show and tour through the Durban Aquarium prior to the Conference Dinner when they thanked all for our efforts to prevent pollution of our precious oceans and protection of marine life. Conference outcomes – raising awareness through excellent media coverage as well as the following resolutions made to progress to 2013:

We commit to:

(a) Promoting awareness of the transport of dangerous goods, and the safety and environmental issues involved.

(b) Ensuring only appropriately trained personnel work in the transport and handling of dangerous goods.

(c) Self-regulation using appropriate codes, standards and risk assessment methodologies, throughout the supply chain.

(d) Call on government agencies to commit to effective, and consistent enforcement of legislation and standards.

(e) All on the DOT to streamline the legislative and regulatory framework.

(f) We resolve to return to Durban for the next Conference in 2013 and look forward to being able to report significant progress.

3. The RPMASA invites input from Committee members re theme, topics for presentations, speakers and suitable dates for their next Conference planned for March or May 2013 (to be confirmed), and advice on dates to avoid of other international events already set?.

II. Orange House Partnership and UNITAR GHS Training

4. Mr. Herman Koeter of the Orange House Partnership (OHP), supported by Jonathan Krueger of UNITAR, led a team of Experts to run 2 x 2 day training courses, back to back with the Conference, one in Durban and the second in Gauteng. The two-days technical training and capacity building workshop was developed by the OHP experts with assistance and involvement of UNITAR, to address the fundamental concepts of hazard and risk assessment, and all aspects of the GHS, including a very brief history of its development.

Objective of the training:

- To introduce the GHS to business and government in the region, as a starting point to assist governments with a consistent approach to implementation of the GHS in Southern Africa.
- To familiarise technical representatives, and to train professionals from both the public and private sector in applying the GHS for the classification and labelling of substances and mixtures.

5. The courses were well attended by representatives from National, Provincial and Local government from the Depts Labour, Agriculture, Health and Environment as well as Industry representatives from a wide cross section of Industry, and Trade Associations.

6. 146 individuals attended the 2 courses and feedback was very positive, including requests for further training, as many (both government and Industry), had not realised what a large and complex issue the GHS is, nor the ramifications and potential differences of classification for the same material if not addressed in a consistent way.

7. The RPMASA would like to formally thank Mr. Herman Koeter, Mr. Helmut Fleig, Ms.Iona Pratt, Mr.Steven Vaughn, Ms. Paula Viapiana and Mr. Jonathan Krueger for giving their time to come and share their expert knowledge and enthusiasm with our Industry and Regulators, it is much appreciated.

8. It was acknowledged by all that this training is only the start of the GHS journey, and that, with the limited time available, it was not possible to do more than give an overview with a few practical examples to assist participants understanding of the classification process. We trust that through dialogue with our Regulators and Industry, the OHP Experts and UNITAR will return to continue the journey they have started in such an excellent way.