

WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Annual Report 2006



About WSSD Partnerships for Sustainable Development



Partnerships for sustainable development aimed at implementing Agenda 21 are an important outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. At the Summit, governments agreed on a series of commitments in five priority areas backed up by specific government announcements on programmes, and by Partnership initiatives. It is important to continue to build on the momentum created by the WSSD, since Partnership initiatives can contribute significantly to the implementation of sustainable development at all levels.

Additional information about Partnerships can be found at:
<www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm>.

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A Message from the Founding Partners

With the 2008 target date for GHS implementation approaching, momentum is mounting for countries and regions to take action. 2006 marked one of the busiest years for the Partnership for new and completed activities in relation to GHS implementation and capacity building. Eight pilot project countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nigeria, Senegal, Thailand, the Gambia and the Philippines) held national GHS workshops in order to continue the development of their national GHS implementation strategies, including mechanisms for integrating GHS into legislation. Regional GHS Workshops were held for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and for Arab Countries, while GHS side-events were held at a number of international chemicals meetings, including at ICCM-1 and IFCS Forum V. Details about these and other exciting developments are included in this 2006 Annual Report, the fifth published since the initiation of the Partnership in 2002.

Countries are increasingly considering the links between chemical safety and management, international chemicals agreements and the GHS. As such, it is more important than ever for countries and regions to include GHS capacity building and implementation into their overall strategies for sound chemicals management. But this work needs to be sustained through funding and support. The year 2007 marks a critical period for the WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS. The 2nd Meeting of the Partners of the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*, is scheduled to take place on 12 July 2007 in Geneva. Since the Partnership was founded in 2002 it has facilitated, through the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme, international, regional and national activities in support of the GHS. The Meeting of Partners on 12 July will take stock of progress made regarding GHS capacity building worldwide and identify opportunities for further capacity building in the coming years.

UNITAR, ILO and OECD appreciate and would like to acknowledge the core contributions of the Government of Switzerland and the European Union in 2006. Equally important, we would like to thank the members of the Programme Advisory Group of the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme* who have provided continued technical and advisory support. Other governments and major groups are invited to join the Partnership and support core activities in 2007-2008 in order to meet the continued growing interest and commitment for GHS capacity building in developing and transition countries.

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Selected Partnership Highlights 2006

- Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Arab countries held 30 October – 2 November 2006 in Alexandria, Egypt
- Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia held 24-25 October 2006 in Bled, Slovenia.
- Pilot projects initiated in Cambodia and Laos, and comprehensibility testing training completed.
- National GHS Workshops held in Cambodia, the Gambia, Indonesia, Laos, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, and Thailand.
- Roster of GHS Experts updated to searchable online version.
- GHS side-event at ICCM-1 held 5 February in Dubai, UAE.

1. The WSSD Global GHS Partnership

The GHS

Communicating hazards of dangerous chemicals to workers and the public is a key foundation for protecting human health and the environment.

Communicating the hazards of dangerous chemicals to workers and the public is a key foundation for protecting human health and the environment. As a major break-through in this area, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) was adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (SCEGHS) in December 2002 and endorsed by ECOSOC in July 2003. The GHS has the ultimate goal of ensuring that information on chemical hazards (such as on labels and safety data sheets) is made available to workers and consumers in a harmonized and comprehensible format in countries around the world.¹

Internationally, chemical safety, including hazard communication and GHS implementation, is one of the issues that received specific attention at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It was agreed to “encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008”. This target had also been adopted by the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in 2000. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), adopted in 2006, also includes significant activities related to the GHS (see text box on page 5). The GHS is the major international tool for effective chemical classification and hazard communication.

UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme

The UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme supports national and regional GHS capacity building activities, and develops and pilots training materials.

Early feedback from developing countries documented that widespread adoption of the GHS and effective chemical hazard communication requires that adequate support, training and technical assistance be made available to committed countries in need of building appropriate GHS-relevant legal and technical infrastructures.

In response to growing requests from countries for GHS capacity building, UNITAR and ILO initiated in 2001 the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Training and Capacity Building Programme*. The Programme aims at assisting countries and regions to build capacities for the implementation of the GHS by forming pilot project partnerships, and providing guidance documents, training materials, expert training and educational, awareness-raising and

¹ Further information about the GHS can be found in Annex 1.

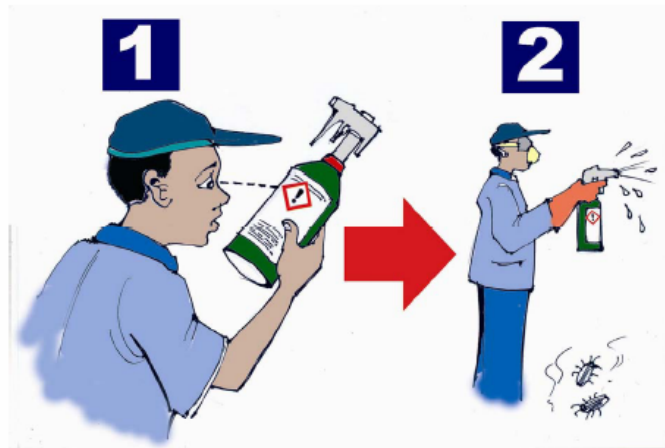
resource materials regarding the new system. Details regarding 2006 progress are found throughout this Annual Report and can also be found at the UNITAR/ILO Programme website at: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/index.html.

Initiation of the WSSD GHS Partnership by UNITAR, ILO and OECD

Over 25 governments, international organizations and NGOs responded with strong interest to participate in the Partnership.

In April 2002, UNITAR and ILO, in collaboration with OECD, initiated the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS* as a way to mobilize resources and implement a number of specific support activities to strengthen capacities at all levels and sectors – in particular in developing and transition countries – towards implementing the GHS in sectors such as industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products. Today, the Partnership is comprised of over 25 governments, international organizations, business and industry groups, and public interest and labour organizations, and continues to grow. Any parties interested in joining the Partnership are welcome to contact UNITAR.² The Partnership website is: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs_partnership/index.htm.

The GHS is an important tool for promoting chemical safety



Excerpt from an Consumer Awareness Raising Brochure from Senegal

² Further information on the history of the GHS Partnership can be found in Annex 2. Information on other international bodies and initiatives relevant to the GHS can be found in Annex 3.

The GHS and International Chemicals Agreements

GHS and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

SAICM provides further international recognition of the need to include GHS capacity building and implementation into overall chemicals management strategies and national SAICM implementation programmes. The importance of implementing the GHS is recognised in the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) of SAICM where GHS implementation is identified under the overall objective of *knowledge and information*. The GHS is also included as a SAICM work area in the Global Plan of Action (GPA).

GHS and the Rotterdam Convention

The Rotterdam Convention refers to a “desir[e] to ensure that hazardous chemicals that are exported from their territory are packaged and labelled in a manner that is adequately protective of human health and the environment” (Preamble). Article 13 requires that chemicals listed in Annex III, when exported, are subject to labelling requirements that ensure adequate availability of information with regard to risks and/or hazards to human health or the environment, taking into account relevant international standards. Also Parties shall require that chemicals to be used for occupational purposes have a safety data sheet that follows an internationally recognized format, setting out the most up-to-date information available. The information on the label and on the safety data sheet should, as far as practicable, be given in one or more of the official languages of the importing Party.

GHS and the Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm POPs Convention underlines “the importance of manufacturers of persistent organic pollutants [to take] responsibility for reducing adverse effects caused by their products and for providing information to users, governments and the public on the hazardous properties of those chemicals, (preamble)”. In Article 10 on “Public information, awareness and education”, the Convention encourages parties to use safety data sheets, reports, mass media and other means of communication.

GHS and the Basel Convention

A Basel Convention-UN SCEGHS Joint Correspondence Group has been working towards harmonization of hazard classification systems and to improve consistency at the international level on the use of classification systems for wastes and chemicals. Use of the GHS can help to define hazardous characteristics of wastes under the Basel Convention while satisfying the needs of both international instruments.



The GHS can serve as an important tool for meeting the obligations of international chemicals conventions and agreements.

2. Partnership Objectives and Framework Workplan

Goal and Objectives

The WSSD GHS Partnership strives to mobilize support and catalyze partnerships for capacity building activities at the global, regional and national levels.

The goal of the WSSD GHS Partnership is to mobilize support and catalyze partnerships for coordinated activities at the global, regional and national levels to strengthen capacities in developing countries and countries in transition towards effective implementation of the GHS. In the medium and long-term, the Partnership is expected to lead to a decrease in environmental and human health related effects attributable to the use of hazardous chemicals. It thus makes a direct contribution to important objectives of sustainable development including protection of marginalized groups, protection of water supplies and drinking water, poverty eradication and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Specific objectives of the Partnership include mobilization of resources for:

- awareness raising and capacity development for GHS implementation at the regional level;
- awareness raising and capacity development for GHS implementation at the national level; and
- development of GHS guidance, training and resource material.

Partnership Programme Areas and Activities

To be recognized as a contribution to the Partnership, an activity should fall within any of the following four Programme Areas and make a significant contribution towards achieving Partnership indicators. The Partnership's programme areas are:

- (1) GHS Capacity Development at the Regional Level
- (2) GHS Capacity Development at the National Level
- (3) Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Capacity Building Guidance and Training Materials
- (4) Supporting Activities and Services for GHS Capacity Development

Projects and activities executed through the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme are directly linked to the above Programme Areas and constitute a core contribution to the Partnership. Other Partnership activities can be implemented directly by Partners, working in close collaboration with the UNITAR/ILO Programme and its Programme Advisory Group. See text box below.

What Constitutes a Core GHS Partnership Activity?

The GHS Partnership attempts to mobilize support for a number of agreed activities. Activities constitute a contribution to the GHS Partnership if they fall within the programme areas, as agreed at the first Meeting of the Partners. Activities are either implemented through the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme or directly by Partners. In all cases, activities are co-ordinated through, and technically reviewed by, the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Programme. Not all core Partnership activities are therefore executed by UNITAR/ILO. Countries and organizations may also execute Partnership activities independently, if the activity contributes to one of the Partnership indicators and is coordinated through the PAG. It is also recognized that many other valuable GHS capacity development activities are organized independently of the WSSD GHS Partnership. Those activities do not belong to the core program of the Partnership, but are presented in a special section of the annual reports for the Partnership.

Partnership Indicators

At the first Meeting of the Partners in July 2003, Partners discussed proposed time-bound targets for the Partnership. However, in light of the uncertainty for funding beyond 2003, it was agreed that targets should be replaced by more general indicators against which progress could be evaluated.

The recommended indicators are the following:

- Number of Regional GHS Awareness Raising Workshops organized in major regions.
- Number of Regional GHS capacity assessments and implementation strategies prepared.
- Number of Regional partner organizations identified.
- Number of Country-based pilot projects on GHS Action Plan Development completed in each UN region, including: awareness raising workshop, situation analysis, action plan development and implementing legislation.
- National GHS Action Plan projects initiated in the greatest possible number of countries.
- GHS and hazard communication awareness raising materials prepared, peer-reviewed and widely disseminated.
- GHS capacity building guidance and training materials prepared, peer-reviewed and pilot tested.

It is expected that progress toward achieving these indicators will be reviewed at the Second Meeting of the Partners in July 2007. (See section 8 for further information.)

2006 Financial and In-kind Contributions to the WSSD GHS Partnership

UNITAR/ILO/OECD would like to thank the following countries and organizations for their contributions to the Partnership in 2006:

A. Support of Partnership Coordination and Secretariat

<u>Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)</u>	USD 76,000.00
<u>Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)</u>	USD 10,000.00

B. 2006 Financial Support to Core Partnership Activities Implemented through the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme

<u>Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)</u>	
National GHS capacity building project in Uruguay, 2007	USD 62,000.00
Regional GHS Awareness Raising and Training Workshop in 2007	USD 124,000.00
<u>European Commission (EC)</u>	USD 285,000.00
Development of Regional GHS Implementation Strategy in ASEAN, 2005-2007	
National GHS capacity building projects in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, 2005-2007	

C. In-kind Financial Contributions in 2006 to Core Partnership Activities

UNITAR would like to recognise in-kind contributions from partners which generally included provision of expertise for workshops and trainings, and support and facilitation of meetings and events: the Government of Australia and the Japan Chemical Industry Association.

*Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

3. GHS Capacity Development at the Regional Level – Programme Area 1

Countries within regions often share similar needs and approaches towards chemical hazard communication. Also, regional economic cooperation or free trade initiatives increasingly include environmental, labour and health related issues. This programme area includes activities such as regional GHS awareness raising workshops, regional capacity assessments and the facilitation of regional GHS implementation strategies.

Initial indicators for this Programme Area include the following:

- Number of Regional GHS Awareness Raising Workshops organized in major regions.
- Number of Regional GHS capacity assessments and implementation strategies prepared.
- Number of Regional partner organizations identified.

2006 Activities and Progress Made

Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia

The Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe discussed, among other topics, the implications of regional trade between EU and non-EU countries.

The Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia took place from 24-25 October 2006 in Bled, Slovenia. The workshop brought together 94 representatives from 17 countries, as well as representatives of international organizations, business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations. The event was the fourth in a series of regional and sub-regional GHS workshops that are coordinated and supported through the UNITAR/ILO *Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*.³ The workshop was organized through the collaboration of the Government of Slovenia, UNITAR and ILO, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the Institution Building unit of Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission (TAIEX).

³ The first UNITAR/ILO Subregional GHS workshop was held for countries of SADC (Southern African Development Community) in September 2003, the second was held for countries of Mercosur and the Andean Community in November-December 2004 and the third was held for countries of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) in October 2005.

Through a series of working groups and plenary sessions, the workshop discussed issues related to GHS implementation in the region, including the implications of GHS implementation among EU and non-EU countries. For non-EU countries of the region, it was recommended that two regional subdivisions be established for coordinating GHS implementation activities, one for Balkan states and one for former NIS countries. It was also concluded that countries of the region should continue to coordinate and communicate on GHS implementation, including leading roles for EU member countries.

Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Arab Countries

The Regional GHS Workshop for Arab Countries recommended establishing regional networks to enhance cooperation on GHS implementation.

The Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Arab countries took place in Alexandria, Egypt from 30 October – 2 November 2006. The workshop brought together 58 representatives from 19 countries of the Arab region, as well as representatives of international organizations, business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations. The event represents the fifth in a series of regional and sub-regional GHS workshops that are coordinated and supported through the UNITAR/ILO *Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*. The workshop was organized through the collaboration of the Government of the Egypt, UNITAR and ILO, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland.

The workshop concluded that there is a strong need for further capacity building in chemicals management in the region. Through a series of working groups and plenary sessions, the workshop developed recommendations for action towards GHS implementation at the national and regional levels in the Arab region. Participants recommended the establishment of a regional network on chemicals management and GHS implementation, including the involvement of the League of Arab States, the Basel Regional Center, or other existing regional organizations. Workshop documentation and the conclusions may be found here: <http://www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs10.html>.

Regional GHS Capacity Assessment for ASEAN

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Regional Workshop for Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of ASEAN in October 2005, the LESTARI Institute of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), in collaboration with UNITAR, developed a Regional GHS Capacity Assessment for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which provides information on the existing regional infrastructure within ASEAN related to chemical hazard communication, including

details on working groups and other relevant bodies within the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as other existing organisations at the regional and national levels. Through surveys of relevant contact points in each of the countries, the report also includes information on the status of GHS implementation and chemicals management in the 10 countries of ASEAN. The information included in this report will be used to inform efforts for targeted capacity building to integrate the GHS into the work areas of the ASEAN Secretariat and to facilitate the completion of a Regional GHS Implementation Strategy in 2007. The assessment can be found at:

www.unitar.org/cwg/publications/cw/ghs/GHS_Assessment_ASEAN_Final_Report.pdf.

ASEAN OSHNET GHS Workshop

As a contribution to the development of a regional GHS implementation strategy in ASEAN, UNITAR co-sponsored the *ASEAN OSHNET GHS Workshop* which took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 6-8 March 2006 and was attended by 52 representatives from the ASEAN countries. The focus of the workshop was to develop an ASEAN regional GHS standard for the occupational safety and health sector (workplace), the result of which was a draft set of “ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and SDSs” (based on the GHS). This effort contributes to regional GHS implementation in the workplace sector.

Plans for 2007-2008

There are a number of key activities planned for 2007-2008 that build upon ongoing projects for regional GHS implementation.

SADC

Previous regions engaged in GHS capacity building will continue progress towards implementing the GHS.

Using the recently developed South African standard for GHS as a basis, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Standardisation body (SADCSTAN), will work to develop a standard for regional application of GHS for the 14 countries of SADC. UNITAR/ILO, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland, plans to support this development by assisting organization of a regional technical review meeting in 2007.

ASEAN

In order to increase the involvement of public interest and labour organizations in the GHS implementation process, a regional workshop for NGOs in the ASEAN region is planned for 7-8 May

2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia. It is expected that the workshop will discuss the results of a regional NGO assessment conducted by Earth Council Asia-Pacific in collaboration with UNITAR/ILO, and consider modalities for a regional network for information sharing on the GHS and chemical safety.

In addition, UNITAR and ILO, in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Government of Indonesia and with financial support from the European Union, the Government of Switzerland and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), will hold a “GHS Conference for ASEAN: Towards 2008 and Beyond”, 9-11 May 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The conference will include participants from all 10 ASEAN countries, as well as representatives from business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations. It is expected that workshop participants will review the progress made and agree on a regional GHS implementation roadmap and resolution. Building on past and ongoing activities, this document will provide a framework for GHS implementation towards 2008 and beyond.

Outstanding Requests for Regional Workshops

A number of regions formally requested support for regional workshops in 2006. The Partnership seeks to secure funding to meet this demand in 2007 and beyond.

While a number of regional strategies and workshops have been held since 2004, several geographic regions are requesting support for regional approaches to GHS implementation. For 2007-2009, UNITAR/ILO have received (to date) requests for regional capacity building activities from the following:

West Africa (ECOWAS)

With support of the Government of Switzerland, Senegal, Nigeria and The Gambia developed national GHS implementation strategies during 2005-2006. All three countries have strongly indicated the necessity and value of a regional workshop to also engage trading partners and other regional stakeholders. The Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Environment, has informally indicated its interest and capacity to host a regional workshop.

Central America (Central American Commission on Environment and Development, CCAD)

In January 2007, the Central American Council of Environment Ministers, composed of Environment Ministries from all Central American countries and Dominican Republic, adopted an agreement reiterating their commitment to achieve the 2020 Johannesburg goal (and restated at Dubai, ICCM, 2006). The agreement further asks the CCAD Executive Secretariat to

coordinate with UNITAR/ILO to strengthen national and regional capacities with the objective of implementing the GHS in Central America.

The Caribbean (CARICOM)

The Government of Barbados, through the Ministry of Energy and the Environment, has indicated interest in potentially hosting a sub-regional workshop for the Caribbean countries. Through development of its Integrated National Programme for Chemicals Management, Jamaica has also indicated that GHS implementation is a priority activity.

South America (Mercosur and the Andean Community)

In South America, the Governments of Brazil and Uruguay have indicated their support for a workshop in this region, and the Government of Argentina has informally indicated its interest and capacity to host this event. The workshop would be a follow-up to the successful regional workshop held in Brazil in 2004. The workshop would examine progress to date since the last workshop and challenges faced in regional and national GHS implementation.

Countries and organizations that are interested in sponsoring such activities, or that may be in a position to support the organization of additional regional workshops through the UNITAR/ILO programme, are encouraged to contact UNITAR.

4. GHS Capacity Development at the Country Level – Programme Area 2

GHS pilot projects provide important feedback to the international community regarding opportunities and challenges to implement the GHS in developing and transition countries

Country-based GHS capacity building projects serve to catalyse national GHS implementation through multi-stakeholder and multi-sector collaboration. They also provide a testing ground to review drafts of GHS-related guidance and training materials. The results of national GHS activities provide important feedback to the international community regarding opportunities and challenges associated with GHS implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Activities in this programme area include support of national GHS awareness raising workshops, GHS situation and gap analysis and national GHS implementation strategy development involving government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations.

Initial indicators for this Programme Area include the following:

- Number of Country-based pilot projects on GHS Action Plan Development completed in each UN region, including: awareness raising workshop, situation analysis, action plan development and implementing legislation.
- National GHS Action Plan projects initiated in the greatest possible number of countries.

2006 Activities and Progress Made

Through contributions to the global UNITAR/ILO trust fund for GHS capacity building, Cambodia and Laos initiated country-based pilot projects in 2006, with resources provided by the Government of Switzerland and European Union. Nigeria, Senegal, and The Gambia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand also continued activities for their country-based pilot projects through 2006.

Cambodia

The Cambodian National GHS Capacity Building Project was initiated in July and a National GHS Implementation Committee (involving government agencies for the four sectors and from stakeholder groups in business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations) was established. The National GHS Workshop was held from 2-4 October, in Phnom Penh. At the workshop, 45 participants agreed to adopt the GHS in the four main sectors of industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products by the target date of 2008. They agreed to develop a common legal instrument on the GHS without

annulment of existing laws or regulation, and to engage in targeted awareness-raising for decision makers, government officers, employers and employees, workers, farmers, the public and other stakeholders. Comprehensibility testing training was held 5-6 October, organised by the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the Royal University of Phnom Penh, and was attended by 18 participants. This included one day field testing practice in a community farming area outside Phnom Penh (see Photo 1). After the training, participants began to conduct full comprehensibility testing to assess the understanding of GHS elements among the public and workers in the four sectors relevant to GHS implementation. This testing will support the situation and gap analysis of chemical hazard communication in the country. The results of the situation and gap analysis, and comprehensibility testing will be used to inform the development of targeted activities for implementing the GHS. As part of efforts to encourage regional collaboration, the comprehensibility testing workshop was facilitated by a resource person from Indonesia who shared knowledge and skills gained through previous training by comprehensibility testing experts from the University of Cape Town.

Photo 1: Field Training in Cambodia

Community farmers cooperated with the Royal University of Phnom Penh to practice Comprehensibility Testing



The Gambia

The Gambia held a National Training workshop 15-16 February which was attended by 31 participants from the various sectors and stakeholder groups affected by and involved in GHS implementation. A legal expert was identified and progress has been made on the development of legislation for GHS implementation. The consultant is reviewing the existing Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides Control and Management Act 1994 and the Waste Bill, looking specifically at existing legislation on hazardous chemical and pesticide management. It is intended that this review will lead to draft legislation for effective implementation of the GHS in the agricultural, industrial workplace, transport, and the consumer product sectors. The Gambia has also identified lead NGOs for GHS involvement, and industry groups have been involved in lobbying for the application of GHS. A GHS awareness raising video was developed by public interest groups to inform the public about the GHS. This video, and other GHS awareness raising activities, were demonstrated during the National Chemical Awareness Week, a country-wide event to increase public understanding of chemical use.

Indonesia

A National GHS Workshop was held 3-5 May 2006 in Jakarta, where 56 participants reviewed the results of comprehensibility testing and the situation and gap analysis. As a follow-up to the workshop recommendations and conclusions, Indonesia held a Business and Industry GHS Awareness Raising Workshop for 70 participants on 24 April, and a Civil Society Awareness Raising Workshop for 71 participants on 6 June.

Based on the results of the situation and gap analysis, comprehensibility testing and the feedback from workshops and meetings, it has been agreed that for legislative implementation of the GHS, a Presidential Decree would be drafted to contain GHS provisions. An excerpted text of this draft is found in text box 1. Following this, sectoral regulations will be amended. Indonesia also completed drafts of the sectoral implementation plans for the four sectors (industrial workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products). In order to raise-awareness for the general public, a booklet on the GHS in Indonesian was developed and will be used as outreach tool. Sample pages from the booklet are found in Figure 1. To promote further dissemination of information and understanding of the GHS, the GHS Purple Book is being translated into Indonesian. The National GHS Implementation Committee held regular meetings in 2006 to review progress and implementation issues.

Text Box 1

Excerpt from the Indonesian Presidential Decree to Implement the GHS

DECREES:

To Establish: THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ON THE APPLICATION OF THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS.

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

In this Presidential Regulation,

1. Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals/GHS shall mean a general and logical approach globally harmonized to define and classify the hazards of chemicals and

Figure 1
GHS Awareness Raising Booklet in Indonesian



Lao PDR

The Lao PDR National GHS Capacity Building Project was initiated in August 2006. A National GHS Implementation Committee involving government agencies for the four sectors and from stakeholder groups in business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations was established in order to coordinate national GHS implementation activities and to communicate regularly regarding developments in the GHS. Laos held a National Planning Meeting on 5 September, with 30 members of the GHS coordinating committee and other stakeholders to plan for initial project activities. A National GHS Workshop was held from 25-27 September in Vientiane for 56 participants representing various sectors and stakeholders affected by the GHS. The workshop concluded that GHS capacity building is a priority and that awareness raising should be conducted from the grass roots to the central levels of society.

Comprehensibility testing training was held 5-6 October, organised by the Science Technology Environment Agency in cooperation with the National University of Laos, and included 25 participants. After the training, the participants were involved in conducting comprehensibility testing, which will support Laos' efforts in conducting a situation and gap analysis of chemical hazard communication in the country. The results of the situation and gap analysis and comprehensibility testing will be used to inform the development of targeted activities for implementing the GHS in 2007. As part of efforts to encourage regional collaboration, the comprehensibility testing training workshop was facilitated by a resource person from Indonesia who shared knowledge and skills gained through previous training by comprehensibility testing experts from the University of Cape Town, in collaboration with UNITAR.

Nigeria

Nigeria held a National GHS Workshop 10-12 April attended by 95 participants from relevant sectors and stakeholder groups. Dedicated workshops for industry, and public interest and labour groups were held 7 February and 8 February respectively. These workshops served to raise awareness on the GHS and to facilitate collaboration between the government and stakeholder groups in GHS implementation. Further, elements of the National Strategy for GHS Implementation were discussed.

Recommendations were made on legislative frameworks, how civil society organizations and the industrial sector could be more active in national GHS implementation within the sectors, and developing a sustainable National GHS Implementation Strategy.

Awareness raising materials, including pamphlets and posters on the GHS pictograms were distributed to all stakeholders for subsequent circulation at their sectoral meetings.

In line with the national commitment for achieving effective GHS implementation by 2008 and in compliance with the stakeholders' decision at the National Awareness Raising Workshop in April, 2006, a legal consultant was appointed to produce a harmonized Hazardous Chemicals Management Bill which, when approved by the Parliament and Federal Executive Council will become an instrument for achieving an effective enforcement of sound chemicals management. The draft Act is currently undergoing a sectoral review process for multi-stakeholder input during the first quarter of 2007. This process will lead to the "Development of a Strategic Plan for National GHS Implementation by 2008", which will also commence in the first quarter of 2007. Finally, a number of awareness raising materials were developed to inform workers and the public about the GHS. A sample of these materials can be found in Figure 2.

Figure 2
Excerpt from a GHS Awareness Raising Booklet from Nigeria



The Philippines

A National GHS Workshop was held 8-10 May 2006 in Manila with 77 participants, and reviewed the situation and gap analysis and comprehensibility testing reports to better assess the status of chemical hazard communication in the Philippines. During the workshop, participants made significant progress in developing draft workplans for each sector, which will serve as a basis for the development of sectoral implementation plans. These workplans highlight capacity building needs and proposed activities.








As a follow-up to the national workshop recommendations and conclusions, the Philippines engaged stakeholder groups to conduct awareness raising and training on the GHS. During the project period, Samahan Sa Phipinas Ng Mga Industriy Kimika (SPIK, an industry association), the Pesticide Action Network of the Philippines, the Trade Union Congress (TUC) of the Philippines, and the Nationwide Association of Consumers, have held workshops for GHS awareness-raising for their constituents. These events highlighted the importance of public participation in the wider goal of sustainable development in the Philippines.

A GHS Workshop for Civil Society was held on October 13. The event was organized by the Pesticide Action Network Philippines (PAN Philippines). There were a total of 23 participants during the workshop, representing key national NGOs. PAN Philippines produced and distributed a brochure on GHS, pictogram posters, and a resource CD. Media releases were also done to broaden the reach for public awareness. Future activities planned by PAN Philippines include the incorporation of the new symbols and hazard classifications in their Pesticide Training Module used for PAN Philippines' Community Pesticide Action Monitoring Programme.


For further outreach, the Philippines printed posters and banners on the GHS which were distributed in government offices and industrial workplaces. A sample poster can be viewed in Figure 3. Based on the results of the situation and gap analysis, comprehensibility testing and the feedback from workshops and meetings, it has been decided that for legislative implementation of the GHS, the Philippines will amend Act 6969 on the Control of Toxic Substances to incorporate the GHS.

Figure 3
GHS Awareness Raising Poster from the Philippines

***GHS:**
HUGIS AT ANYO NG KALIGTASAN
SA KEMIKAL

			
Explosive	Flammable	Oxidizing	Compressed Gas
			
Toxic	Corrosive	Chronic Health Hazard	
Warning			Dangerous to Aquatic Environment

***Globally Harmonized System
of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**
Alamin at ipatupad ang mga tamang uri at simbolo ng kemikal.



OSHC

Para sa iba pang katanungan, makipag-ugnayan sa:
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER**
North Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: (632) 928-6690 / 929-6036 to 39
E-mail: oshcenter@oshc.dole.gov.ph
Website: <http://www.oshc.dole.gov.ph>

*Maaaring muling limpreta ang poster na ito ngunit
kailangang kilalanin ang OSHC bilang pinagmulan nito.

Senegal

Senegal held a National GHS Workshop 20-22 February and organized training activities for civil society representatives to develop strategies for civil society involvement in GHS implementation. Among the activities organised was a PAN Africa workshop for journalists on multilateral environmental agreements related to chemicals, 28-29 March. Additionally, a number of brochures and awareness raising materials were developed to inform target audiences about the GHS. A sample can be found in Figure 4.

The existing national “code de l’environnement” already provides a basis for GHS implementation in Senegal. Therefore, in order to integrate the GHS into national legislation, Senegal is now engaged in the preparation of draft regulations. These regulations will be submitted for review to the National Committee on Chemical Management. Senegal has now drafted implementation plans for the four sectors and is working to compile the results of their GHS project activities into a national GHS implementation strategy. It is expected that these will be reviewed during the GHS Review Workshop scheduled for January 2007.

Figure 4
Excerpt from an Consumer Awareness Raising Brochure from Senegal



Thailand

A National GHS Workshop took place 15-17 May at the Food and Drug Administration in Nonthaburi Province and the Sir James Lodge in Saraburi Province. The 102 participants reviewed the situation and gap analysis and comprehensibility testing reports. As a follow-up to the workshop recommendations and conclusions, Thailand engaged in a number of GHS capacity building activities in 2006 as part of the wider objective of national chemicals management, including updating the national chemical safety website to include GHS activities and development of a master plan on chemicals management. The website can be accessed at:

<http://ipcs.fda.moph.go.th/e_ipcs/index.htm>.

From 22-23 August 2006, a national seminar was held for 103 participants of business and industry, and public interest and civil society groups in order to further integrate them in to the process of GHS policy making and the formulation of GHS legislative tools. Additionally, Thailand is in the process of developing labelling standards for consumer products as well as developing a training program for Responsible Care which includes the GHS. Thailand has conducted an analysis of the existing legislation and identified specific legislation that would need to be amended for GHS implementation. Thailand is in the process of revising this legislation to incorporate the GHS.

GHS Workshop for Malaysian Government Officials

A GHS Workshop for Malaysian Government Officials was held 9-10 March in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and was attended by 32 participants from various Malaysian ministries. The workshop brought together officials from different sectors in order to raise awareness and train relevant ministries on the GHS. Involvement in such an event is important to support further GHS capacity building across all ASEAN countries.

Plans for 2007-2008

In 2007, based on the outcomes of the activities of the capacity building projects, six pilot countries, Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, Thailand, the Gambia and the Philippines, will complete the development of a National GHS Implementation Strategy, including agreed draft GHS implementing legislation developed during 2006.

Each of these countries will hold a National Review Workshop during 2007. It is expected that this workshop will be an opportunity to bring together all stakeholders relevant to GHS implementation to review the activities of the last two years and

review the National GHS Implementation Strategy. To complement the strategy, a resolution will be adopted among all partners (government, business and industry, and public interest and labour) and sectors to commit to implement the strategy and move forward with agreed actions.

For the pilot projects initiated in 2006, Cambodia and Laos will work to develop GHS implementing legislation and are expected to complete the process in 2008. Cambodia and Laos will also facilitate awareness-raising for and participation of affected business and industry groups, and public interest and labour organizations during 2007.

Regarding possibilities for initiation of new national GHS implementation and capacity building projects in 2007-2008, UNITAR/ILO have 83 requests for capacity building assistance on file. In 2006, 26 countries re-confirmed their interest in such assistance, indicating that GHS implementation remains a high national priority. For 2007-2009, with additional funding, UNITAR would be in a position to support further countries for 2-year GHS implementation pilot projects or specific activities. These activities could include national GHS workshops, development of situation and gap analyses, development of National GHS Implementation Strategies, and other GHS implementation activities such as drafting of GHS implementing legislation.

5. Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Capacity Building Guidance and Training Materials – Programme Area 3

Activities in this programme area include the development of GHS information brochures and a GHS capacity building guidance and training package, *e.g.* for implementation strategy development, comprehensibility testing guidance, and training modules on various GHS-related topics (such as classification, labelling and development of SDS).

The initial two indicators for this Programme Area are the following:

- A range of GHS and hazard communication awareness raising materials prepared, peer-reviewed and widely disseminated.
- A range of GHS capacity building guidance and training materials prepared, peer-reviewed and pilot tested.

2006 Activities and Progress Made

Comprehensibility Testing (CT) Guidance

A comprehensibility testing package is now available on the UNITAR website for free download.

The Comprehensibility Testing Tool developed in 2005 was further modified based on feedback from the testing undertaken in 2006. Comprehensibility testing is a survey based method for obtaining information on the understanding of GHS hazard communication elements among the public. Comprehensibility testing is a survey based method for obtaining information on the understanding of GHS hazard communication elements among the public. The methodology was initially developed by the University of Cape Town in collaboration with UNITAR. The updated materials are available on the UNITAR website at: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs_partnership/CT.htm.

Guidance Document for Public Interest and Labour Organisations

A draft of a guidance document on Strengthening Participation of Public Interest and Labour Organisations in GHS Implementation has been completed with input from labour and NGO groups in South Africa. Once the document has been finalised it is expected that this document will serve to support these stakeholder groups around the world in GHS implementation activities.

Training Courses on the GHS

Outlines of three training courses on the GHS, (i) Introduction to the GHS, (ii) Classifying Chemicals According to the GHS, and

(iii) Preparing GHS Labels and Safety Data Sheets, have been developed. Currently, UNITAR is coordinating with expert developers and a technical advisory group that provides feedback to course materials as they are developed. These courses are being developed in response to strong demand from pilot countries and others, and supported by the discussions at the November 2005 Global GHS Workshop. The training modules will target government officials as well as professionals.

Plans for 2007-2008

Industry Awareness Raising Brochure

UNITAR, in cooperation with Samahan Sa Phipina Ng Mga Industriy Kimika (SPIK), is developing an information brochure for business and industry, with a focus on small and medium size enterprises (SME). This brochure will serve to inform these groups about the GHS and to increase awareness of how the GHS could affect SMEs.

Legal Implementation of the GHS: Country Case Studies

UNITAR will develop a report of case studies on how certain countries have or are legally implementing the GHS. The purpose of this document is to analyze how countries with different legislative backgrounds in chemical classification and labelling are meeting GHS requirements from the legal perspective. The analysis will provide other countries wishing to implement the GHS with examples on what legal options may be used in order to address specific GHS requirements.

Development of an International GHS Guide

Based on a comprehensive guide to the GHS recently developed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the USA, UNITAR plans to adapt this document into a version intended for an international audience. This document contains a comprehensive overview of the GHS in a format that explains this complex technical standard in more easily understandable terms.

Guidance Documents to be Finalised

During the course of 2005-2008 the document “Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy” is being tested through the pilot projects. It is expected that feedback from these pilot projects will result in further refinements of the document. Lessons learned will be incorporated into the first edition which is scheduled for publication late in 2007.

The existing CT guidance and training materials will be further revised based on the feedback and lessons learned from the CT training conducted in Cambodia and Laos. This will lead to the development of a final guidance and training package that can be used by countries intending to use CT as a tool for building capacity to implement the GHS.

Other Training and Guidance Materials

The widespread and effective implementation of the GHS will require the development, revision and use of guidance and training materials across a number of GHS-related subjects. In addition to the completion of the activities listed above and subject to availability of resources, UNITAR/ILO, working together with interested Partners, will pursue in 2007 other opportunities for development of awareness raising and guidance materials, for example:

- A “GHS media briefing package”, including a sample press release and other tools that countries would be able to adapt for use based on their national situation to publicise the importance of the GHS, and proper use and understanding of labels; and
- Capacity Building Guidance and Training materials for implementation of the UNRTDG and the GHS for the transport sector.

Countries and organizations that are interested in sponsoring such activities are encouraged to contact UNITAR.

6. Supporting Activities and Services for GHS Capacity Development – Programme Area 4

Activities in this programme area include the provision of supporting services for GHS capacity development which do not easily fall in any of the previous Programme Areas. They include, for example, activities such as a GHS capacity needs assessment survey, development of a GHS capacity building website, and side events and presentations.

2006 Activities and Progress Made

GHS Side-event at the International Conference on Chemicals Management

The UNITAR GHS side event at ICCM highlighted the relevance of the GHS to SAICM.

UNITAR organized a side-event on 5 February at the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) titled “The GHS: A Fundamental Tool for National SAICM Implementation”. The event was attended by over 200 participants and included panel presentations by governments, stakeholders and international organizations to share experiences related to GHS implementation and needs for capacity building. Examples of key steps towards GHS implementation were provided by representatives of the European Commission and the US Government, while representatives from Thailand and Belarus highlighted their current situations and needs related to the GHS. Representatives of the international chemicals industry and of international trade unions identified the opportunities and challenges surrounding GHS implementation, with concluding remarks provided by the Government of Switzerland. In light of the high level of interest in the event, UNITAR has placed the presentations on a website, which is available at: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs8.html. This event served as an important way to link the GHS with broader international chemicals objectives, and to raise awareness as to how the GHS relates to current developments in SAICM.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Seminar on the GHS

As part of ongoing efforts to coordinate GHS implementation activities in the ASEAN region with APEC, representatives of UNITAR attended the APEC Seminar on the GHS, 20-22 September in Bangkok, Thailand. At the event, UNITAR presented participants with information on the activities of UNITAR/ILO in the region and proposed ways in which UNITAR/ILO and APEC could further collaborate for GHS implementation.

Asia-Europe Environment Forum

From 29 October to 1 November, UNITAR attended the Asia-Europe

Environmental Forum roundtable in Brussels titled, “Combine or Combust! Cooperating on Chemicals and Hazardous Substances Management”. The purpose of this roundtable was to discuss chemicals related issues and the possibility for further collaboration among Asia and Europe. At the roundtable, UNITAR provided information on the UNITAR chemicals programmes, including further details on the Regional GHS Implementation project in ASEAN.

GHS Side-event at IFCS Forum V

A side-event on “GHS Implementation: Contributing to National Chemical Safety and Sustainable Development” was held at the IFCS Forum V, 27 September 2006 in Budapest, Hungary. It was attended by over 120 IFCS participants and included panel presentations by governments and stakeholders to learn about and discuss global and national implementation of the GHS and related needs for capacity building in government, business and industry and public interest and labour organizations. Further information on this event can be accessed at: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs11.html.

GHS Side-event at Rotterdam COP 3

UNITAR was requested by the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention to convene a side event at the Rotterdam COP 3, 13 October in Geneva, Switzerland. This event, “GHS Implementation: Contributing to National Chemical Safety and Effective Implementation of International Chemicals Agreements”, included panel presentations by governments and stakeholders, and reviewed linkages between the GHS and international conventions such as the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions.

GHS Roster of Experts Online

The Roster of GHS Experts has been developed by UNITAR into an online resource accessible from the Partnership Website. The Roster was originally developed in 2004 as a list of GHS experts who could provide support on training and capacity building activities for GHS classification, labelling and safety data sheets. Experts listed in the roster are included in their personal capacity and not as the official nomination of any government or organisation. The Roster of Experts has been converted into a database, searchable by sectors and areas of expertise, language, and region. This searchable database will allow users to quickly identify and contact experts for specific areas of GHS technical guidance and capacity building. The roster can be accessed at:

www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs_partnership/expertroster.htm.

Results of the Questionnaire on the Status of GHS Implementation

UNITAR/ILO/OECD sent out a worldwide questionnaire in 2006 on the Status of GHS Implementation. From the initial results from non-OECD countries, 49 countries responded; 94 percent of responses (46 countries) indicated interest in support for Capacity Building Support for GHS Implementation from UNITAR/ILO. It is expected that a report on the results of the survey will be made available in 2007.

Plans for 2007-2008

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the GHS

UNITAR and UNECE will work together to develop FAQs regarding the GHS. Questions will cover topics related to general information on the GHS, GHS implementation issues, the UNITAR/ILO Capacity Building Program and the WSSD Partnership.

2nd Edition Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Capacity Building Library

UNITAR plans to update the 2003 Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Capacity Building Library to incorporate new information and documents as a key resource for interested countries and stakeholders. This second edition library will be published both as a CD-Rom and online version in 2007.

7. Related Initiatives and Activities in 2006

A number of GHS activities were implemented in 2006 or were in the planning stages which were not directly co-ordinated through the UNITAR/ILO Programme Advisory Group, but nevertheless are important activities contributing to the WSSD goal of GHS implementation by the year 2008.

National Activities

Australia

In Australia's workplace chemicals sector, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) has reviewed the national standards and codes of practice relating to workplace use of chemicals, and has developed a first draft of documents adapting these standards and codes to the GHS. Also, a draft regulation impact statement relating to the implementation of the GHS for workplace chemicals was released for a public consultation period from September 2006 to March 2007. Draft documents and updates on the process can be found at <www.ascc.gov.au>.

For the agricultural sector, the Primary Industries Ministerial Council's Product Safety and Integrity Committee (PSIC) is working with stakeholders to consider the implications of the GHS for Australia's risk-based labelling system for agricultural and veterinary chemicals. For consumer products and poisons (including scheduling of pesticides) the Department of Health and Aging has established a Working Group to identify the implications of GHS implementation and to advise the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee (NDPSC).

Australia is also currently reviewing its dangerous goods transport requirements. A revised Australian Dangerous Goods Code, based largely on the 14th revised edition of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations, is currently being finalised. A unique aspect of the Australian code is the requirement to label inner packages with dangerous goods information. The new code will recognise the GHS as an appropriate labelling system for inner packages.

In 2006 Australia also assisted regional capacity building by contributing expert resources to the ASEAN OSHNET Workshop on the Draft ASEAN Guidelines on Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) of Chemicals, the Workshop on the GHS for Malaysian Government Agencies, and the Thai National GHS Workshop.

Brazil

The Brazilian Government has been working on GHS implementation through the GHS Working Group (GT-GHS Brazil) made up of more than 40 governmental and non-governmental institutions. Brazil has held discussions on the draft Presidential Decree, which will be issued soon to formalize the Working Group on GHS and develop the national strategies for the implementation of the GHS. Further, a number of workshops were held on the GHS in partnership with Labour Inspectorate and Trade Unions (October), the Brazilian Association for Fine Chemistry (October), and the National Syndicate of Croplife Protection Industry (November). During a course on “Chemical Safety and Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents”, organized by FUNDACENTRO, in Sao Paulo (October) and Recife (November), a GHS presentation was provided. Meetings were held of the Sub-groups of the GT-GHS Brazil: Confidential Business Information, Publicity, Implementation and Training. Translation of the Purple Book to Portuguese and Comprehensibility Study Testing Methodology is ongoing. Finally, the 2nd edition of the GHS Training course, 4-8 December, was hosted by FUNDACENTRO, in Sao Paulo, with 30 participants. Further information on Brazil’s GHS activities can be found at:

www.desenvolvimento.gov.br/sitio/secex/negInternacionais/claRotSubQuimicas/oquee.php

Canada

Canada recently issued a Comparison of Sector Interim Recommendations or Preferred Options which provide a summary of the results of the deliberations by the sectors affected by the implementation of the GHS. It also includes information on the current status of preferred options for adoption of the GHS. This report can be accessed at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/pubs/ghs-sgh/index_e.html.

Technical consultation for GHS implementation is through sectoral working group meetings using discussion and issue papers to present various options, rationale and impact. These consultations focus on determining interim recommendations for GHS implementation, based on the Canadian situation.

For legal implementation of the GHS, key pieces of existing legislation and regulations include:

- Hazardous Products Act (PART I), Consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulations, 2001
- Hazardous Products Act (PART II), Controlled Products Regulations (for work place chemicals / WHMIS)
- Pest Control Products Act, Pest Control Products Regulations
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations

Transport Canada does not have a sectoral working group, but is proceeding according to the timeline set out by the United Nations Sub-committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations* follows the *United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations*. Therefore, the adoption of GHS is harmonized internationally, and in accordance with the *UNRTDG Model Regulations*.

In the case of workplace chemicals, GHS implementation issues are dealt with in the WHMIS Working Group (WWG). This is a working group of the larger Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Current Issues Committee (CIC). For pest control products, it is recognized that for several of the physical hazard classes, products that meet the hazard classification criteria are not expected to be used as pest control products; however, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency is proposing to adopt these classes as placeholders in the event that such products are manufactured as pest control products. The Consumer Chemicals Sector Working Group serves as a forum for open discussion and advice on matters concerning the implementation of the GHS as it relates to consumer chemical products. In addition to the sectoral working groups, expert groups have been addressing specific issues of environmental and chronic hazard classification and labelling.

Ecuador

A GHS workshop was organized by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of the Ecuador within the framework of the “Short-Term Support Program for the Management of the Ministry of the Environment in the Area of Environmental Quality” with the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands, which took place in Quito, Cuenca and Guayaquil on March 27, 28 and 29

The aim of the workshop was to present the GHS and raise awareness about its contents. About 80 people from different sectors and institutions attended the workshop. It was also noted that the main obstacles for GHS implementation in Ecuador would be lack of financial resources and expertise; lack of awareness, knowledge and information about the GHS and existing problems with the implementation of national legislation about chemicals and their transport. There was great concern about implementation issues and in particular about the absence of a list of chemicals classified according to the GHS which could serve as a guide for those countries lacking expertise on classification and labelling. The problem of comprehensibility of the GHS hazard communication elements was also raised and in particular the issue of the language used for the precautionary statements which may appear on the label of an imported chemical when the language of the manufacturer is

different from the language of the final user.

As an outcome of the workshop, the representatives from the Ministry of Environment expressed their willingness to raise awareness in their government to obtain political support to undertake GHS implementation activities, recognising at the same time that there was a need for support from donors and international organizations. They also said that they would consider membership of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS, as well as application to become a “pilot-country” for the implementation of the GHS in the region. They will also envisage the possibility of organizing other GHS events at the national and regional levels with the participation of other ANDEAN⁴ countries. The report of the workshop can be found at: <www.unitar.org/cwg/publications/cw/ghs/Ecuador_GHS_Workshop_report_2006.pdf>

Revisions to existing technical guides were also made in 2006: INEN 2266:2006 “Transport, Storage and Handling of Dangerous Chemical Products. Requirements” and INEN 2288:2006 “Labelling of Dangerous Chemical Products. Requirements”, with the purpose of incorporating GHS criteria.

Liberia

In 2006 an awareness workshop to explain about the GHS process, was conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia. Government Ministries and Agencies and the NGO community were invited. Through the IPEN-NGO initiative, two local NGOs, the Pollution Control Association of Liberia, (POCAL) and the Children Rescue International Inc Liberia (CRI LIBERIA), were invited to the EPA GHS Awareness program and are now actively taking part in the GHS process through the GHS-IPEN listserve.

New Zealand

Although in New Zealand the GHS based HSNO Act has applied to new hazardous substances since July 2001, transitional provisions which extended over a five year period to the end of June 2006 applied to existing substances. From 1 July 2006 all hazardous substances in New Zealand have been transferred under the coverage of the HSNO legislation.

For most commercial, industrial and domestic products, transfer was affected by way of Group Standards. A Group Standard is an approval mechanism under HSNO for a group of hazardous substances (products) of a similar nature, or type or having similar

⁴ At present, the following states are members of the ANDEAN Community: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

circumstances of use. Further information on Group Standards can be found on the ERMA New Zealand website at www.ermanz.govt.nz.

Singapore

The Singapore Chemical Industry Council held an awareness seminar 28 November to provide participants from chemical and related industries with an outline of the scope of the GHS, its classification and hazard communication. Additionally, an overview was provided of the implementation process in Singapore and the resulting impacts.

United States

On 12 September 2006 OSHA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on the GHS. An ANPRM is the first step in the rulemaking process to adopt the GHS. It provides background information on the system, as well as the parts of the system that OSHA anticipates considering for adoption. Public input was solicited to provide information for the Agency to develop analyses required to complete rulemaking, including an assessment of associated costs and benefits. The public comment period closed on November 13, 2006, and more than 160 comments were received. OSHA will now analyze the comments, and begin the process of developing a notice of proposed rulemaking based on the information received. The ANPRM, a Guide to the GHS, a comparison of OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard to the GHS, and all of the comments received, are accessible on OSHA's website at www.osha.gov.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepared a White Paper outlining its initial views on the possible application of GHS to pesticide labels and solicited public comments. On October 18-19, 2006, the EPA conducted a public meeting with stakeholders to review the issues raised in the White Paper and comments, and to solicit additional input on possible ways forward. Over 120 people registered for the meeting. EPA will be considering next steps in light of the input received. In addition, the industrial chemicals/toxic substances program in EPA is evaluating possible application of GHS within its sphere of regulation. Information on the public meeting and other GHS-related documents are posted on EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/oppfead1/international/globalharmon.htm.

The Consumer Protection Safety Commission staff assessment of GHS implementation issues is currently underway. The assessment will identify issues for Commission consideration that may warrant issuing guidance, revising existing regulations, and/or in some instances, possibly seeking statutory revision. In addressing these

issues, input will also be sought on those aspects of GHS implementation that are of significant priority to stakeholders, including consumers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers of consumer products.

The US Department of Transportation is aligning its requirements with the GHS, and expects to complete most of the changes necessary for implementation (consistent with the decisions taken in international transport system) by 2007. The changes will be effective in 2008. Additional information is available at:

<<http://hazmat.dot.gov/regs/intl/globharm.htm>>.

The four core agencies (EPA, OSHA, DOT and CPSC) formed an Interagency Working Group on Harmonization to coordinate U.S. government participation in GHS activities and negotiations. The State Department also participates in the group work whenever international issues are under consideration, and a larger group involving other U.S. agencies may also become involved when issues potentially relevant to their programs are addressed. In addition to developing common positions for international meeting, the interagency group also provides a forum for the agencies to share drafts of documents for comment, exchange information, and discuss areas of mutual interest and concern.

In addition to the specific activities described above, all of the Agencies continue to engage in various awareness raising meetings, workshops, seminars, and training sessions with trade associations and professional societies regarding the requirements of the GHS.

Regional Activities

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

The APEC Seminar on “*Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Implementation and Technical Assistance*” took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 20-22 September 2006 with 147 participants from international and national organizations, institutions, agencies and companies, totaling 9 APEC economies. Aimed at exchanging information and sharing ideas on the implementation of GHS, the three-day seminar consisted of seven sessions. During the first two days, participants were briefed on the GHS Review and Future Plan of UNSCEGHS. In addition, the Seminar concluded with a number of concrete recommendations on how to encourage regional implementation of the GHS and to encourage linkages between the GHS and regional trade.

European Union

The European Commission Services Directorate-General (DG) Enterprise & Industry and DG Environment, with technical support

from the EC Joint Research Centre, have drafted a proposal for a Regulation on classification and labelling of hazardous substances and mixtures which would introduce the GHS criteria into Community law. After a transitional period, the GHS Regulation will replace the current legislation on classification and labelling, i.e. Council Directive 67/548/EEC for substances and Directive 1999/45/EC for preparations. With the draft proposal, the Commission intends to maintain the overall level of protection provided by the current legislation.

The Commission consulted stakeholders on the draft regulation through a Public Internet Consultation

(<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/ghs_consultation_en.htm>).

This consultation was focused on three areas: the legislative proposal as such, the consultants' impact assessment study, and the analysis of potential effects on EU downstream legislation. The Commission Services have analysed the responses to the consultation and adopted the draft proposal accordingly. It is the intention to have the Commission proposal adopted in the first half of 2007 to submit it to the European Council and Parliament to be discussed and passed as Community legislation in 2008.

The Commission services responsible for implementation in transport have amended their directives on Transport of Dangerous Goods accordingly, based on the "Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations".

International Activities

UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS/UNECE

In 2006, the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (SCEGHS) and the UNECE as Secretariat to the SCEGHS, continued to support the GHS through biannual meetings of the UNSCEGHS 12 July and 12 December. Further information may be found at: <www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/c4age.html>.

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

In July 2006 FAO sent out a questionnaire on labelling of agricultural pesticides and 21 country responses were received. Although some advancement can be observed within the Asia-Pacific Region, the questionnaire revealed that implementation of the GHS on the labelling of agricultural pesticides is still at its infancy stage world-wide. Many countries, in particular non-OECD countries, will continue to use FAO guidelines and FAO pictograms, even after the implementation of GHS. The toxicological classification continues to be based on the "WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard".

It was concluded by the FAO that it would currently not be advisable to develop a pesticide labelling guideline which would entirely be based on the GHS, in particular as there is no international reference yet available for each pesticide under the toxicological classification of the GHS.

There is a need for an interim guidance document, and the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management recommended at its Second Session, held in Rome 7-10 November, that during the present transition period the new “FAO Guidelines on Good Labelling Practice” should cover separately both the existing WHO classification system for pesticides as well as the new classification based on the GHS system. The responses to the questionnaire also indicate the reliance on and the necessity for a single independent international reference source for the classification of each pesticide, in particular in non-OECD countries. In this respect, there is an urgent need to harmonize the GHS toxicological classification and the WHO classification of pesticides by hazard.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

Under the auspices of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), WHO is taking steps to adapt its existing chemical safety instruments to the GHS in accordance with ECESOC Resolution 2003/53. This work applies principally to the WHO Classification of Pesticides by Hazard, the Concise International Assessment Documents (CICADs), and the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC), the latter in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). In this regard, WHO has engaged relevant expert groups such as those involved in the ICSC to assess the scope of work needed to align the instruments with the GHS and to gain experience with applying the GHS in their ongoing work.. Based on these discussions, WHO is preparing an implementation plan for this work and looking to secure the necessary additional resources with the aim of completion by 2008. The implementation plan will also inform consideration of a possible working relationship with SCEGHS to assist implementation of the GHS in relevant activities and instruments among global health partners, in accordance with the 2005-2006 Workplan of the SCEGHS.

Together with UNITAR and ILO, WHO is also working to promote the GHS through implementation of the ILO/WHO International Chemical Control Toolkit and has also completed an expert workshop on skin sensitisation contributing to the consensus on the future role of potency in the application of the GHS classification criteria (with participation of OECD).

Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

In 2006, the OECD continued to develop proposals to update the GHS at the request of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS. Several expert group meetings and a task Force meeting developed draft documents that were declassified by the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology. The OECD Secretariat also developed a questionnaire jointly with UNITAR/ILO on preparation of GHS implementation by the OECD countries. Finally, progress was achieved with a pilot exercise on the application of the GHS Classification criteria implemented within the High Production Volume Chemicals Programme.

Other Related Activities

International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)

In 2006 IPEN discussed the formation of a GHS working group. To support this, information was collected on IPEN member organisations involved or interested in GHS-related activities with the aim of initiating discussions on how NGOs can best be involved in GHS implementation activities in order to help accelerate GHS implementation by 2008. The initial objectives of forming the working group include:

1. to share information on the GHS and announce GHS events and/or workshops
2. to provide a collective basis for NGOs interested in GHS to begin to identify issues/topics of concern or interest
3. to provide the opportunity to outline the potential needs for GHS work.

Over 20 IPEN member organisations expressed interest in participating in the discussions with many already undertaking or involved in GHS-related activities in their respective countries. Discussions have begun and the goals will be refined during subsequent discussions.

International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM)

The ICEM World Conference for the Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Industries was held 29 November to 1 December in Trinidad and Tobago, and was attended by some 120 national trade unionists representing 43 different national unions from 33 countries. Participants developed a chemicals sector action plan which refers to the GHS and the SAICM, in particular to use the SAICM process to build up a stronger influence on chemicals management, safety and

occupational health and safety on a national and regional and global level. The plan seeks to actively promote the 1990 ILO Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work Convention 170 and the Globally Harmonized System of Chemical Classification and Labelling (GHS), and engage with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) regarding trade union involvement in the Responsible Care programme. The plan was endorsed by the ICEM's Executive Committee that took place on May 10-11 in Brussels, Belgium. Further information on the event can be found at: www.icem.org/en/4-Chemicals-Pharmaceuticals/2061-ICEM's-World-Conferences-on-Energy-and-Chemicals-End-in-Trinidad-and-Tobago.

Chemical Hazard Communication Society

The Chemical Hazard Communication Society (CHCS), a professional society (see www.chcs.org.uk) for those involved in hazard communication, continued its efforts to educate members about the GHS in 2006. In September 2006 the CHCS launched a Training Module entitled "GHS - The basics of the UN Scheme" to inform members about GHS. Also in September, CHCS ran a seminar to explain the plans of the European Commission to propose a new EC Regulation that would harmonise the EC Classification and Labelling provisions with the GHS provisions.

8. Further Development of the Partnership in 2007

In support of worldwide implementation of the GHS, the 2nd Meeting of the Partners of the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*, is scheduled to take place on 12 July 2007 in Geneva. Since the Partnership was founded in 2002, it has facilitated, through the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme, national GHS implementation pilot projects in 12 countries, regional GHS awareness raising and capacity building (in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Mercosur and the Andean Community, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Arab region, and Central and Eastern Europe), and supported development of a suite of GHS guidance and training materials. The 2nd Meeting of Partners will take stock of progress made regarding GHS capacity building worldwide and identify opportunities for further capacity building in the coming years. The documents and report of the first Partners meeting can be reviewed at:

<www.unitar.org/cwg/publications/cbl/ghs/meetings/meeting_1.htm>

The preceding pages of this report highlight many activities, guidance, and training materials that contribute to building capacities in order to assist developing and transition countries to implement the GHS. However, there are still many challenges to be addressed and areas where GHS capacity building will be essential for meeting the 2008 goal. UNITAR/ILO currently have 83 country requests for national GHS capacity building on file, as well as 4 concrete requests for GHS awareness raising and capacity building activities at the regional level.

The GHS Partners may wish to consider how best to meet these and other remaining challenges in order to realise the benefits of a truly globally implemented, globally harmonised system of classification and labelling of chemicals towards 2008 and beyond. The 2nd Meeting of the Partners in 2007 will provide an important opportunity to consider resource mobilisation issues and determine the best ways forward to fully realise the objectives of the Global GHS Partnership.

Annex 1: A Summary of the GHS

The UN Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is an important new tool that countries can draw upon to develop national chemical hazard communication systems by providing a basis for the establishment of comprehensive chemical safety programs. It represents an important step in harmonizing national chemical hazard communication systems worldwide and has a great potential to improve chemical safety across all relevant sectors.

The GHS is a consistent and coherent approach to identifying the hazards of chemicals, and providing information on these hazards and associated protective measures to users or those who may be exposed. The system is structured so that appropriate elements for classification and communication, which consider the target population, can be selected. Those who then use chemicals can take the proper steps to protect themselves and the environment.

Target populations include employers, workers, including those involved in transport, consumers, and emergency responders. Others who provide services to these people will also find the information useful (e.g., doctors, nurses, safety engineers and occupational hygienists). The GHS includes harmonized criteria for the definition of physical hazards (such as flammability), health hazards (such as carcinogenicity) and environmental hazards. These internationally-developed criteria are used to evaluate the hazards of both substances and mixtures.

The GHS covers all hazardous chemical substances, dilute solutions and mixtures and addresses how labels and safety data sheets should be used to convey information about their hazards, and how to protect people from these effects. It also provides a basis for safety training and health promotion.

The System is expected to:

- enhance the protection of people and the environment by providing an internationally comprehensive system for chemical hazard communication;
- provide a recognised framework for those countries without an existing system;
- reduce the need for duplicative testing and evaluation of chemicals; and
- facilitate international trade in chemicals whose hazards have been properly assessed and identified on an international basis.

More information about the GHS can be obtained from the Secretariat (UNECE) of the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS at:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html>.

Annex 2: History of the WSSD GHS Partnership

Initiation of the WSSD GHS Partnership by UNITAR, ILO and OECD

In April 2002, UNITAR and ILO, in collaboration with OECD, initiated the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*.⁵ The main goal of the WSSD GHS Partnership is to mobilize resources and implement a number of specific support activities to strengthen capacities at all levels and sectors – in particular in developing and transition countries – towards implementing the GHS for industrial chemicals, agricultural chemicals, chemicals in transport and consumer chemicals. In response to a call for Partners prior to the WSSD, over 25 governments, international organizations and NGOs responded with an interest to participate in the Partnership.

Partnership Announcement at the Johannesburg Summit

In July 2002, the Partnership proposal was submitted to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and placed on the WSSD website following a review by DESA that it met the guiding principles developed by the WSSD Preparatory Committee in preparation for the Summit.⁶ At the Summit the Partnership was formally launched as part of the official WSSD Programme on Friday, 30 August 2002. UNITAR's Executive Director Dr. Marcel Boisard convened a partnership panel including: James Phiri, *Executive Director, Environmental Council of Zambia*, Conchita Poncini, *International Confederation of University Women and President, NGO Committee on the Status of Women*, Larry Kohler, *Specialist, Sustainable Development, ILO*, Kenneth Ruffing, *Acting Director, Environment Directorate, OECD* and Ambassador Beat Nobs, *Head of Division, International Affairs Division, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (BUWAL)*.

The WSSD Plan of Implementation and the GHS

Chemical safety, including hazard communication and GHS implementation, is one of the issues that received specific attention at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). In paragraph 23 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation, governments renewed their commitment to the sound management of chemicals across a variety of important sectors. The need for support for developing countries to strengthen their capacities for the sound management of chemicals, through the provision of technical and financial assistance, was highlighted. More specifically, it was agreed to “encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008”.⁷ This target had also been adopted by the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in 2000.

⁵ Further information on relevant international bodies related to the GHS can be found in Annex 3.

⁶ The list and details of selected Partnerships, including the Global GHS Partnership, can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm>.

⁷ A/CONF.199/20, paragraph 23(c).

First Meeting of Partners, July 2003

The First Meeting of Partners was held in July 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives from 16 governments, 8 intergovernmental organizations and 12 NGOs discussed and agreed a number of important elements, including:

- the framework workplan and four Partnership programme areas;
- that Meetings of Partners would take place about every two years, if possible prior to submission of bi-annual progress reports for the Partnership to the CSD Secretariat;
- that the UNITAR/ILO Programme Advisory Group (PAG) will continue to provide technical and coordinating support for Partnership Activities;
- that UNITAR will provide the Secretariat for the Partnership (dependent on mobilization of adequate resources), working closely with ILO and OECD;
- highlighting the importance of ensuring sustainable core funding both to support Partnership activities and to provide the functions of the Partnership Secretariat; and
- linking GHS capacity development needs and implementation activities with other international priorities for sustainable development (such as poverty eradication, protection of water supplies and protection of marginalised groups such as women and children).

A full report of the meeting is available from UNITAR.

Annex 3: International Bodies and Initiatives Relevant to GHS Capacity Building: A Brief Overview

UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS

The UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS (UN SCEGHS) is a policy body which maintains existing and develops new technical elements of the GHS, as appropriate, and makes proposals for work and policy decisions to its parent committee, the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods & the GHS. Proposals include the provision of technical guidance to countries and organizations with regard to the further development of the GHS and its implementation. The UN SCEGHS also issues recommendations in the area of GHS capacity building, but does not have an executing function. UNITAR/ILO have been designated as a focal point for this purpose.

The UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme

The UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme operates within UNITAR's Training and Capacity Building Programmes in Chemicals and Waste Management. It has an executing function and supports national GHS implementation strategy development processes, regional workshops, and develops and pilots GHS training material. The Programme receives technical advice from a Programme Advisory Group (PAG) which includes representatives from several countries and organizations involved in GHS development and implementation. UNITAR/ILO provide regular updates of Programme activities to the UN SCEGHS.

The Global WSSD GHS Partnership

The Global GHS Partnership is a WSSD-endorsed framework which brings together countries and organizations committed to supporting specific GHS capacity building activities in developing and transition countries. It was initiated by UNITAR and ILO, in collaboration with the OECD. The Partnership pursues concrete objectives and targets for GHS capacity building activities at the global, regional and national levels and Partners work together to mobilize resources to reach these targets. Technical aspects of Partnership activities are reviewed by the PAG of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme. However, not all core Partnership activities are necessarily executed by UNITAR/ILO. Countries and organizations may execute core Partnership activities independently, as long as the activity contributes to one of the Partnership targets and is coordinated through the PAG. The secretariat function for the Partnership is provided by UNITAR, working together with ILO and OECD.

Annex 4: List of Acronyms

APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BUWAL	Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape
CEFIC	European Chemical Industry Council
COPASQ	Commission for Chemical Safety (Brazil)
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN)
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
GHS	Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
NGO	non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSHA	US Occupational Safety and Health Administration
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCEGHS	Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS
SCHC	Society for Chemical Hazard Communication
SDS	safety data sheets
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development



The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and other non-governmental sources.



The International Labour Organization is the UN specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. It was founded in 1919 and is the only surviving major creation of the Treaty of Versailles which brought the League of Nations into being and it became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. The ILO formulates international labour standards, provides technical assistance and promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organizations and provides training and advisory services to those organizations. Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure with workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs.



The OECD is a unique forum where governments can pool ideas and expertise to tackle the economic, social and governance challenges of the 21st century globalised economy. It groups 30 market democracies producing 60% of the world's goods and services, but in this era of globalization the OECD does not and cannot work alone. It shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 70 countries worldwide, as well as a vast array of stakeholders and interest groups, on topics of mutual concern from measuring climate change to ensuring transparency and accountability of governments to their citizens.