

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)

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

UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

Country-based activities

1. Barbados, which project is funded through the SAICM QSPTF, continue to implement the activities related to its GHS Project. The country is in the process of revising the existing legislation to adapt it to the GHS. In addition, several awareness raising activities were conducted, including development of brochures and posters, text in the Barbadian Environmental Protection Department newsletter and preparation of a website dedicated to GHS. It is expected that the first National Implementation Strategy draft be submitted to UNITAR by end of July 2012.
2. During the period January-June 2012, Gambia has conducted several training and supporting activities for civil society and industry. The final project review workshop will be held in the second half of 2012 and will complete the project activities.
3. Zambia has finalized and submitted the Volume II of the national standard on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG), updated in line with the 16th revised edition of UNRTDG. Furthermore, several training sessions and awareness raising activities on the GHS were conducted. The country is now finalizing its National GHS implementation Strategy and will hold the final project review workshop in the second half of 2012.
4. The Republic of Congo continues to implement the activities of its project “*Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in the Republic of Congo*” funded by SAICM QSPTF. The country has undertaken the first steps toward the preparation of its National GHS Implementation Strategy, including the recruitment of the consultants who will work on the preparation of the situation and gap analysis as well as the legal sectoral implementation plan. In addition, the country has conducted several awareness raising workshops in different regions of the country.

5. The projects to strengthen capacities for implementation of SAICM and capacity building for the GHS implementation approved for Chile and the Democratic Republic of Congo were initiated. Chile will hold its inception workshop in July 2012. Additional approved projects under the SAICM QSPTF involving Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are expected to start in the second half of 2012.

6. The project “*Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Implement the GHS in ASEAN — Phase II*”, supported by the EU, enters now its final phase and the involved countries (China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand) will complete their national training and GHS implementation activities. More specifically, training activities for industry and civil society, based on the training provided by UNITAR, were conducted in the 5 countries. In addition, awareness raising materials were developed and distributed and the draft chemicals legislation was published in Thailand for the 4 sectors affected by the GHS, while it is under preparation for the 4 other countries. More information will be made available here: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/ASEANproject>.

Regional activities

7. The “*GHS Training Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe*” will take place in Chisinau, Moldova from 17-19 July 2012. It is expected to have the participation of about 60 participants from the countries of the region, including government officials, business and industry, and public interest and labour organization representatives involved in sectors affected by the GHS. The purpose of the workshop will be to discuss experiences with GHS implementation in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and consider concrete issues related to GHS implementation in the region. The workshop will be organized through the collaboration of the Ministry of Environment of Moldova, UNITAR, ILO, and KemI, with financial support from the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. The meeting documents, including the draft regional GHS assessment, will be available on UNITAR’s website.

8. 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 will begin during the second half of 2012. It is expected to have 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 early next year.

9. The final “Regional Review Workshop for ASEAN”, part of the regional activities under the project “*Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Implement the GHS in ASEAN — Phase II*” will be held from 15 to 17 October 2012 in Kuala Lumpur. The conference aims to allow the participating countries to share experience and approaches to GHS implementation, take stock of progress made upon the recommendations of the “*GHS Stocktaking Workshop for Southeast, East and Central Asia*” held in Beijing in September 2010, discuss how GHS Implementation is improving the foundation for chemical safety in ASEAN countries, in addition to on-going developments related to GHS implementation with regional trading partners.

10. UNITAR and the Federation of the Malaysian Consumers Associations (FOMCA) are working on the preparation of a regional campaign on chemical safety for the countries of South East Asia. The campaign will include, *inter alia*, the preparation of a brochure, the development of a media kit, training on GHS for the consumers Focal Points from the region, as well as the creation of an information webpage on chemicals safety.

11. UNITAR and the ASEAN OSHNET Secretariat will organize a 1-day GHS training workshop for OSH back to back with the 4th Conference of Asian Occupational Safety and

Health Research Institutions, from September 2-4, 2012 in Malaysia. Further information will be provided during the next session of the SCEGHS.

Guidance, training and resource materials

12. The UNITAR/ILO/OHP Advanced Training Course was finalized based on the comments of the pilot testing workshops conducted in Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and China. The final report of those workshops is now available on the OHP and UNITAR websites at: <http://www.orangeohouse.eu/>; <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/pag/pag-18>. UNITAR is now working on the adaptation of the materials into an e-learning course.

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. The GHS Partnership was involved at 2 events and launched a special 10-year anniversary publication at Rio +20, with the support of Switzerland and the EU. On Thursday, 14 June 2012, over 40 participants gathered in the EU Pavilion for an event on “The GHS and the Global Partnership, a Success Story from Rio to Rio: Achievements, Lessons Learned and Future Directions.” The event provided the opportunity to take stock of progress to date, as well as identify continuing needs for the future of the GHS Partnership. The special 10-year Partnership publication was also launched on the same day. For more information (and the publication), please visit: <http://www.unitar.org/ghs-and-global-partnership-success-story-rio-rio>. Immediately following this event was a national GHS workshop for the Brazilian stakeholders.

15. On 22 June 2012, The Partnerships Forum session on “Partnerships Contributing to the Future We Want”, considered forward-looking reflections, existing practices and concrete guidance regarding how partnerships can be best positioned to catalyze sustainable development action. One of the selected partnerships featured in the Forum was the UNITAR/ILO/OECD-supported “WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals” (GHS). For more information on this event, please see: <http://www.unitar.org/partnerships-contributing-future-we-want-labeling-chemicals-rio20>.

16. 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, ECHA, OHP, and EPA New Zealand are also kindly acknowledged.

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 this year.