

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

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(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-December 2011.

UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

Country-based activities

2. Jamaica has initiated development of sectoral GHS implementation plans and will undertake awareness raising for the private sector and public interest and labour organizations. Due to internal administrative reasons in Jamaica, completion of these activities, along with the preparation of the “road map” for GHS implementation, has been deferred to 2012.

3. Under the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPTF), Barbados undertook three main activities pursuant to the objectives of their GHS project. The country developed a situation and gap analysis with respect to hazard classification and communication. It also conducted a comprehensibility testing study based on the UNITAR’s “Manual for Comprehensibility Testing of the GHS” and the Comprehensibility Testing Questionnaire. In addition, the country is preparing an analysis of the legislative environment for hazard classification and communication in Barbados.

4. Gambia submitted its draft GHS National Implementation Strategy to UNITAR for comments in July 2011. The country is now working on the review of the document for high level endorsement at the national level. The country has conducted local training sessions for farmers on pesticides and also for civil society, with the development of awareness raising activities.

5. Zambia is preparing a GHS National Implementation Strategy. In addition, the Volume II of the national standard on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) was updated in line with the 16th revised edition of UNRTDG. The document has been forwarded to the Zambian Bureau of Standards for endorsement. Furthermore, several training sessions on the GHS for policy makers and technical experts involved in chemicals management from

the various sectors affected by GHS were conducted. Zambia has also developed several awareness raising materials (brochures, posters) and conducted awareness raising activities, including creation of a GHS webpage under the Zambia Environmental Management Agency's website and the participation to the National Radio Station "Phoenix" programme called "Environment and you", where the GHS was presented and explained to the audience.

6. The project "*Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in the Republic of Congo*" was initiated in July 2011. The project inception workshop was organized in Brazzaville on 17th October 2011, with the participation of the key government institutions, NGOs, academia and media. Congo is now working on the preparation of the situation and gap analysis report which will be part of their National GHS Implementation Strategy.

7. The projects to strengthen capacities for implementation of SAICM and capacity building for the GHS implementation approved for Latin America (Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, and Chile) will be initiated during the first quarter of 2012, in addition to a project approved for the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

8. Within the EU-funded project "*Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Implement the GHS in ASEAN — Phase II*", the following activities were conducted in 5 countries:

(a) China has prepared a draft report of the GHS situation and gap analysis which was integrated to the framework of the draft National GHS Implementation Strategy. The country has also set-up an inter-ministerial joint conference for the GHS implementation in China and held a meeting for contact persons of relevant Ministries. In addition, on 25th October 2005, a National Workshop for GHS, involving the members of the Inter-ministerial Coordinating Committee for GHS implementation in China, Industry and academia was organized. Furthermore, during the week of 7 to 11 November 2011, China held 2 training sessions on the GHS involving 327 participants from relevant central and local departments as well as the industry. The training was conducted by 4 trainers from UNITAR, Health Canada, ECHA, EPA New Zealand and USOSHA. The UNITAR/ILO/OHP GHS training package was pilot-tested during these training sessions. China is now working on the revision of the national standards for GHS implementation according to the 4th revised edition of the GHS Purple Book.

(b) Indonesia is working on the revision of the chemicals legislation to adapt it to the GHS. Several meetings, involving the Project Coordinating Committee members and the GHS taskforce members, were conducted during the last 6 months to discuss the amendment of the GHS legislation. Indonesia will start with the amendment of the Decree No. 87/2009 of the Ministry of Industry. The amendment includes a selection of Cut-Off value / Concentration Limits, the decision of Confidential Business Information (CBI) policy, the decision of Building Block policy and the decision of "Risk Hazard Communication" policy. Indonesia held 3 training sessions on the GHS from 3 to 7 October 2011, conducted by UNITAR/ILO and OHP. The trainings had the participation of 160 beneficiaries from Government, Industry and civil society. Indonesia is now preparing a training session for SMEs from 19 to 21 December 2011.

(c) In Malaysia, 2 training sessions on GHS were held on 26-27 & 28-29 September 2011. The training courses were jointly organized by National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Chemical Industries Council of Malaysia (CICM),

ILO/UNITAR and OHP. A GHS stakeholder's workshop was held on 30 September where issues related to chemicals management; particularly GHS has been discussed in the workshop. In addition, the GHS Implementation Roadmap for Malaysia (MyGHS Roadmap) was sent to the members of Project Coordinating Committee (PCC) and the members of GHS Technical Working Group (TWGGHS) for comments and suggestions. Amendments were incorporated in the MyGHS Roadmap and the MyGHS Roadmap (final version) was submitted to Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) in August 2011 for their further action.

(d) Philippines held three Consultation Workshops and Inter-Agency Meetings on the Draft DENR Department Administrative Order (DAO) or Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for GHS on industrial chemicals, to discuss the GHS building block and Guidance Document (as an Annex to the IRR) on 26 August, 14 October and 22 November 2011, respectively. In addition, the UNITAR/ILO/OHP GHS training was held in Manila from 12 to 16 September 2011. The training involved 214 participants from the relevant sectors involved in GHS. Furthermore, several GHS-related capacity building and awareness raising activities were conducted in Philippines, in cooperation with Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and Occupational Safety and Health Center, including chemical safety trainings, chemical hazard awareness raising workshops, radio and TV guesting, and posters and brochures.

(e) During the second half of 2012, Thailand made progress in the review of the national legislation on chemicals to adapt it to the GHS. The Department of Industrial Works (DIW) finalized the drafting of Ministry of Industry's Notification on System of Hazard Classification and Communication of Hazardous Substances and the attached Provision, based on the 3rd revised edition of the GHS (2009) and finished public consultation. The final draft of Ministry of Industry's Notification was approved by Hazardous Substance Committee on 3 August 2011. At present, the final draft Notification of the Ministry of Industry is in the process for the endorsement of Minister of Industry and further enforcement. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) finalized the drafting of Ministry of Public Health's Notifications for GHS implementation over hazardous substances and products for household or public health use. To provide the opportunity for the public and regulated business entities to participate in the legal development process, FDA held a public hearing on 22 June 2011 and sought written comments using the internet and questionnaires to related business entities during June–July 2011. FDA will carry out all the steps to bring the draft Notifications of Ministry of Public Health forward for the consideration of Hazardous Substance Committee and the final endorsement by Minister of Public Health. Moreover, a GHS Training Workshop was held from 20 to 23 September 2011 in Bangkok with the participation of 215 participants from governmental officials, academic and research institutes, business / industry associations in addition to labour, consumer, and civil society organizations, together with a large number of enterprises. The GHS workshop was jointly conducted by UNITAR/ILO and Orange House Partnership (OHP) in collaboration with Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Regional activities

9. The project "Evaluating and Strengthening National and Regional Capacities for Implementing the GHS and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Central and Eastern Europe", funded by SAICM QSPTF, started in September 2011. Within the framework of this project, Moldova will hold the Regional GHS Conference for CEE countries in May 2012 (tbc).

10. The QSPTF of SAICM has also approved, during Round 10, a project for a subregional conference for the Caribbean (to be hosted by Jamaica). 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” will support the development of a sub-regional GHS capacity assessment to enable the Caribbean to identify capacity needs for sound chemicals management and implementation. The project is expected to start in April 2012. The sub-regional conference is planned to be held in November 2012.

Guidance, training and resource materials

11. UNITAR has revised the guidance document on “*Linkages between the GHS and the other International Chemicals Conventions*”. The document will be distributed after final comments are received and posted on UNITAR’s website.

12. The UNITAR/ILO/OHP **Basic and Advanced Training Courses** were finalized during the summer and pilot tested in 4 ASEAN countries (Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia) and China (see para. 8 above). The materials consist of 5 PowerPoint presentation, a handout, and exercises. The training package, which has been developed by the PAG’s Training Course Review Group, has integrated the training materials already used by Orange House Partnership. The materials will now incorporate the feedback from the pilot countries as well as the comments of the trainers who have conducted the trainings in Asia. It will then be made available for the use of countries. The next step for UNITAR is to adapt this training package into an e-learning course during the first quarter of next year.

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, the SAICM QSPTF, and the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication 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, ECHA, OHP, 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 growing 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.