

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 4 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the GHS: Cooperation with other bodies
or international organizations**

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Chemical Dialogue activities on exchange of data on chemical substances

**Transmitted by the Russian Federation on behalf of APEC Chemical
Dialogue**

Introduction

1. The APEC Chemical Dialogue (CD) serves as a forum for governments and industry representatives to find solutions to challenges facing the chemical industry and users of chemicals in the Asia-Pacific region. The CD reflects APEC members' recognition of the importance of engaging with the private sector and building public-private sector dialogue and cooperation for mutual benefit. For more information on the CD, see the following web-link: <http://www.apec.org/Groups/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment/Chemical-Dialogue.aspx>.
2. The CD is active in promoting implementation of the GHS by APEC member economies. Over the years the CD has conducted numerous workshops to provide economies with information on the GHS and to build capacity to facilitate its adoption.
3. On 21 May 2012, a CD Workshop on the Concept of Data Exchange on Chemical Products and Chemical Substances Hazardous Properties took place. Thirteen speakers from six economies made presentations on international and regional information resources on chemical hazardous properties, including reports of similar activities within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
4. Outcomes of the Workshop include recognition that there are a great number of information resources on chemical safety and the importance of focusing on analysing available resources in terms of data on properties of substances, including an assessment of the reliability and the quality of these resources, in part, for classification and labelling purposes.
5. At the workshop the work of the UNSCEGHS on the development of principles for the creation of a global list of classified chemicals was also noticed. Workshop participants have highlighted the importance of the on-going work in this area.
6. The CD expresses its interest in closer cooperation between the CD and UNSCEGHS and other international fora on data resources that could serve as a basis for the classification and labelling of substances.

Next steps

7. In the APEC CD a virtual working group (VWG) will be established in order to progress on the harmonisation of data on the hazardous properties of substances, the assessment of data reliability and quality for classification and labelling purposes, and the continuation of information sharing activities. Representatives from the United States of America National Library of Medicine and the OECD have already expressed their willingness to participate in the activities of the VWG. All interested parties are welcome to take part in the work of the VWG.

8. A Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Workshop on the Concept of Data Exchange on Chemicals Hazardous Properties will be held in September, 2012, in Kazan, Russia. All stakeholders are welcomed at this event.
