

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 UNITAR/ILO/OECD WSSD GHS Partnership for the period December 2006 – July 2007.

UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

Country-based Activities

2. Cambodia and Laos completed their situation and gap analysis and comprehensibility testing. Based on the results of these activities, these countries have commenced the development of GHS implementing legislation and other activities for stakeholder engagement.
3. Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Thailand and The Gambia are in the final phase of their pilot projects to develop a national GHS implementation strategy. Senegal, the Gambia, and Nigeria have developed draft GHS implementing legislation. Further, Senegal and Nigeria have drafted resolutions of commitment to implement the GHS, and national GHS implementation strategies. Senegal held a National GHS Review Workshop, where these documents were presented and agreed.
4. With support of the Government of Switzerland, Uruguay will initiate national GHS awareness raising activities and undertake a capacity assessment for GHS implementation in the second half of 2007.

Regional Activities

5. The “GHS Conference for ASEAN: Toward 2008 and Beyond” was held 9-11 May 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and was organized in collaboration with the National Agency for Drug

and Food Control (NADFC) of Indonesia and the ASEAN Secretariat, with sponsorship from the Government of Switzerland, the European Union and OPCW. The LESTARI Institute of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia developed a draft Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for AEAN which was reviewed and agreed at the conference. More information is available at: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs12.html.

6. The GHS Capacity Building Workshop for Public Interest and Labour Organisations of the ASEAN Region was held 7-8 May in Jakarta, Indonesia and was organized in collaboration with the NADFC and Earth Council Asia-Pacific. As an outcome of the workshop, participants established the Southeast Asia Public Interest and Labour Organisation Chemical Network (SEApChemNet), which will serve as a network for information sharing in the region.
7. UNITAR continues to work with SADC to further support GHS implementation in the region as they develop a regional GHS standard through SADCSTAN (the Southern African Community Standardization body) and via support of a technical review meeting to discuss the draft regional standard later in 2007.
8. A regional GHS workshop for West Africa (ECOWAS) is planned for early 2008 hosted by Nigeria, in collaboration with WHO and the support of the Governments of Switzerland and Germany. Further details will be provided at the December session.
9. Support for regional workshops is still sought for Central America, the Caribbean, and a follow-up workshop for Mercosur and the Andean Community.

Guidance, Training and Resource Materials

10. The second edition of the GHS Capacity Building Library has been published and is available online at: www.unitar.org/cwg/publications/cbl/ghs_library/index.htm. The library is also available on CD-Rom from UNITAR.
11. UNITAR has developed drafts of GHS training courses (Course 1: General GHS Overview, Course 2: Classifying Chemicals According to the GHS, and Course 3: GHS Labels and SDSs), which will be reviewed at a special technical working group meeting on 13 July 2007.
12. UNITAR has published a draft GHS Capacity Building Reference Document for Public Interest and Labour Organisations which provides information on how stakeholder groups can be involved in the GHS implementation process.

WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS

13. UNITAR/ILO have published a draft report of the results of the survey of the status of activities for GHS implementation in non-OECD countries. This report serves to provide an overview of the status of GHS implementation and the needs and demand of countries for further GHS capacity building. The results indicate that demand for GHS capacity building assistance remains high – 96% of the 53 responding countries indicated interest in such support.

14. The second meeting of the WSSD Global GHS Partners will be held on 12 July 2007. For more information please visit: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs13.html.
 15. The participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) have agreed to develop a guide related to “IOMC: assisting countries with the transition phase for GHS implementation”, also in collaboration with UNECE. Further details will be provided at the December session.
 16. UNITAR would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland, the European Union and the OPCW for financial support to UNITAR/ILO implemented Partnership activities, including the Partnership Secretariat, national GHS implementation projects, and regional and global workshops.
 17. 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 growing demand for GHS capacity building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
 18. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of the next year.
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