

## 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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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 July to December 2013.

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

##### Country-based activities

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

3. Agreements for similar GHS projects in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala were signed during this period. National inception workshops took place in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in October 2013. The National Inception Workshop in Colombia is taking place 5 – 6 December 2013.

4. The agreement for the GHS project in Mexico is in the process of final signature between UNITAR and the country and activities are expected to start at the end of 2013.

5. In addition, UNITAR is executing six other QSPTF-supported projects with a GHS-related component (preparation of national GHS situation and gap analyses and support for GHS capacity building) in Cameroon, Madagascar, Togo, Benin, Mali, and Tunisia.

##### Regional activities

6. The agreement for 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 was signed in July 2013. A regional expert conducted a GHS Capacity Assessment for the region as part of the initial process in the development of the regional GHS implementation strategy. A sub-regional GHS workshop

and training for the Caribbean was held in Jamaica in the first week of September 2013. The training was conducted by UNITAR resource persons. A total of 32 participants from 13 different countries attended both the workshop and training. A draft regional implementation strategy has also been developed.

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

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

8. 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.

9. 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 that wish to address specific national issues regarding chemicals management (<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org>). The GHS module will be developed during 2014.

10. Between May and October 2013, the Responsible Packaging Management Association of Southern Africa (RPMASA) conducted six introductory GHS training sessions in South Africa using UNITAR/ILO materials. One of these workshops was conducted in partnership with the Durban Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Other matters**

11. 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**

12. 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.

13. 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.

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

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