Protecting People, the Environment, and Facilitating Trade Through Chemical Hazard Communication

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

Annual Report 2007

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ILO
OECD
PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

About WSSD Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Partnerships for sustainable development -- voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives aimed at implementing sustainable development -- were an important complementary outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. At its 11th Session in May 2003, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) reaffirmed that these partnerships contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments, recognizing that partnerships are a complement to, not a substitute for, intergovernmental commitments.

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

The GHS Partnership Secretariat gratefully acknowledges the support of the Government of Switzerland (FOEN) in preparing the GHS Partnership Annual Reports.

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A Message from the Founding Partners

The year 2007 was a critical one for the Partnership -- a time to take stock and strategically evaluate the status of GHS implementation worldwide in preparation for the coming 2008 target date. According to the UNECE GHS Secretariat website, 65 countries around the world are now working to implement the GHS. This sixth annual report published since the initiation of the Partnership in 2002 also marks the fifth anniversary of the Partnership. Since the Partnership was founded, it has facilitated international, regional and national activities in support of the GHS. While much progress has been made over the years, there is still much work to be done to truly achieve a globally *implemented* GHS.

To critically evaluate these activities, including successes and lessons learned, and to consider the future areas of need for GHS Capacity Building, the Second Meeting of the Partners of the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*, took place on 12 July 2007 in Geneva. Participants of the Second Meeting discussed ways to improve mobilization of resources, strengthen the reach and effectiveness of the Partnership, integrate the GHS into international chemicals management and development planning efforts, and further develop GHS capacity building and knowledge management. Also in 2007, as a conclusion to the two year project to strengthen capacities for GHS implementation in the ASEAN region, the "GHS Conference for ASEAN: Implementation Towards 2008 and Beyond" was held from 9-11 May in Jakarta, Indonesia. The "Jakarta Conference" provided an opportunity for participants to review, discuss and agree on a proposed Regional GHS Implementation Strategy and Roadmap for ASEAN. This outcome is an important example of how countries are increasingly cooperating at the regional level for coordinated GHS implementation with trading partners. However, there is still significant work to be done in improving cooperation at the regional and international levels.

UNITAR, ILO and OECD appreciate and would like to acknowledge the core contributions of the Government of Switzerland and the European Union in 2007. 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 2008-2009 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 2007

- "GHS Conference for ASEAN: Towards 2008 and Beyond", held 9-11 May in Jakarta Indonesia, resulting in a Regional GHS Implementation Strategy and Road Map for ASEAN

- "GHS Capacity Building Workshop for Public Interest and Labour Organisations of ASEAN", held 7-8 May in Jakarta Indonesia, resulting in the establishment of the Southeast Asia Public Interest and Labour Organisation Chemicals Network (SEApChemNet)

- The Second Meeting of the Partners of the WSSD Global GHS Partnership was held on 12 July in Geneva to review global GHS capacity building and discuss strategic needs to support GHS implementation in the future

- Comprehensibility Testing, and Situation and Gap Analyses completed in Cambodia and Laos

- Senegal, Nigeria, the Gambia, Indonesia, and Thailand complete their national GHS capacity building projects

1. The WSSD Global GHS Partnership

The GHS

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]

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

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. The GHS is the major international tool for effective chemical classification and hazard communication.

UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme

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.

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

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 resource materials regarding the new system. Details regarding 2007 progress are found throughout this Annual Report and can

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

also be found at the UNITAR/ILO Programme website at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/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:
<http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/index.htm>.

[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.

2. Partnership Objectives and Framework Workplan

Goal and Objectives

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).

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

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

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.

2007 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 2007:

A. Support of Partnership Coordination and Secretariat

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) USD 82,000.00

B. 2007 Financial Support to Core Partnership Activities Implemented through the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Please refer to Annual Report 2006 for contributions to support activities in 2007.

C. In-kind Financial Contributions in 2007 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 Indonesia, New Zealand and the United States.

*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.

2007 Activities and Progress Made

Regional GHS Implementation Strategy and Roadmap for ASEAN

Using the conclusions of the Regional GHS Capacity Assessment and the ASEAN Vientiane Plan of Action as a basis, as well as the outcomes of the various other regional and national GHS capacity building activities in the region, the Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, in cooperation with UNITAR and with contributions from relevant stakeholders, developed a Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap for ASEAN. The Roadmap includes the necessary next steps for GHS implementation, regionally and nationally; among government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations; and across the sectors of GHS implementation: industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products; as well as link the implementation of GHS to existing structures within the ASEAN Secretariat and in the ASEAN region to the Vientiane Plan of Action (VPA). The main objectives of the Strategy were to:

The Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap for ASEAN includes the necessary next steps for GHS implementation, regionally and nationally among stakeholders and across the sectors of GHS implementation.

1) Frame GHS implementation in relation to the current objectives of the VPA, and how GHS implementation could assist achieving certain objectives of the Plan; and
2) Provide a proposed plan of remaining steps for GHS implementation in the region.

This document was developed in advance of the “GHS Conference for ASEAN: Toward 2008 and Beyond”, held 9-11 May 2007 in Jakarta,

Indonesia. Participants of the conference reviewed, discussed and revised the Roadmap with the goal to develop a final version that was formally supported. After the conference, the agreed Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap for ASEAN, the conference report and capacity assessment were compiled into a final Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN. Further information on the Conference is found in the following section.

GHS Conference for ASEAN: Towards 2008 and Beyond

The "GHS Conference for ASEAN: Implementation Towards 2008 and Beyond" was held 9-11 May 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The three day conference provided participants with an opportunity to take stock of GHS capacity building since the first Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for countries of ASEAN, held in Manila, the Philippines from 17-20 October 2005. The workshop reviewed national experiences and progress in ASEAN member countries; regional initiatives; and the activities of business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations in support of GHS implementation. The Jakarta Conference also provided an opportunity for participants to review, discuss and agree on a proposed Regional GHS Implementation Strategy and Roadmap for ASEAN. Conference presentations and documentation are available at: http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/ghs12.html.

This conference was organised with support from the Government of Switzerland, European Union, OPCW, the Government of Indonesia and the ASEAN Secretariat, in collaboration with UNITAR/ILO. The 81 participants included representatives from all ASEAN member countries, business and industry, public interest and labour organisations, international and regional organisations, and other international experts.

Photo 1: Local Participants at the GHS Conference for ASEAN

Regional Assessment of Public Interest and Labour Organisations

The Earth Council of the Asia-Pacific, in collaboration with UNITAR, engaged in a survey and assessment of the capacities of non-governmental organizations in the ASEAN region, examining what organizations are currently working in or might have an interest in becoming involved in chemical hazard communication and GHS implementation. This assessment was completed in early 2007 and was used as a basis for discussions regarding a regional network of public interest and labour organizations created to share information regarding GHS implementation.

Capacity Building Workshop for Public Interest and Labour Organisations

Based on the outcomes of the Regional Assessment of Public Interest and Labour Organisations and in order to strengthen regional capacities in GHS among relevant stakeholders, the "Capacity Building Workshop for Public Interest and Labour Organisations" was held on 7-8 May 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The workshop was organized by UNITAR/ILO in collaboration with the Earth Council Asia-Pacific and Government of Indonesia, and with funding from the European Commission and the Government of Switzerland. The 21 participants included representatives from national and regional civil society groups and international organisations, including labour, agriculture, consumer protection, academia, and environment, among others. The purpose of this workshop was to review GHS-related

activities among public interest and labour organisations, discuss establishment of an information sharing network among public interest and labour organisations to continue to support GHS implementation in ASEAN, and further develop the public interest and labour organization contribution to the overall regional GHS implementation strategy and future activities. By the end of the workshop, participants had agreed on the "Southeast Asian Public Interest and Labour Organisation Chemicals Network". Further information on the network is found in the next Section.

Southeast Asia Public Interest and Labour Organisation Chemicals Network

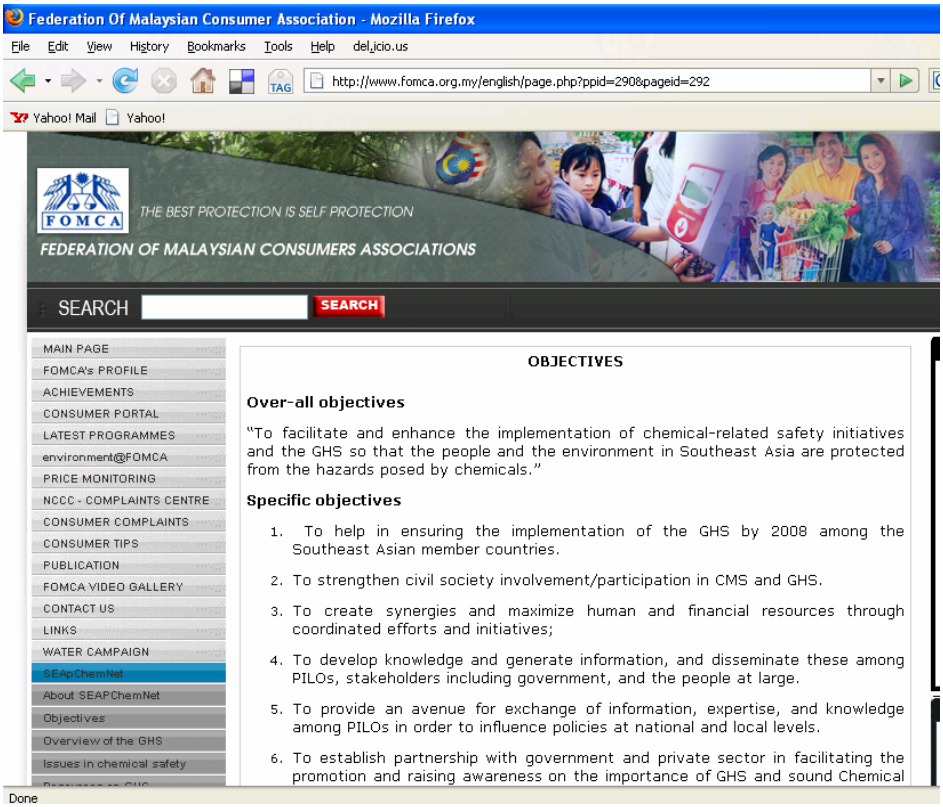
SEApChemNet is a network of PILOs established to serve as a mechanism for exchange of information and knowledge that would promote chemical safety with a focus on the GHS.

The Southeast Asia PILO Chemicals Network (SEApChemNet) is a network of public interest and labour organizations[3] (PILOs) that was established to serve as a mechanism for exchange of information and knowledge that would promote chemical safety management (CMS) with an initial focus on implementation of the GHS at the regional, national and local levels. Geographically, it initially covers the 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Other countries in the sub-region are welcome. The SEApChemNet has the vision of "A Southeast Asian community that is protected from the adverse effects of chemicals to human health and the environment." The Mission of the network is to be the leading PILO network that promotes and works for chemical safety in collaboration and cooperation with other stakeholders in Southeast Asia. Its initial platform shall be the effective implementation of GHS through activities which promote better understanding of GHS such as sharing of best practices and expertise. The objectives of the network are to support and participate in the global management of chemical safety, and facilitate and enhance the implementation of initiatives related to chemicals safety such as the GHS, all for the purpose of protecting the people and the environment of Southeast Asia from the hazards posed by chemicals and other toxic substances.

The current convenor of the network is the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (FOMCA). The SEApChemNet website can be accessed from the FOMCA website at: http://www.fomca.org.my/english/page.php?ppid=290&pageid=291.

[3] PILOs are synonymous to civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations. They represent specific sectors or major groups and work for various advocacies and objectives.

Figure 1: Screenshot of the SEApChemNet website



Plans for 2008-2009

There are a number of key activities planned for 2008-2009 that build upon ongoing projects for regional GHS implementation.

West Africa (ECOWAS)

A "Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of ECOWAS", will take place in Abuja, Nigeria from 13-15 May 2008. The purpose of the workshop will be to discuss experiences with chemical hazard communication in the ECOWAS region and consider concrete measures related to GHS implementation. The UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building pilot countries, Nigeria, Senegal and the Gambia will also have an opportunity to share their experiences with the region. The workshop is organized through the collaboratin of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing & Urban Development of Nigeria, ECOWAS Commission, UNITAR, ILO, and WHO, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland, the Government of Germany, and the OPCW. Immediately before the workshop, WHO plans to hold a one day seminar specifically to discuss health sector issues related to the GHS and SAICM.

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 such an event. The workshop could examine progress to date and challenges faced in regional and national GHS implementation and would be a follow-up to the successful regional workshop held in Brazil in 2004.

UNITAR is working with the region to develop a concrete project proposal to submit to possible donors. 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.

SADC

The regional technical review meeting scheduled for 2007 was postponed to 2008. Using the 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, continue to support this effort.

Outstanding Requests for Regional Workshops

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 2008-2009, UNITAR/ILO have received (to date) requests for regional capacity building activities from the following:

Given the number of outstanding requests for regional workshops, countries and organizations that are interested in sponsoring such activities are encouraged to contact UNITAR.

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.

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

Many pilot countries have made significant progress toward GHS implementation and are now seeking resources for the next phase of implementation.

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.

2007 Activities and Progress Made

Through contributions to the global UNITAR/ILO trust fund for GHS capacity building, Cambodia and Laos continued their pilot projects in 2007, with resources provided by the Government of Switzerland and European Union. The Gambia, Nigeria, the Philippines and Thailand worked toward the final phase of their pilot projects and Indonesia and Senegal completed their pilot projects.

Cambodia

Cambodia completed their comprehensibility testing and situation and gap analysis initiated in 2006. The results of these activities revealed the need for development of new common legislation on the GHS that can be enforced by all four sectors involved in the GHS framework. The situation and gap analysis also highlighted the lack of governmental institutional capacity, poor funding, unclear division of roles and responsibilities, and limited participation of the private sector and civil society under the existing policy and legal framework. Based on the outcomes of these activities, in 2007, Cambodia developed draft sectoral

implementation plans and GHS implementing legislation. These documents have been sent to international GHS experts for review and comment, after which, they will be revised. To support project activities, the National GHS Implementation Committee held regular meetings in 2007 to review progress and implementation issues. In addition, Cambodia developed a number of awareness raising materials to distribute to workers and the public. A sample of this work is found in figure 2.

Figure 2: Excerpt from the Cambodian GHS Awareness Raising Brochure

Indonesia

Indonesia held a National GHS Review Workshop, 7 May 2007, which included 60 stakeholder participants from the sectors relevant to GHS. The main purpose of the workshop was to review activities and progress made on national GHS capacity building and implementation during the project and to provide a forum to endorse the strategic plan/road map, together with a negotiated resolution for implementing GHS in Indonesia by 2008. This forum was attended by the high-level decision makers from related sectors and other stakeholders consolidated under the GHS National Implementation Committee.

Thailand

Thailand held a National GHS Review Workshop, 8-9 November 2007. The objectives of the workshop were to formulate and agree upon the national strategic roadmap for GHS implementation (2007-2011), together with corresponding measures and activities; and to strengthen and expand partnerships of all stakeholders in moving towards GHS implementation. The workshop included 103 participants from a wide range of stakeholders and sectors relevant to GHS. The workshop included a number of participant activities to emphasise the importance of the GHS in Thailand. A photo of a workshop session can be seen in Photo 2. At the workshop, participants agreed on a workplan and strategy for fully implementing the GHS in all relevant sectors. As an outcome of GHS capacity building activities, a number of awareness raising materials were developed, including an interactive CDROM, GHS notepad and brochure. A sample excerpt of an awareness raising poster can be found as Figure 3.

Photo 2: Participant Involvement at the Thai National GHS Review Workshop

Figure 3: Extract from Thai GHS Awareness Raising Poster

The Philippines

After further legislative review, the Philippines developed a Joint Administrative Order (JAO) to legally implement the GHS, and in particular to adopt and implement classification criteria, labelling and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requirements of the GHS. This JAO was provided for public comment and is in the process of updates and revisions based on feedback received. Further, the Philippines continued to develop their sectoral implementation plans. It is expected that these plans will be finalised during 2008 for review at the National GHS Review Workshop scheduled for early next year.

Lao PDR

In 2007 Laos completed comprehensibility testing with a sample size of 200. Interviewed participants, included a large range of stakeholders from the industrial sector (workers and managers in paint manufactory, paper mill factory, wood processing factory, soap powder factory, plastic bag factory, pharmaceutical factory); from the transportation sector (workers and personnel involved in goods and chemical transportation in three routes i.e. land, water and air transport); from the agricultural sector (farmers of field farming and plantation - rice, vegetables, and fruits); and from the consumer sector (general consumers and the workers in construction companies, gas shops, and laundry shops). The results of the comprehensibility testing revealed that the identification and use of labels and SDSs as the source of chemical hazard information is not familiar to the majority of the respondents. Recommendations from the CT report include the training of staff to train farmers, workers and others who are exposed to chemicals about first aid, safe chemicals use, reading and using labels and SDS; the development of an awareness campaign at the national level including in rural communities in order to increase public awareness and improve knowledge about chemical hazards and to distribute the hazard symbols to workers, farmers, and others who are exposed to chemicals; and the promotion of symbols of chemical hazards through the media on a regular basis in order to familiarize people with the symbols. Laos also continued work on their situation and gap analysis and have now begun the development of draft GHS implementing legislation. Both of these activities are expected to be completed in 2008.

The Gambia

The Gambia held a National Review Workshop on 27 September 2007 which concluded that while much work has been done on GHS capacity building in the context of the UNITAR/ILO GHS project, a number of activities are still needed for GHS

implementation. In addition to further awareness raising and training, it was recommended that the Gambia work to further coordinate with neighbouring countries such as Mali, Senegal and Guinea on transboundary GHS issues, including trade and transport of chemicals.

Nigeria

From 24–26 July 2007, Nigeria held a National GHS Review Workshop, attended by 150 participants, including the participation of all relevant stakeholders for GHS implementation. At the workshop, participants agreed on a "Resolution of Commitment" and National GHS Implementation Strategy. Key recommendations from the workshop included:

- The development of enforcement mechanisms and strengthened cooperation among regulatory bodies;
- The harmonized legislation on chemicals management in Nigeria should be developed as a matter of urgency, to enable the country to keep pace with the international implementation of the GHS;
- Follow-up training/education, seminars, workshops, symposia for sectoral stakeholders to step up awareness on chemical safety and the GHS;
- All relevant Government Departments will be encouraged to mainstream the National Implementation Strategy into their monitoring and enforcement programmes for 2008.

In addition, a core group of stakeholders comprising legal and technical experts met on 13 September 2007 to further deliberate on the text of the draft Act on Harmonized National Chemical Legislation. After review and agreement on the draft legislation, they concluded that the secretariat should commence the process of preparing a council memo, seeking an approval for enacting the new harmonized chemical legislation.

Senegal

Senegal held its National review workshop, 19 February 2007 to review the project activities and to agree and commit to next steps for GHS implementation. At the workshop, participants agreed on an action plan for further development of GHS capacity building, as well as next steps for legal implementation of the GHS.

The agreed action plan is structured around five strategic areas:

- the establishment and implementation of the legal framework;
- strengthening human and technical capacities;
- training, education and sensitization of stakeholders in the relevant sectors;

- promotion of the GHS in the sub-region;
- monitoring and evaluation processes and implementation.

Plans for 2008-2009

In 2008, based on the outcomes of the activities of the capacity building project, the Philippines will complete the development of a National GHS Implementation Strategy combining elements of the draft Sectoral Implementation plans which are in the process of finalisation. These will be reviewed at the National GHS Review Workshop. Laos will work to complete its Situation and Gap Analysis. Both Cambodia and Laos will work to develop GHS implementing legislation and are expected to complete the process in 2008. Laos will also facilitate awareness-raising for and participation of affected business and industry groups, and public interest and labour organizations during 2008.

For 2008-2009, with funding from the Government of Switzerland, UNITAR will support Jamaica and Vietnam in 2-year GHS implementation pilot projects, and Uruguay for an enabling 9-month GHS project. These activities may 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.

Regarding possibilities for initiation of new national GHS implementation and capacity building projects in 2008-2009, 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.

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 GHS capacity building guidance and training materials, *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.

2007 Activities and Progress Made

Guidance Document for Preparing a National GHS Implementation Strategy

During 2007, the UNITAR/ILO guidance document on "Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy" was translated into French, Spanish and Russian in order to reach a wider audience and support further dissemination of information on GHS capacity building.

Training Courses on the GHS

UNITAR/ILO continued the development of GHS training courses in 2007. After expert input, it was decided that efforts should be focused on two training courses on the GHS: (i) Introduction to the GHS; and (ii) Advanced GHS Training Course, including a) Classifying Chemicals According to the GHS, and b) Preparing GHS Labels and Safety Data Sheets. Currently, UNITAR is coordinating with expert developers and a technical advisory group that provides feedback to course materials as they are developed. Drafts of these courses were reviewed and are in the process of finalization. The 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.

Legal Implementation of the GHS: Country Case Studies

UNITAR has developed 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.

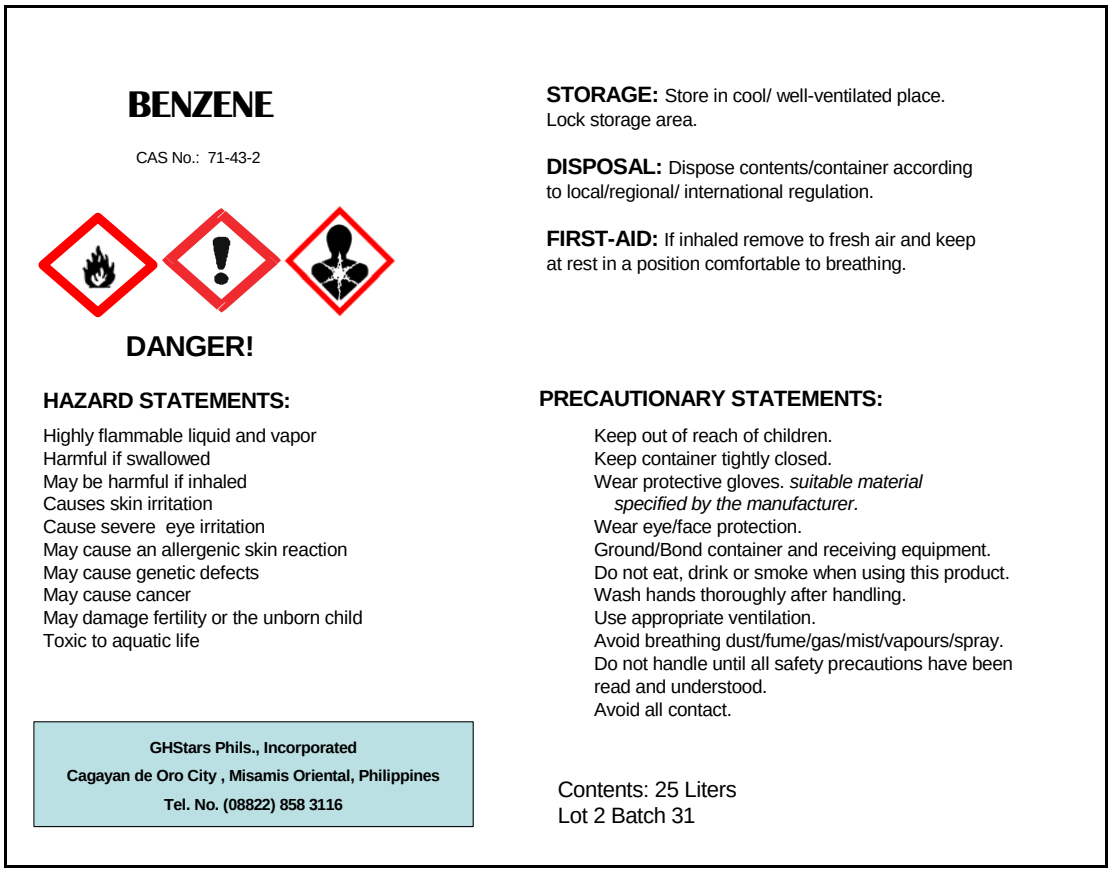
Development of an International GHS Handbook

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

Industry Awareness Raising Brochure

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

Figure 4: Sample from the SPIK SME Awareness Raising Brochure



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May be harmful if inhaled
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Cause severe eye irritation
May cause an allergenic skin reaction
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STORAGE: Store in cool/ well-ventilated place. Lock storage area.

DISPOSAL: Dispose contents/container according to local/regional/ international regulation.

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PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS:

Keep out of reach of children.
Keep container tightly closed.
Wear protective gloves. *suitable material specified by the manufacturer.*
Wear eye/face protection.
Ground/Bond container and receiving equipment.
Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.
Wash hands thoroughly after handling.
Use appropriate ventilation.
Avoid breathing dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray.
Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.
Avoid all contact.

Contents: 25 Liters
Lot 2 Batch 31

Plans for 2008-2009

Over the coming years, a number of guidance and training materials may be revised or further developed. These will be developed based on the feedback from pilot countries and lessons learned from project activities.

Guidance Document on Developing a Regional GHS Implementation Strategy

Using the lessons learned and feedback from the ASEAN Regional GHS Capacity Building project, as well as ongoing efforts in other regions, such as SADC, UNITAR plans to develop a standardised guidance document on regional GHS strategy development. This guidance document will retain the flexible nature of the ASEAN project while providing systematic and comprehensive guidance which can be tailored to a region's specific needs. This document could be made available to other regions that are working to coordinate regional GHS implementation.

Revised Guidance Document on Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy

During the course of 2005-2008 the document "Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy" has been tested through the pilot projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines and Thailand (and other pilot countries in Africa). For countries that have finished their pilot projects, UNITAR has developed and distributed a questionnaire on the project and guidance materials. This pilot country feedback will assist development of a revised edition of the guidance document.

Training Courses on the GHS

Over the course of 2008-2009, UNITAR will continue to develop the two training courses on the GHS: (i) Introduction to the GHS, (ii) Advanced GHS Training Course including a) Classifying Chemicals According to the GHS, and b) Preparing GHS Labels and Safety Data Sheets. UNITAR seeks the necessary resources to develop this into an online training module in order to reach wider international audiences in training on the GHS.

Comprehensibility Testing (CT)

UNITAR will continue to improve the existing CT guidance and training materials based on the feedback and lessons learned from the CT training conducted in Cambodia and Laos. This will lead to the development of a revised and steamlined 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, may pursue in 2008-09 other opportunities for development of awareness raising and guidance materials, for example:

- A guide on GHS in the context of "mainstreaming" and the Millennium Development Goals;
- A brochure on GHS as a tool for the implementation of international chemicals management agreements;

- 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 to any of the previous Programme Areas. They include, for example, activities such as a GHS capacity needs assessment surveys, development of a GHS capacity building website, and side events and presentations.

2007 Activities and Progress Made

Second Meeting of the Partners of the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*

Participants of the Second Meeting of the Partners discussed ways to improve mobilization of resources, strengthen the reach and effectiveness of the Partnership, integrate the GHS into international chemicals management and development planning efforts, and further develop GHS capacity building and knowledge management.

The Second Meeting of the WSSD Global GHS Partnership was held on 12 July 2007 in Geneva. This meeting brought together key partners and stakeholders to discuss the future of the Partnership and areas of greatest need for further GHS capacity building and implementation. Despite the significant momentum gained since the founding of the Partnership in 2002, resources are currently not sufficient to satisfy the growing demand for GHS capacity building and to maintain the level of activities and services that the GHS Partnership needs to support worldwide implementation. The meeting provided an opportunity for participants to take stock of progress to date and consider ways to strengthen and expand the GHS Partnership and its network. Partners and other relevant stakeholders provided presentations regarding the importance of the GHS from their perspective, existing efforts and initiatives for GHS capacity building, and areas of need and demand for GHS implementation. Through the presentations, discussions and working groups, a number of recommendations were agreed for a range of important issue areas related to strengthening the Partnership (including ways to improve mobilization of resources, strengthen the reach and effectiveness of the Partnership, integrate the GHS into international chemicals management and development planning efforts, and further develop GHS capacity building and knowledge management), as well as some recommendations that could be addressed in the context of the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme.

Based on the recommendations and conclusions of the meeting, UNITAR and other Partners are seeking opportunities with countries and organisations to support continued efforts and activities for GHS implementation. The report of the meeting is available at: http://www.unitar.org/cwm/publications/event/ghs_partner_meeting_12_jul_2007/report/MOP2_GHS_final%20report.pdf.

Results of the Questionnaire on the Status of GHS Implementation

The UNITAR/ILO/ OECD questionnaire report revealed 94 percent of countries interested in capacity building support for GHS implementation.

UNITAR/ILO/OECD sent out a worldwide questionnaire in 2006 on the status of GHS implementation. Regarding results from non-OECD countries, 49 countries responded and 94 percent of responses (46 countries) indicated interest in support for capacity building support for GHS implementation from UNITAR/ILO. The report was finalized and made available in 2007. It can be accessed from the UNITAR website at: www.unitar.org/cwm/publications/cw/ghs/UNITAR_ILO_OECD_Questionnaire_report_final.pdf .

2nd Edition Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Capacity Building Library

In 2007, UNITAR updated 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 was published both as a CD-Rom and an online version. The online version can be accessed at: http://www.unitar.org/cwm/publications/cbl/ghs/index.htm.

Plans for 2008-2009

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the GHS

UNITAR and UNECE will work together to complete a list 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. Initial FAQs related to national GHS implementation, the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme, the WSSD Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS, and the GHS and other international agreements can be viewed at: http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/faqs.htm.

7. Related Initiatives and Activities in 2007

A number of GHS activities were implemented in 2007 (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 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is reviewing the national standards and codes of practice relating to workplace use of chemicals, and has released a draft of documents adapting these standards and codes to the GHS for public comment, along with a draft regulation impact statement relating to the implementation of the GHS for workplace chemicals. Analysis of the comments is underway and revised national material for workplace chemicals, based on the GHS classification and hazard communication (as well as a final regulation impact statement), should be finalised by the end of 2008. Transition arrangements and implementation processes have yet to be agreed. 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. This consideration includes the implementation schedules of major trading partners.

For consumer products and poisons (including the classification and scheduling of pesticides) the Department of Health and Aging has established several groups to identify and assess possible implications of GHS implementation and to advise the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee (NDPSC).

For the environment sector, the joint federal-state chemicals working group set up under the National framework for Chemicals Environmental Management in Australia are developing input into how environmental issues in the various jurisdictions should be implemented under GHS.

Australia has recently reviewed its dangerous goods transport requirements. A revised Australian Dangerous Goods Code (the 7th Edition), based largely on the 14th revised edition of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations, should take full effect from 1 January 2009. A unique

aspect of the Australian code is the requirement to label inner packages with dangerous goods information. The new code recognises the GHS as an appropriate labelling system for inner packages. Australia is currently reviewing its explosives transport requirements. A revised Australian Explosives Code (the 3rd Edition), which aligns with relevant sections of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations (15th Edition), is currently being developed and should be finalised by the end of 2008.

Australia facilitated a workshop on GHS implementation that was held in conjunction with the APEC Chemical Dialogue meeting in June 2007. The meeting was attended by representatives from most APEC member economies.

Brazil

On 26 June 2007, the President of the Republic of Brazil signed a Decree formalizing the GHS Working Group ("GT-GHS-Brasil), which is the responsible body for the implementation of the GHS in Brazil. Further, several training courses took place in 2007 as well as the completion of the translation of the first revised edition of the GHS into Portuguese and the implementation of the methodology for the application of the comprehensibility testing study. As a member of the Mercosur Ad Hoc Group on Chemicals within Sub-Group 6 in the Environmental Area, Brazil has identified GHS implementation as one of the six issues of highest priority for the region.

Japan

Japan has now classified 1500 substances according to the GHS and is currently in the process of translating these results into English. To support this work, Japan has completed a classification manual and technical guidance document to support the guidance of expert judgment, for example, in instances of multiple data. Japan also has completed the development of computer software for GHS classification of mixtures, but currently this is only available in Japanese. This software operates by inputting the GHS classification results of substances, then based on the ratio of the substance in the mixture, the classification of the mixture is derived. In its next phase of activities, which started in 2007 and will continue into 2008, Japan is reviewing the classification results, the manual and technical guidance. To seek expert feedback, Japan has developed an electronic bulletin for a scientific discussion of results. Based on comments received, Japan will update and revise these materials. Japan is also in the process of developing clarification on the Purple Book based on examination of other countries and regions interpretations and through international discussions.

Switzerland

To assess the impact of implementation of the GHS on the economy in Switzerland, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), in agreement with the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) contracted an economic impact assessment (EIA) that was published in 2007. The objectives of this investigation were to evaluate the impact of the introduction of the GHS in Switzerland on Swiss enterprises (costs and benefits); and to determine the best option for the introduction of the GHS in Switzerland from an economic point of view.

The report concluded that implementation of the GHS is expected to cause significant costs, but none of the companies interviewed questioned its introduction in Switzerland. The implementation of the GHS in Switzerland, harmonized with the EU in terms of its contents, starting time and duration of the transition period, is considered as the economically most favourable option. In comparison with the existing basic costs for chemicals management in enterprises, the one-time additional costs for changing to the GHS, if spread over several years, is bearable for Swiss enterprises. In the long term, it is expected that the world-wide introduction of the GHS will be favourable for global trade in chemical products and will improve the communication about hazardous properties of chemicals.

The complete economic impact assessment in German, along with summaries in English, French and Italian, is available at: http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/index.html?action=show_publ&lang=de&id_thema=30&series=UW&nr_publ=0732.

In addition, and based on the outcomes of the EIA study, a legislative proposal for a first-step-amendment of the current regulation on classification and labelling of chemical substances and preparations (mixtures) according to the GHS is currently being drafted by the Swiss Federal Offices of Public Health (FOPH) and for the Environment (FOEN). It is intended that chemical products that have been classified and labelled according to the criteria and rules laid down in the European Union GHS regulation may be placed on the market in Switzerland once the EU GHS regulation will enter into force. A stakeholder consultation on the legislative proposal is planned for 2008. Full implementation of the GHS in Swiss chemicals legislation (including amendments of downstream regulations that refer to classification and labelling provisions) is planned at a later stage, depending on the schedule for the GHS implementation of the EU and other major trading partners.

United States

US agencies continued work toward GHS implementation in 2007. The Department of Transportation has almost completed required regulatory changes (except for aquatic toxicity, which is still under discussion internationally). A transitional period of "voluntary" compliance began in 2007. During this period, shippers may choose to follow either the GHS or the pre-GHS requirements.

The Department of Labor/Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) continued work on GHS changes to its existing Hazard Communication Standard as a priority rule-making activity. Following publication of an Advance Notice of Proposed Rule-Making in September 2006, OSHA received and analyzed public comments and began drafting a Proposed Rule. The required economic analysis was completed and subjected to peer review in 2007, and OSHA's goal is to publish the Proposed Rule by October 2008.

The Environmental Protection Agency focused its efforts on addressing stakeholder concerns raised in an October 2006 public workshop and on improving communication and outreach through an upgraded web site and other means. In late 2007, pilot activities were initiated (on a voluntary basis) to develop GHS-compliant classification and labeling for a select group of pesticide products. EPA also led US efforts to address issues related to health and environmental classification criteria through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Task Force on Classification and Labelling (the technical focal point for this work).

The Consumer Product Safety Commission continued its review of GHS implications for its programs and its participation in interagency and OECD expert groups on health issues (e.g. with respect to sensitization criteria).

Zambia

In Zambia, the GHS Technical Committee continued to meet with the view of domesticating the GHS in Zambia. This was undertaken through a multi-stakeholder consultative process with key institutions such as the Environmental Council of Zambia, Zambia Bureau of Standards, Academia, Industry, NGOs and key government line ministries.

The Technical Committee has since produced a draft national GHS standard which will be circulated for preliminary comments. The final draft will be ready by March 2008 and will be sent for further public comments in May 2008.

In addition, the Environmental Council of Zambia has drafted a standard on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods. The draft standard is currently with the Zambia Bureau of Standards who will circulate it for public comments. It is envisaged that after March 2008 the standard will be gazetted as a national document.

Regional Activities

European Union

On 27 June 2007, the European Commission adopted a proposal (COM(2007) 355 final) for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, and amending Directive 67/547/EEC and Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. This proposal takes account of the comments received during public stakeholder consultation in autumn 2006. Together with the proposal, the Commission presented an impact assessment to the European Parliament and to the Council.

Classification of substances and preparations (GHS: "mixtures") triggers other obligations in EU legislation, referred to as "downstream legislation". As the current system of classification and labelling will be replaced by the new Regulation, basic adaptations of EU downstream legislation to the new Regulation must be made. This resulted in two further Commission proposals (COM(2007)611 final and COM(2007)613 final) which implement the GHS for seven pieces of EU downstream legislation. Further EU acts, *inter alia*, those which may require major amendments such as the Seveso Directive, will be amended through separate acts at a later stage.

Guidance on how to apply the provisions of the proposed Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging is currently developed at the European Chemicals Bureau (ECB) within REACH Implementation Project 3.6 (RIP 3.6). Four working groups have been established, dealing with general aspects, physical, health and environmental hazards. They consist largely of Member State experts. The RIP 3.6 guidance document is expected to be finalised by the end of 2008. In addition to the guidance given in RIP 3.6, it is planned to provide short and industry-oriented guidance on basic features and procedures of the proposed GHS-implementing act in the form of downloadable print documents.

International Activities

The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI)

The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) supports the development of institutional capacity and legislation for chemicals management through bilateral and regional agreements, focusing on developing

countries and countries with economies in transition. Chemicals management requires systems for hazard assessment and communication and in this work KemI is promoting the implementation of the GHS in national legislation. Current bilateral and regional cooperation includes Southeast Asia, southern Africa, the Balkans, Vietnam, Serbia, Macedonia, Tanzania, and PR China.

As part of the agreement between KemI and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), KemI organized an International Training Programme (ITP), "Strategies for Chemicals Management". The purpose of ITP is for participants to acquire the knowledge and skill required to enhance chemicals control in their countries. The programme targets relevant government officials in order to assist their domestic administration in developing national strategies for chemicals management and sustainable development. The ITP is in two parts, one initial three week training session in Sweden followed six months later by a one week session in one of the participating countries. In the interim period, the participants work on a “project of change” in their home countries with KemI guidance. One module of the first session is on classification and labelling of chemicals with a focus on the GHS. The 2007 ITP focused on southeast Asia and was attended by participants from Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam.

UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS/UNECE

In 2007, 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 9-11 July and 12-14 December. Further information may be found at: <www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/c4age.html>.

UNECE are also monitoring GHS implementation around the world through the following website: http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/implementation_e.html.

Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

In 2007, the OECD finalized a proposal for revising the GHS chapter on Aquatic Hazards, and continued to develop documents at the request of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS. Several meetings were held, including an expert meeting on sensitization (United States, February 2007), an expert meeting on terrestrial hazards (United States, October 2007), a validation management group of the Transformation/Dissolution protocol (United States, October 2007), a meeting of the Task Force on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling (Switzerland, July 2007), and a Workshop on the application of GHS criteria to HPV chemicals (Switzerland, July 2007).

Other Related Activities

Chemical Industry Association of the Philippines (SPIK)

SPIK (Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika sa Pilipinas) - the Chemical Industry Association of the Philippines - played a vital role in GHS Capacity Building in the Philippines. Since 2003, SPIK has been involved in raising awareness and training on the GHS in the Philippines and has participated in a number of training courses on the GHS held in the region, including by APEC, JETRO and AOTS.

Under the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building project SPIK had a training roadshow starting from the National Capital Region or Metro Manila to Central Luzon in Pampanga to the Visayas Region in Cebu and the Mindanao area in Cagayan de Oro. SPIK was also requested by the Bureau of Product Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry, the Pesticide Action Network and the National Association of Consumers of the Philippines to conduct separate trainings to cater to different types of audiences.

SPIK plans to continue conducting GHS training. Some multinational companies (Dow, Dupont, 3M) will be approached to provide venues and equipment to be able to charge low registration fees. It is hoped that SPIK will be able to solicit additional funding to conduct similar training in various parts of the country and to support SMEs.

International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)

In 2007 the International Council on Mining and Metals organized seminars in Sub-Saharan Africa, North America and South East Asia on GHS implementation in the mining sector. The seminars coincided with the publication and wider dissemination of a brochure aimed at raising awareness of the GHS and the status of implementation in several key jurisdictions. An excerpt of this brochure can be found as Figure 5. Further seminars and guidance on implementing the GHS are planned for 2008.

Figure 5: Excerpt from ICMM brochure on the GHS

Introduction

The Globally Harmonised System (GHS) is an international standardised system for classifying chemicals and communicating their health and environmental hazards to consumers, workers, transport workers and emergency responders. The system is now undergoing worldwide implementation at a national or regional level. The added significance for global mining and metals companies is that the GHS will provide a basis for future harmonisation of wider rules and regulations on chemicals at national, regional and global level. It will for example become the classification and labelling protocol under REACH.

The selection of GHS pictograms used in this document were downloaded from the UNECE website

Development of GHS

Many countries have developed standards for classifying the hazards posed by chemicals in the workplace and during transportation. In many cases, differences among these national standards have caused confusion for companies that market chemical products globally. This is particularly true for the mining and metals industry, with widely diverse supply chains and market geographies. An attempt to provide a common basis for classification for all the different target audiences is therefore of relevance and welcomed by industry. Under GHS, it is anticipated that all chemicals (including minerals and metals) will be uniformly classified, with a single system of hazard/warning signs and statements used for MSDS's (Material Safety Data Sheets), product, and shipping labels.

The development of the GHS is an output of the first 'Earth Summit' on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, which recognised the need for a single global system to classify and label chemicals. The United Nations formally adopted GHS as its proposed model in December 2002, culminating more than a decade of collaborative work by the UN, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). International support for the GHS is broad and implementation by country or region has already begun. Most countries will not require GHS classifications until mid-2008; however, some countries such as Japan, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia already accept GHS labels on imported products.

2

How will GHS impact the mining and metals industry?

GHS will impact mining and metals companies in several important ways. It will require the industry to reformat all of its product shipping labels and MSDS's to conform to: a new template; a new series of hazard statements; and, new signs or 'pictograms' representing particular hazards. As various regulatory jurisdictions implement GHS under different timeframes, companies must be prepared to comply with each of the new requirements as they unfold.

The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), adopted in Johannesburg in 2002, encourages countries to implement the GHS as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008. Currently the timetable for implementation varies between countries or regions and the following table summarises the status of GHS implementation in major regulatory jurisdictions around the world, (as of July 2007).

How does GHS work?

GHS will introduce a set of criteria for categorising the human health and environmental hazards of chemicals. There are ten different endpoints of human health considered under GHS (e.g., acute toxicity, skin and eye irritations, CMRs) and two environmental endpoints based on toxicity to aquatic life in the case of an accidental spill. Since many countries have existing classification systems, several of the GHS classifications may be unfamiliar to metals and mining companies and will require the associated pictograms and warning statements.

These new criteria for categorisation will require companies to reassess virtually all of their products, ingredients, and impurities to ensure they are accurately classified and labelled. Companies will be required to revise their product MSDS's to the new global format, and will change their supply labels accordingly depending on the implementation timelines in each country. Some products that do not currently carry hazard warnings will require labelling under GHS.

There will be changes to 'inbound' (vendor-supplied) MSDS's as well. Suppliers of raw materials and processing aides, lubricants, fuels, cleaning products, etc. will change their MSDS's and labelling, such that mining and metals companies will face a deluge of new upstream information. Employees who handle chemicals in the workplace will need to become familiar with the new hazard warning statements and pictograms, and be aware that some handling and storage procedures may change.

Importantly, these new classifications will set the stage for more in-depth chemical assessments under national or regional chemicals management systems. The European Union's REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of CHemicals) legislation for example came into force in June 2007 and will rely on GHS as its basis for classification and labelling. Because REACH will potentially restrict or ban the use of certain chemicals, it is vital for the industry to ensure that the classifications of its products are scientifically accurate, and globally consistent. This will help to avoid unnecessary testing and regulatory work in the future, and ensure that chemical registration and authorisation decisions are based on sound metal substance classifications.

3

Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC), USA

The Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC) is a non-profit professional organization that promotes effective communication of chemical hazards. SCHC members come from a broad range of occupations and employment, including government, industry and academia. The Society is committed to sharing knowledge and resources for assessing and communicating chemical hazards on labels and MSDSs. SCHC has undertaken to train on, distribute information and increase awareness of the GHS. The SCHC Alliance with OSHA also includes these GHS goals.

Given that the GHS is a complicated system, SCHC recognized the need for simple and clear GHS information. Under the SCHC-OSHA Alliance, SCHC is developing *GHS Information Sheets*. These sheets explain the GHS elements/building blocks in clear and simple language. Two *GHS Information Sheets* have been finalized, Flammability and GHS Pictograms. SCHC is posting these sheets on www.schc.org. They are available to everyone.

In 2007 SCHC held panels on the status of GHS implementation in the USA with speakers from CPSC, DOT, EPA and OSHA. Additionally, there were GHS updates on the global status of the GHS at both the spring (164 attendees) and fall (200 attendees) SCHC meetings. These included a REACH/GHS presentation from Anna-Liisa Sundquist, GHS toxicology issues, a Japan GHS update,

GHS aquatic toxicity, the EU 2007 GHS proposal and a large company perspective on GHS implementation. SCHC offers GHS professional development courses which in 2007 had 146 participants including professionals from USA and Canadian government agencies, as well as attendees from Europe and Asia-Pacific. The SCHC president and past-president gave GHS presentations at professional associations to promote GHS awareness.

The Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

The Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in cooperation with the Conservation and Environment Management Division (CEMD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) established the Round Table Dialogue (RTD) to form the Malaysian Network for Integrated Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Substances for Environment and Development (MyNICHE). Since the first RTD in 2005, MyNICHE has worked to support sound chemicals management, including implementation of the GHS in Malaysia. Since then, LESTARI has continued to be actively engaged in chemicals management issues both nationally and within the region. MyNICHE-3, held in 2007 focused on managing chemicals for a better quality of life and included information on the GHS. LESTARI has also served as an expert resource on the GHS for the National Coordinating Committee on the GHS (NCCGHS), chaired by MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry).

8. Further Development of the Partnership in 2008

Five years on and the WSSD Global GHS Partnership is strong and growing. However, there is still a long way to go to implement the GHS worldwide. To address the capacity building and GHS implementation needs for the coming years, the Second Meeting of the Partners in 2007 provided an important opportunity to consider resource mobilisation issues and determine the best ways forward to fully realise the objectives of the Global GHS Partnership. Based on the outcomes of these discussions and conclusions from the meeting, the Partnership will continue to work to address the training and capacity building needs of countries to implement the GHS. In particular, in 2008, the Partnership will focus on addressing issues related to GHS training, coordination, transition periods, and mainstreaming.

For example, in order to keep up with current priorities for chemicals management, in 2008 the Partnership will make efforts to further link the GHS to SAICM. In order to maximise available funding to support countries in implementing the GHS, the Partnership Secretariat (UNITAR/ILO), as well as other organizations such as WHO, will explore the development of GHS-related proposals for funding through the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

More than ever countries and stakeholders are cooperating at the regional and international levels to coordinate and facilitate a transition towards a harmonised application of the GHS. 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.

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.

The GHS also can support the implementation of key international agreements on chemicals management:

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.

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*.[4] 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.[5] 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".[6] This target had also been adopted by the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in 2000.

[4] Further information on relevant international bodies related to the GHS can be found in Annex 3.
[5] 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>.
[6] 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.