

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 2012.

UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

Country-based activities

2. Barbados is finalizing the activities of its GHS project, funded by the SAICM QSPTF. The final National GHS Implementation Strategy workshop was held on 12-13 November 2012. The workshop was the opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the action plan and prioritize strategies for GHS implementation in Barbados. In addition, several awareness raising activities were conducted, including the development of TV advertisements on GHS and the pictograms. The Environmental Protection Department, jointly with the Ministries of Labour and Agriculture in Barbados will host workshops to raise awareness about pesticides, safety and occupational health and the GHS. Additional GHS trainings, including an advanced GHS training course, will be conducted early in 2013.

3. The GHS project in Gambia, funded through the SAICM QSPTF, is now ending. The National GHS Implementation Strategy was finalized and will be endorsed during the final project review workshop, which is planned for the first week of January 2013.

4. The GHS Project in Zambia is at its final stage of implementation. The National GHS Implementation Strategy was finalized and submitted to UNITAR and local partners for comments and endorsement. In addition, several supporting activities for industry and civil society were conducted at the national level. The final national workshop will be held early in January to wrap up the project and endorse the National GHS Implementation Strategy.

5. 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's QSPTF. The country has

submitted a first draft of its Situation and Gap Analysis, part of the National GHS Implementation Strategy being developed by the country. In addition, several awareness raising activities were conducted at the national level. A training workshop on the GHS was held on 5-6 November 2012 in Brazzaville. The workshop brought together 37 participants from government, industry, civil society, and academia representing the sectors related to the GHS, as well as a resource person from UNITAR. The 2-day training workshop was the opportunity for participants to get to know more about the GHS, its objectives and scope of application, as well as hazard communication and the use of Safety Data Sheets. The event was hosted by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of the Republic of Congo.

6. A GHS project Inception Workshop was held in Kinshasa on 8-9 November 2012 to launch the project “*Strengthening National Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in the Democratic Republic of Congo*”, funded by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. The event focused on planning for a number of project activities including: Establishment of a Project Coordinating Committee, development of a GHS National Implementation Strategy, provision of training on the GHS, as well as awareness raising and supporting activities on the GHS and the organization of a National GHS Workshop for the project stakeholders. The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

7. Chile has initiated the implementation of its GHS project, funded through the SAICM QSPTF, in April 2012. The planning and inception workshop was held back-to-back with a GHS training course in July 2012. The GHS training course developed by UNITAR was translated into Spanish and the materials are being used for additional training at the national level. Within the context of this project, the country is now working on the development of a National GHS Implementation Strategy. In addition, awareness raising activities as well as specific training for industry will be conducted.

8. The agreements for the projects to strengthen capacities for implementation of SAICM and capacity building for GHS implementation approved for Bolivia, Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are in the process of signature between UNITAR and the countries; and activities are expected to start early in 2013.

9. The national activities of the EU-funded project “*Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Implement the GHS in ASEAN — Phase II*”, involving China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand will soon be completed by. The 5 countries have conducted several GHS trainings during 2012 based on the initial training provided by UNITAR/ILO/OHP in 2011. The materials have been translated into Chinese, Thai and Bahasa. The new legislation adapted to the GHS was endorsed or is under endorsement process in the participating countries. Awareness raising activities, including the development of brochures and posters were developed. In Thailand, the Food and Drug Administration has developed a web-based learning tool in order to facilitate self-learning of children and young adults regarding GHS and chemical safety. The web-based tool could be found at the following link: <http://ipc.fda.moph.go.th/csnetNEW/acad.php?group=GHSacad>. The content is divided in 4 levels: primary school, secondary school, vocational college and university students. The final outcomes of the project will be soon available at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/ASEANproject>.

Regional activities

10. From 17–19 July 2012, a “*GHS Training Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe*” was held in Chisinau, Moldova. The workshop was organized through the collaboration of the Ministry of Environment of Moldova and the Environmental Pollution Prevention Office. This workshop is part of 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 *Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)*” funded by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. The workshop involved about 60 participants from 14 countries of the region, representing government, relevant industry and public interest groups, IGOs and research bodies, as well as experts from KEMI and ECHA. As part of the project, an assessment on GHS implementation status in the region was developed. Moreover, based on the feedback from the Regional Workshop, a regional GHS Strategy for Central and Eastern Europe will be soon finalized and distributed. Additional information could be found on UNITAR’s webpage dedicated to the project: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/2012>.

11. 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 in early 2013. 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 in April 2013.

12. As part of the regional activities under the project “*Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Implement the GHS in ASEAN — Phase II*”, funded by the European Union, a “Regional Review Workshop for ASEAN” is planned during the first half of 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 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 the on-going developments related to GHS implementation with regional trading partners and next steps for GHS implementation within the region.

13. The Federation of the Malaysian Consumers Associations (FOMCA) and UNITAR have developed a “*Regional campaign on chemical safety for consumers in the countries of South East Asia*”. In this context, a brochure was developed and translated into 7 languages of the region and widely distributed. A media kit was also developed and a webpage on chemicals safety created under the FOMCA website: <http://www.fomca.org.my/v2/#>. In addition, a series of webinars will be conducted early in 2013 for consumer’s association’s focal points from the region. The webinars will be jointly conducted by UNITAR and the **Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia**.

14. UNITAR and the ASEAN OSHNET Secretariat are planning to organize a 1-day GHS training workshop for OSH back to back with the “*GHS Review Conference for ASEAN*” to be held in 2013 in Malaysia. Additional national trainings for OSH will be held in the region through the OSHNET Focal Points. The GHS training course developed by UNITAR was adapted to an OSH audience and will be used for these trainings.

Guidance, training and resource materials

15. The document on “*Understanding the GHS: A Companion Guide to the Purple Book*” has been updated based on Rev.4 of the GHS . The French, Russian and Spanish translations of the Guide (already existing for the 2010 Edition) will soon be made available.

16. The UNITAR/ILO/OHP **GHS training materials**, finalized during the first half of 2012, were adapted into an e-learning course. The course, using the UNITAR e-learning platform, ran from 15 October to 30 November 2012 and had 18 participants mainly from the private sector. The course was moderated by 2 tutors, asynchronous, and placed emphasis on online discussions and self-paced learning. The course pedagogy was adapted to professionals in full-time work (the participants were primarily responsible for their own

learning over the seven-week span of the course). Through 4 distinct modules, the course included: compulsory and optional reading material intended to teach key concepts and principles, practical exercises, quizzes and case studies; a moderated community discussion board was also made available for participants to post questions or comments. The second round for this e-learning course is anticipated to run during the first quarter of 2013.

Other matters

17. 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

18. 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.

19. 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.

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