

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

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

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

### Capacity building

## Activities of the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and UNITAR/ILO/OECD WSSD GHS Partnership

### Transmitted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

1. This document provides an update regarding activities in the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and the WSSD GHS Partnership for the period December 2012-July 2013.

### UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

#### Country-based activities

2. The SAICM QSPTF supported GHS projects in Barbados, Gambia and Zambia are now completed. Final project reports and evaluations are being developed to be submitted to the SAICM Secretariat. Similar projects in the Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo continue during 2013.

3. Chile initiated the implementation of its GHS project, funded through the SAICM QSPTF, in April 2012. The planning and inception workshop was held back-to-back with a GHS training course in July 2012. The GHS training course developed by UNITAR was translated into Spanish and the materials are being used for additional training at the national level. Within the context of this project, the country is now working on the development of a National GHS Implementation Strategy, starting with a Situation analysis. A draft situation analysis was submitted in May 2013. The country is planning to start awareness-raising and training activities for industry and civil society in September 2013.

4. The agreements for the projects to strengthen capacities for implementation of SAICM and capacity building for GHS implementation approved for Bolivia, Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are in the process of final signature between UNITAR and the countries and activities are expected to start in the third quarter of 2013.

5. The national activities of the EU-funded project “*Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Implement the GHS in ASEAN — Phase II*”, involving China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand are now completed (see also para. 7). Final project reports and evaluations are being developed to be submitted to UNITAR and the

EU. The final outcomes of the project will be soon available at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/ASEANproject>.

### **Regional activities**

6. The project “*Evaluating and Strengthening National and Regional Capacities for Implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and Supporting SAICM Implementation in the Caribbean*” funded by the SAICM QSPTF is beginning in July 2013. It is expected to include the development of a sub-regional GHS capacity assessment for the region, as well as a regional GHS implementation strategy. In addition, a sub-regional conference is planned to be held in Jamaica during the last of August, 2013.

7. The “GHS Review Conference for Southeast Asia” took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 21-23 May 2013. The Conference involved approximately 80 participants from the 10 countries of SE Asia, as well as PR China and other interested stakeholders from the region; the objective was to share experiences and approaches to GHS implementation, take stock of progress to date, explore areas for collaboration and training, and develop joint and shared approaches to capacity building at the national and regional levels. The workshop was jointly organized through the collaboration of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of the Government of Malaysia, University of Kebangsaan Malaysia, UNITAR, and ILO with financial support from the Government of Switzerland and the European Union. Conference materials (including presentations) are available at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/node/220>.

8. As the final activity of the Federation of the Malaysian Consumers Associations (FOMCA) “*Regional campaign on chemical safety for consumers in the countries of South East Asia*”, an interactive webinar was held on 25 June 2013 for consumers’ associations focal points to introduce GHS as a key component of chemical safety for consumers (the webinar builds on the materials previously developed and translated into 7 languages of the region and widely distributed, including a brochure and media kit). The webinar was jointly conducted by UNITAR and the Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

9. A one-day GHS training workshop for the occupational safety and health sector took place on 20 May 2013, back to back with the “GHS Review Conference for SE Asia” (see para. 7 above). The workshop focussed on understanding the technical aspects of the GHS, in terms of how to use GHS classification and hazard communication elements, in particular in a workplace setting. The training provided detailed information on how to improve worker safety through application of the system, and provides the tools necessary to train workers, supervisors and companies on using the GHS as a foundation for improved chemical safety in the workplace.

### **Guidance, training and resource materials**

10. UNITAR is reviewing existing guidance materials with a view to updating them to correspond with Rev. 5 of the GHS.

11. The next round of the UNITAR GHS e-learning course (first given from 15 October to 30 November 2012) is now expected to take place in early 2014. The course materials will be updated to correspond with Rev. 5 of the GHS.

12. As part of an EU supported project to expand the *IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management*, UNITAR and ILO will develop a module for the GHS. The IOMC Internet based Toolbox for Decision-Making in Chemicals Management (IOMC Toolbox) is aimed at countries who wish to address specific national issues

regarding chemicals management (<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org>). The GHS module will be developed during 2014.

**Other matters**

13. UNITAR/ILO continue to greatly appreciate the efforts of the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) and the GHS Training Course Review Group for their time and expert inputs to our projects and activities.

**WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS**

14. UNITAR would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland, the European Union and the SAICM QSPTF for financial support to UNITAR/ILO implemented Partnership activities, including the Partnership Secretariat, national GHS implementation projects, and regional and global workshops. Other in-kind contributions, such as that from US OSHA, Health Canada, KemI, ECHA, and EPA New Zealand are also kindly acknowledged.

15. GHS capacity building activities organized by UNITAR/ILO continue to be funded by extra-budgetary resources. UNITAR/ILO welcome suggestions and proposals from the SCEGHS regarding how ensure sustainable funding to meet the continued demand for GHS capacity building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

16. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of this year.

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