

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

# WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS



## Annual Report 2009



**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research



ORGANISATION  
FOR ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT



**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](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm)>.



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*The GHS Partnership Secretariat gratefully acknowledges the support of the Government of Switzerland and its Partners in preparing the Annual Reports.*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING PARTNERS

In 2009, momentum towards international GHS implementation continued. The EU GHS-based system (“CLP”) entered into force and new developments in the USA and elsewhere re-affirmed the continuing efforts among countries to use the GHS as the basis for national chemical classification and hazard communication systems. These and other activities worldwide – many highlighted in this report – demonstrate the continuing motivation of countries to implement the GHS, but they also highlight the task ahead regarding the training activities that are still needed.

The emphasis, certainly in chemical producing countries, has turned from preparing for GHS implementation to using it as the basis for related activities in all sectors – and the need for concurrent training has also been highlighted as an important factor. Nevertheless, the need for capacity building for GHS implementation in countries that are mainly importers of chemicals remains strong and will continue to be an important focus for the activities of this Partnership.

At the international level, many statements by Ministers and others at the May 2009 second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-2) in Geneva highlighted the high priority of GHS implementation in the context of national chemical management strategies. Also in the SAICM context, the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund has continued to prove to be a useful avenue of support for GHS capacity building and SAICM enabling activities, building on the initial project approved in 2008. In the context of the UNITAR/ILO Programme, we have also begun exploring the possibilities for new types of partnerships – and with new partners – to further build on and expand the network of agencies and organisations that recognize the value of using the GHS as a tool not only for classification and hazard communication, but also as a key foundation for chemical safety.

UNITAR, ILO and OECD appreciate and would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Governments of Switzerland and Germany, and the European Union in 2009. Equally important, we continue 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 2010-2011 in order to meet the continued growing interest and commitment for GHS capacity building in developing and transition countries.

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## 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 also facilitates implementation of the ILO Chemicals Convention (C170).

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 recognized 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.

For more information, please visit the UNECE website: [http://unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs\\_welcome\\_e.html](http://unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html) and see “Understanding the GHS- A companion guide to the Purple Book”: [http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/publications/cw/ghs/GHS\\_Companion\\_Guide\\_final\\_June2010.pdf](http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/publications/cw/ghs/GHS_Companion_Guide_final_June2010.pdf).

**Chapter 1**  
**The WSSD Global  
Partnership**





## **Chapter 1: The WSSD Global 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.

### ***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.

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 2009 progress are found throughout this Annual Report and can also be found at the UNITAR/ILO Programme website at: <<http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs>>.

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 Program 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.

### ***Background on 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* 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. The Partnership website is: [http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/ghs\\_partnership/index.htm](http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/index.htm).

### ***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).

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.

***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 and training materials prepared, peer-reviewed and pilot tested.

### 2009 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 2009:

#### A. Support of Partnership Coordination and Secretariat

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) Switzerland CHF 50,000

#### B. 2009 Financial Support to Core Partnership Activities

#### C. In-kind Financial Contributions in 2009 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: United States, Australia, and the Government of Nigeria.

## Chapter 2

# GHS Capacity Development at the Regional Level





## Chapter 2

### GHS Capacity Development at the Regional Level

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 Program 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.

#### *2009 Activities and Progress made*

##### ASEAN

The European Union has approved a second phase project for activities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a regional economic integration zone bringing together 10 countries. National capacity development projects will be supported in four member countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand), with a high degree of growth in chemical production, handling and use. National support activities will also take place in the People's Republic of China (PR China). Regional capacity development activities will involve all 10 ASEAN Member States, as well as China and selected countries from central and East Asia.

The overall objective of the proposed project is to contribute to the protection of the environment and human health from dangerous chemicals in developing countries. The specific objective is to make a significant contribution towards global implementation of the GHS (as called for by WSSD and SAICM) by strengthening its implementation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and with ASEAN's key trading partners.

The agreement between the EU and UNITAR was signed in late December 2009. Initial progress will be provided in the 2010 Annual Report.

##### Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS)

In December 2009, UNITAR and the Coordinating Informational Service Center (CISC) for the Commonwealth of Independent State signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance their cooperation for awareness raising activities in order to implement the GHS in the Russian speaking countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

CISC activities are focused on companies' assistance for the GHS implementation process and dealing with issues that have emerged with the introduction of REACH and the GHS-based CLP Regulations.

For the upcoming year, the CISC is intending to prepare and conduct 3 national or regional workshops on GHS implementation in CIS countries. The first workshop is tentatively scheduled for March 2010 in Belarus. The CIS includes the following: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

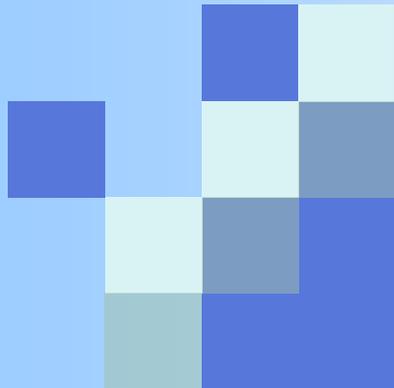
### ***Plans for 2010-2011***

#### East and Central Asia Regional GHS Workshop

A "Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of East and Central Asia", is currently scheduled for September 2010 in Beijing, China. The purpose of the workshop will be to discuss experiences with chemical hazard communication in East and Central Asia and consider concrete measures related to GHS implementation, including, in particular, the coordination of implementation among regional trading partners. It is expected that countries that have already engaged in significant GHS capacity building within the region, for example, a number of Southeast Asian countries – as well as Japan and Korea – will also be invited to share experiences and lessons learned.

#### GCC Regional Workshop

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat, Qatar Ministry of Environment, UNEP ROWA and UNITAR/ILO are planning to hold a Regional GHS Workshop for Arab States of the Gulf during 2010. Representatives of customs, environment and occupational health and safety and other sectors related to the GHS from all GCC countries will be invited to attend.



## Chapter 3

# GHS Capacity Development at the Country Level





## Chapter 3 GHS Capacity Development at the Country Level

Country-based GHS capacity building projects serve to catalyze 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 organizations.

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.

### *2009 Activities and Progress Made*

#### Uruguay

The GHS Project in Uruguay was completed during the second semester of 2009. The country submitted a GHS Situation and Gap Analysis and held a National GHS Workshop with the participation of all affected government ministries and stakeholder groups. After the completion of the Project activities, the country requested additional activities that will be conducted in 2010. The main activity will consist on a train the trainer course on GHS implementation. The workshop will be held in the first quarter of 2010 in Montevideo with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

#### Jamaica

Jamaica initiated the project “*Training and Capacity Building for the Implementation of the GHS*” and held a project inception meeting on 28 October as well as a training workshop on GHS comprehensibility testing on 29-30 October in Kingston. The training provided the opportunity to pilot test the revised comprehensibility testing training materials developed by UNITAR/ILO.

#### Lao PDR

During 2009, Laos completed sectoral implementation Plans for health, agriculture and industry. A National Implementation Strategy for the transport sector was also completed. A decree stipulating principles, rules and measures for controlling all activities relating to import, export, production, distribution, storage, use and disposal of pesticide in Lao PDR, with a view to protect human health, animal and environment was issued

and translated into English. Several awareness raising activities were also conducted in 2009, including the publication and distribution of brochures (see Image 1).

Image 1: Lao PDR GHS awareness raising brochure



Vietnam

On 31 December 2009, Vietnam completed the activities of the project “Training and Capacity Building for the Implementation of the GHS”. The country completed a GHS situation and gap analysis and comprehensibility testing of GHS hazard communication elements. Several awareness raising activities were conducted within the project, including the organization between May and June 2009 of four training workshops for the stakeholders of the GHS sectors (industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products). Vietnam also developed a strategic plan which constitutes a “Road Map” for national GHS implementation.

At the end of the project, Vietnam held a National Review Workshop on 17 December 2009, including over 52 participants from the Ministry of Industry & Trade, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Labour, War Invalids & Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Police, Ministry of Education & Training, representatives of industry and business trade union, chemistry trade union, chemical association as well as a consumer protection association (see Photo 1). The participants endorsed the workshop resolutions and made a proposal to the relevant industries, agencies to consider and build up a suitable regime to support the enterprises in GHS strategy implementation. It was agreed that the timeline for the implementation of this strategy will cover the period from 2009 to 2015.

**Photo 1: Participants at the Vietnam National GHS Review Workshop**



### *Plans for 2010-2011*

#### Bahrain

With support of the QSPTF, Bahrain will undertake a project on Capacity Building for Integrated and Sustainable Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Management. One of the project components will focus on integrating the GHS into development planning and sustainability of chemicals and management programmes, as well as reviewing national legislation and preparing recommendations for alignment with GHS requirements.

#### Barbados

UNITAR is working with the SAICM Secretariat to initiate project activities in Barbados for a project on Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building (approved in the 7<sup>th</sup> Round, 2009). The project activities will start early in 2010.

#### Gambia

A proposal by the Gambia for follow-up GHS implementation activities was accepted for funding through the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (Sixth round, 2009). This next phase of GHS capacity Building will focus on legal Implementation and development of enforcement mechanisms. UNITAR/ILO will work closely with The Gambia to support these efforts.

Zambia

UNITAR and Zambia, whose SAICM QSP Trust Fund Project was accepted in the fifth round (2008), are working with the SAICM Secretariat to initiate the GHS project activities. These activities will enable the country, among other results, to contribute to the national commitment and implementation of the GHS and to train a critical number of decision makers and stakeholders in Zambia about the GHS and its potential benefits for sustainable development.

## Chapter 4

### Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Capacity Building, Guidance and Training Materials





## Chapter 4      **Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Capacity Building, Guidance and Training Materials**

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.

### ***2009 Activities and Progress Made***

#### GHS Training Courses

The process for development of the Advanced GHS Training Course was initiated in 2008. An expert group was designated to review the draft lessons on classification. This group met regularly during 2009 via teleconference to discuss necessary revisions and continued development of the materials.

#### UNITAR and Basel Convention GHS Training

In response to the specific chemicals management training needs in Africa, the “Development of GHS Training Modules in the Context of Africa.” project was executed by UNITAR, in the context of the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*, in cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat. Funds and technical support were provided by the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) through the Basel Convention Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in the framework of their “Towards a non-toxic environment in Africa” initiative. The initiative is aimed at enhancing the capacity of African countries to reduce health and environmental risks through SAICM and improving the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The overall goal of the project was to develop training modules on the GHS adapted for use in the Africa region in order to strengthen capacities to implement the GHS in line with global and regional efforts.

The *GHS Training Modules in the Context of Africa* were pilot tested at a workshop in Ibadan, Nigeria on 28-29 July 2009. As a lead country in West Africa regarding the GHS, Nigeria was chosen as a venue to test the materials with a pilot audience. Participants consisted of policy makers and technical experts involved in chemicals management from the various sectors affected by GHS implementation. Based on the feedback from the training workshop in Nigeria, the materials were revised and are available for use on a region wide basis for GHS training. The materials can be

accessed on the training package page:

<http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/events/training-modules-nigeria/training-package>

### ***Plans for 2010-2011***

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.

#### Revised Guidance Document on Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy

Based on completed countries pilot projects, UNITAR developed and distributed a questionnaire on the project and guidance materials. The results of this survey have been compiled and used to update the guidance document on Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy. The revised document will be used in the national activities during 2010 and 2011.

#### Training Courses on the GHS

Over the course of 2010-2011, the expert group will continue to review and revise the Advanced GHS Training Course lessons on classification and the hazard communication portion of the training course will continue to be developed. The introductory course will be pilot tested in select partner countries.

#### 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 standardized 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 then be made available to other regions that are working to coordinate regional GHS implementation.

#### 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 2010-2011 other opportunities for development of awareness raising and guidance materials, for example:

- A brochure on GHS as a tool for the implementation of international chemicals management agreements;
- A guide on GHS in the context of “mainstreaming” and the

Millennium Development Goals;

- GHS Awareness Raising Clearing House website; 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.



## Chapter 5

# Supporting Activities and Services for GHS Capacity Development





## Chapter 5: Supporting Activities and Services for GHS Capacity Development

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.

### *2009 Activities and Progress Made*

#### GHS Presentations

*“Caribbean workshop on SAICM and related chemicals management instruments”*

UNITAR made a presentation on the activities of the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme at the Caribbean workshop held from 10 to 13 March 2009 in Bridgetown, Barbados. The meeting participants requested UNITAR to convene a workshop for Caribbean stakeholders to raise awareness on the benefits to be derived from the implementation of the GHS.

#### *International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-2)*

ICCM-2 in May 2009 presented an opportunity for UNITAR to meet with country representatives with ongoing GHS projects. These discussions also provided an opportunity to understand some of the outstanding issues and the need for renewed commitments for the safe management of chemicals. The Conference also presented an excellent opportunity for participants to highlight the high priority that the GHS has amongst all chemicals management concerns.

#### *Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures meeting - Barcelona*

During the Update Meeting organized by the European Commission on the Global Implementation of the GHS held in Barcelona on 24 September 2009, UNITAR delivered a presentation on the global implementation of GHS and in particular the UNITAR role in supporting developing countries and countries in transition through national, regional and global activities.

#### *Regional Symposium on Sound Management of Chemicals in Arab States*

From 26-28 October 2009 UNEP/ROWA held a “Regional Symposium on Sound Management of Chemicals in Arab States”. The last day of the Symposium was dedicated to GHS. UNITAR was requested to give a presentation on the GHS, as well as an overview of the UNITAR/ILO Programme activities on GHS implementation. The aim of this “GHS day” was to help countries start the processes of designing their national GHS implementation through presenting experiences of some countries outside the region.

Furthermore, and based on the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Arab Countries held from 30 October to 2 November 2006, Alexandria, Egypt, participants were requested to provide information about the progress made so far with GHS implementation.

***Plans for 2010-2011***

During 2010-2011, UNITAR, ILO, OECD and other Partners will continue to support a range of GHS-related capacity development activities as opportunities arise, including presentations at related meetings and events.

## Chapter 6

# Related Initiatives and Activities in 2009





## Chapter 6: Related Initiatives and Activities in 2009

A number of GHS activities were implemented in 2009 which were not directly coordinated through the UNITAR/ILO Programme Advisory Group, but nevertheless are important activities contributing to the goal of GHS implementation.

### *National Activities*

#### Brazil

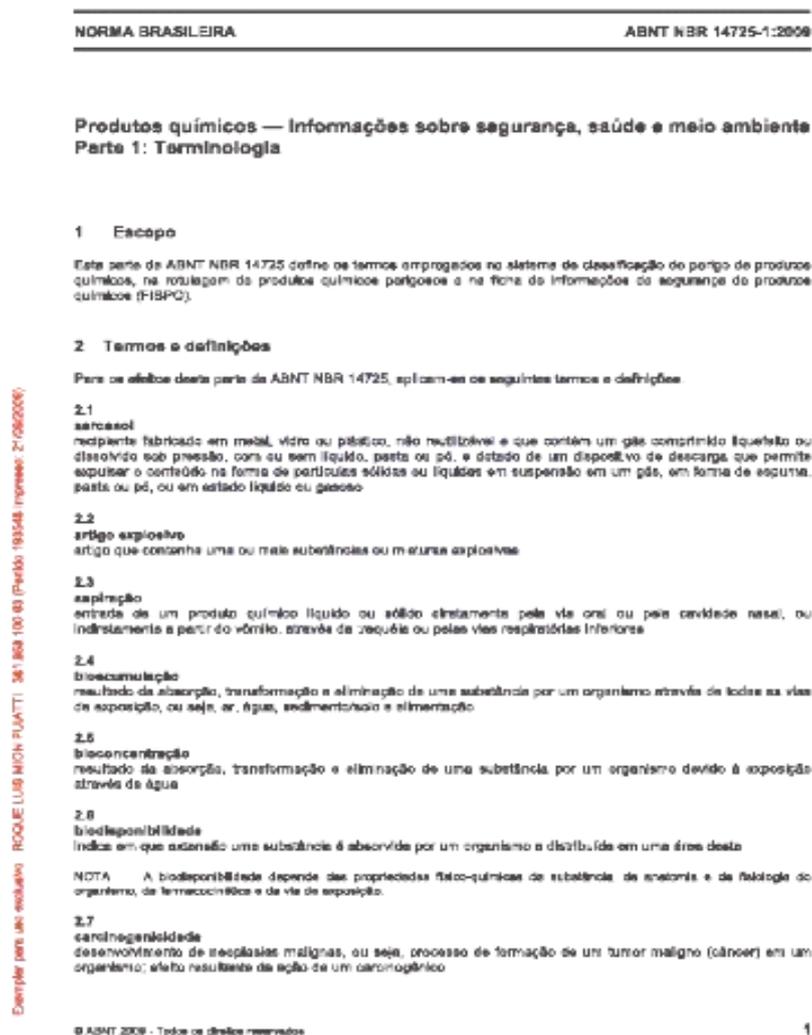
The Brazilian government, through its Ministries, Agencies, Institutions and Foundations is working towards implementation of the GHS. This task started in 2001 and since then dozens of activities have been developed. The President of Brazil signed a Decree on 26 July 2007 formalizing the GT-GHS Working Group, which has the responsibility to elaborate and propose strategies, guidelines, programs and plans of action.

During 2009, this group held 5 meetings in Brasilia inviting industry associations (chemicals, pesticide, etc) to participate in discussions. Non-governmental organizations, particularly from industry, developed many activities over the last few years including the organization of events, elaboration of GHS informational material and impact analysis studies.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health sponsored the translation of the GHS Purple Book into Portuguese. The Portuguese version of the GHS should be available early in 2010. Last September the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT) published the standards based on GHS: NBR 14725, which is divided into four parts. Part 1 deals with Terminology, part 2 with Classification, part 3 with Labelling and part 4 with the Safety Data Sheets (see image 2).

Under the umbrella of the cooperation program on Environmental Health Surveillance between The Ministry of Health of Brazil and its counterpart in Uruguay, a training course on GHS was held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009 in Montevideo. The program was sponsored by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and contributed to training 30 specialists from various Ministries and Agencies (health, labour, trade, environment, transport, etc.). The one-week course was based on the Brazilian experience of five GHS training courses. Four specialists on the GHS were the lecturers for this training course.

## Image 2: GHS-based standard from Brazil



### Ecuador

In 2008 the Environment Ministry of Ecuador asked the Ecuadorian Standards Institute the review of Technical Standard NTE 2 266:2000 INEN: Transportation, Storage and Handling of Hazardous Chemicals, which establishes the requirements and precautions must be taken into account for the transport, storage and handling of hazardous chemicals in order to incorporate the GHS.

In January 2009, the National Institute of Standardization (INEN) Sub-Committee reviewed the technical standard, which incorporates the new GHS pictograms for packaging and labelling. The standard was approved in November 2009 by the Board of the Ecuadorian Institute of Standardization. The next step will be its publication in the official register, in order to be enforceable in the country.

## European Union

On 16 December 2008 the European Parliament and the Council adopted the new Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures which aligns existing EU legislation to the United Nations Globally Harmonised System (GHS): Regulation (EC) 1272/2008, OJ L 353.

This new Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging ("CLP Regulation") contributes to the GHS aim that the same hazards will be described and labelled in the same way all around the world. By using internationally agreed classification criteria and labelling elements, it is expected to facilitate trade and to contribute towards global efforts to protect humans and the environment from hazardous effects of chemicals. The new act will complement the REACH Regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals.

The CLP Regulation entered into force on 20 January 2009 and will, after a transitional period, replace the current rules on classification, labelling and packaging of substances (Directive 67/548/EEC) and mixtures (Directive 1999/45/EC). The deadline for substance classification according to the new rules will be 1 December 2010 and for mixtures 1 June 2015.

Further information can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/classification/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/classification/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/ghs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/ghs/index_en.htm).

Together with the compromise package for the CLP Regulation, the EP and the Council adopted two related acts which adapt further Community acts to the new rules on classification and labelling, Directive 2008/112/EC, OJ L 345 and Regulation (EC) 1336/2008, OJ L 354.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are an important element of hazard communication and provide a mechanism for transmitting appropriate safety information on classified substances and mixtures, and certain non-classified substances and mixtures, including information from the relevant Chemical Safety Report(s) down the supply chain to the immediate downstream user(s). The SDS provisions are laid down in the Annex II of the REACH Regulation.

The EU Commission has prepared a draft Regulation to bring Annex II of REACH into line with the CLP Regulation and with the guidance on the preparation of SDSs as laid down in the GHS. The draft received a positive vote in the REACH Committee meeting of 9 December 2009. It is currently undergoing the scrutiny of the European Parliament and of the Council in accordance with the comitology regulatory procedure with scrutiny. The 3-month scrutiny period will end on 13 April 2010. Provided that the European Parliament and the Council do not oppose, the Commission services aim to proceed with the adoption process swiftly.

Detailed guidance for the application of the GHS criteria has been developed, taking account of the expertise of experts from EU Member State and industry.

In parallel to specific guidance, general guidance was also developed, focussing on basic features and procedures related to classification and

labelling in the EU context. The guidance is addressed to those who want to have a quick overview of the new legal requirements for classification and labelling in the EU, i.e. suppliers of chemicals and non-EU target groups. These guidance documents are available from the ECHA website: [http://echa.europa.eu/clp/clp\\_help\\_en.asp](http://echa.europa.eu/clp/clp_help_en.asp).

On 17 June 2009, the European Commission organised in Brussels a “Conference on EU and world-wide rules for classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals”. Approximately 400 participants attended the conference. It aimed to inform authorities, industry and other stakeholders about the new provisions for classification, labelling and packaging in the EU, placing them in the global context of GHS. It explained the main features of the new legislation, focusing on practical aspects. It provided up-to-date information on the CLP guidance documents and tools. The conference was webstreamed and can be accessed for one year. Further information about the conference is available via the following website: [http://webcast.ec.europa.eu/dgenttv/portal/vi\\_wm\\_300\\_en/archive.html?viewConference=7338](http://webcast.ec.europa.eu/dgenttv/portal/vi_wm_300_en/archive.html?viewConference=7338).

### Japan

Based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition of the GHS, Japan has published a new Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS) for classification and is revising JIS for labelling and SDS in 2009. In addition, Japan developed a GHS Classification Guidance in order to help industries with self-classification. The computer software for GHS classification of mixtures is expected to be available in English by the end of 2009. Japan also classified about 2000 substances and around 1500 results of them are available in English at: [http://www.safe.nite.go.jp/english/ghs\\_index.html](http://www.safe.nite.go.jp/english/ghs_index.html). In order to better understand the classification criteria and labelling system of the GHS, Japan has developed educational materials in Japanese and in English, which are available in CD format and downloadable from the website.

Within the Asian region, Japan has carried out GHS capacity building training courses for ASEAN countries over the last six years. Three training courses are currently provided for beginners, for instructors and for classifiers respectively. Participants who have completed these courses are contributing to capacity building in ASEAN countries as lecturers in training courses as well as leaders in the private sector.

### Philippines

The GHS Joint Administrative Order for the Adoption and Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS JAO) was approved by the Heads of Secretaries of the eight concerned agencies on 25 May 2009 after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.<sup>1</sup>

The GHS JAO requires implementing agencies to draft or revise their respective implementing rules and regulations (IRRs) or department orders, as the case may be, to incorporate the provisions of GHS. It also specifies the duties and responsibilities of the GHS implementing and coordinating government agencies in the adoption of the classification criteria, labelling,

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<sup>1</sup> See Image 2 on page 40.

and SDS requirements of the GHS.

The activities conducted by the concerned government agencies in line with GHS implementation for the year 2009 are the following:

1) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) through the Board of Investments (BOI) conducted a Training Seminar/Workshop on Basic and Intermediate GHS at the Makati Palace Hotel on 16 to 17 December 2009, attended by 72 personnel from concerned government agencies.

2) Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), has been continuing the promotion of GHS basic principles and awareness raising and capacity building through conducting four seminars and lectures in 2009.

3) Department of Finance (DOF), through the Bureau of Customs (BOC), issued a Customs Memorandum Circular (CMC) to implement the provisions of GHS with respect to its responsibility of monitoring the import and export of all kinds of chemical substances, mixtures and products in accordance with the GHS requirements, effective from 15 July 2009.

4) Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE), through the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC), and Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) has prepared a draft of the IRR for GHS implementation in the workplace. OSHC has also completed training and information activities on GHS through conducting three Seminars on the Safe Use of Chemicals at Work for 76 companies with a total of 124 participants and Basic GHS Course for 42 companies with a total 79 participants in 2009. It also conducted learning sessions and in-plant lectures on GHS for three companies with a total of 93 participants. A total of 3,500 posters and 3,500 brochures on the GHS have been disseminated.

#### PR China

The National People's Congress, the Chinese Parliament, approved the creation of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) in March 2008. This Ministry integrated the functions of several Commissions from different Ministries, and will be following up the implementation of GHS in China as one of the key topics in chemical management. In collaboration with UNITAR/ILO, a regional GHS conference is planned in September 2010.

In 2009 China issued three compulsory standards:

- GB 190-2009 (packaging) – implements UN's Transport of Dangerous Goods, 15<sup>th</sup> revised edition
- GB 13690-2009 (classification and hazard communication) – implements GHS
- GB 12528-2009 (precautionary labelling) - implements GHS

It is expected that these Standards will be effective from 1 May 2010.

Also in 2009, ministries of environmental protection, health, agriculture, industry and information technology, quality supervision, inspection and quarantine and representatives of industrial institutions of petrochemical,

agricultural chemicals, battery, civil aviation, ports and health, Consumers' Association, IFA, CMA, Dangerous Chemicals Management of Standardization Administration of China and All-China Federation of Trade Unions were involved in the process of implementing the GHS in China in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport. An inter-ministerial meeting on coordinating GHS implementation was held on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Beijing with the participation of the aforementioned partners. At the meeting, participants from the different ministries and organizations reached a common understanding on the importance of adopting the GHS and the need to designate contact points in order to enhance the awareness of the GHS including, among other activities, GHS training activities and the establishment of a GHS website.

#### Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (HKIOEH)

In order to protect the public at large and particularly the workers who are highly exposed to risks, the HKIOEH continued activities during 2009 in supporting and collaborating with the industry and the government to ensure safe and good practice in the use and handling of chemicals. The implementation of GHS appears as an ultimate goal to ensure a better understanding of classification, labelling and handling of chemicals.

The authorities in Hong Kong are reviewing the implementation plan of GHS and how to align the existing regulations with the GHS. Experts from UNITAR will be invited for advice (in February 2010). More publicity, training and education programmes could be arranged before the enactment of the new regulations if necessary. The Hong Kong Institute is looking forward to further development and opportunity to participate in the promotion of the system.

#### Serbia

As a step toward to modernisation and harmonisation of national legislation in field of chemicals management with the EU legislation, the Law on Chemicals was adopted in May 2009. This law provides legal framework for introduction of the GHS. The development and adoption of subsidiary legislation regarding classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals which will provide full implementation of the GHS in Serbia is expected in the middle of 2010.

Institutional and administrative capacity building activities were undertaken in order to establish the system for effective implementation/enforcement of new legislation in the chemicals area, especially activities regarding CLP. One of very important steps in this regard was specific agreement between Government of Sweden and Government of Republic of Serbia on support to chemicals risk management in Serbia by the Project "Chemicals Risk Management in Serbia" 2007-2010. The main instrument of this project is an intensive institutional cooperation between competent authorities (Swedish Chemicals Agency and Serbian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning), with financial support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), through sharing experience on legislation,

institution building and enforcement.

Among other issues, this project provided assistance in preparation of adequate legislation and capacity building for implementation of GHS. Two workshops were organised principally for core administration - one with the aim to raise basic knowledge in the field of classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals and the other with the aim to assure advanced knowledge regarding classification and labelling on basis of health and environmental hazards according to GHS. The workshop which will provide advance knowledge on classification and labelling on basis of physical hazards according to GHS is planned for May 2010. Furthermore, this project provided assistance in establishment of Serbian Chemical Agency as competent authority for chemicals management in Serbia by using the model of such agencies in European countries, especially in Sweden. As the result of this effort the Serbian Chemical Agency was established in November 2009.

### Switzerland

Switzerland has amended the Swiss chemicals ordinance on 1 February 2009 to facilitate trade of chemicals that are labelled according to GHS. Swiss manufacturers/importers have two options: they can classify and label their chemicals according to the current system or according to the GHS. Once they choose the GHS-option, the criteria of the European Community Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 have to be applied and are mandatory. However, additional hazard classes of the UN GHS are accepted on product labels. Finally, the GHS option is limited to products sold to professional users, but an extension of the option to consumer products is planned at a later stage and will be supported by additional information for consumers.

The Swiss Chemicals Industry Association (SGCI) organized in 2009 courses for its member companies introducing the GHS in the chemicals industry.

Switzerland continued its international support for the GHS within the WSSD Partnership in 2009.

### USA

In the United States, GHS implementation primarily affects four key regulatory agencies: the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Labour, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Each agency has its own statutory authorities and implementing regulations and would need to adapt them appropriately to implement the GHS.

The United States Hazardous Materials Regulations (Dangerous Goods Transport Regulations) are substantially harmonized with the 15<sup>th</sup> revised edition of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Criteria for physical hazards have been aligned with the GHS-based physical hazard criteria implemented within the UN Recommendations. In addition, the U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations recognize the GHS-

based aquatic toxicity (marine pollutant) criteria incorporated within the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code.

The Department of Labor/Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a proposal to change its existing Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to adopt the provisions of the GHS (Revision 3) on September 30, 2009. The proposal, based on comments received following publication of an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (September 2006), is undergoing review by the public. As part of the regulatory process, OSHA is planning to hold public hearings in the late winter of 2010. At these hearings interested parties have the opportunity to provide testimony and additional information to support their comments on the proposal. OSHA continues work on several guidance products and compliance assistance tools that will facilitate the transition from the existing HCS to the GHS.

The primary Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program that would be affected by GHS implementation is the pesticide registration program, which involves EPA review and approval of all pesticide labels. EPA has focused 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. Pilot activities have been initiated (on a voluntary basis) to develop GHS-compliant classification and labelling for a select group of pesticide products. A White Paper outlining initial thoughts about potential application of GHS to pesticide labels is available at:

[www.epa.gov/oppfead1/international/globalharmon.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/international/globalharmon.htm). Documents from a stakeholder workshop are also available at this site; public comments on the White Paper are available at: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (Docket No. OPP-2004-0205).

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff have undertaken analyses of the potential impact of GHS on existing policies. A policy statement on GHS is posted on the website at: [www.cpsc.gov/phth/GHSpolicy.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/phth/GHSpolicy.html).

### ***International Activities***

#### Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

In 2009, the OECD continued to develop tools that will assist all countries in implementing the GHS: four additional data sources were added to the eChemPortal (<http://webnet3.oecd.org/echempportal/>), a Global portal that allows for simultaneous search of multiple international databases and provides clearly described sources and quality of data; and the Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals have been updated with fifteen new or updated Test Guidelines for effects on biotic systems and health effects. Furthermore, after having compiled GHS classification elements provided by several countries/region for chemicals included in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, the OECD performed a pilot exercise to review the underlying classification data for a sub-set of these chemicals in order to identify reasons for discrepancies in the use of the GHS.

### World Health Organization (WHO)

GHS classifications continue to be made for new and updated International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs). The corresponding hazard statements, signal words and symbols are included on the ICSCs. The ICSCs are written by WHO participating institutions as part of a joint program run by WHO and ILO, supported by the EC. They are available free of charge to the end-user on the ILO website at: <http://www.ilo.org/legacy/english/protection/safework/cis/products/icsc/dtasht/index.htm>, the INCHEM website at: [www.inchem.org](http://www.inchem.org), and the NIOSH website at: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcs/icstart.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcs/icstart.html).

To date, GHS classifications have been included on 249 ICSCs. The updated WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard, which will be published early in 2010, will also include GHS classifications for acute oral toxicity.

### UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS/UNECE

In 2009, 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 (29 June–1 July and 7-9 December). Further information may be found at: [www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/c4age.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/c4age.html).

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



## Chapter 7

# Further Development of the Partnership in 2010





## **Chapter 7 Further Development of the Partnership in 2010**

The year 2010 provides an important opportunity to scale up the efforts to introduce and provide training for GHS implementation. The UNITAR/ILO programme will expand once again in Asia, with an importantly anticipated regional conference hosted by PR China later in the year. Activities will also continue in Africa and the Caribbean, and requests continue to be received from Latin America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. To support these activities and requests, revised and new guidance and training materials will also be necessary – as well as new methods to deliver them. Areas to be explored in 2010 could include, for example, e-learning, expanded partnerships with other training organizations, and further translation of GHS materials in to other languages.

Attention will also need to continue to be paid to the important issues of phase-in periods, transition times, and updating national systems as the GHS is itself updated every two years. The Partnership can provide an important global forum for sharing experiences, lessons learned, and best practices during 2010.



## **Annex I: GHS and related MEAs**

The GHS can also 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.

### ***GHS and the Montreal Protocol***

The Parties of the Montreal Protocol requested the Ozone Secretariat to contact the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS to evaluate the possibilities for and feasibility of including ozone-depleting substances on its work program. The UNSCEGHS agreed to set up a correspondence group on Ozone Depleting Substances, to examine possibilities to develop classification criteria for Ozone Depleting Substances, and to request OECD (one of the focal points) to develop a proposal for these criteria in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. The third revised edition of the GHS Purple Book includes a new hazard class for substances and mixtures hazardous to the ozone layer. The expert team

working on the GHS Advanced Training Course will review the module related to the hazards for the ozone layer early in 2010.

More information about the GHS can be obtained from the Secretariat (UNECE) of the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS at:  
[www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs\\_welcome\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html).

## **Annex II: 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*.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> At the Summit the Partnership was formally launched as part of the official WSSD Program 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”.<sup>4</sup> This target had also been adopted by the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in 2000.

### ***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;

<sup>2</sup> Further information on relevant international bodies related to the GHS can be found in Annex 3.

<sup>3</sup> 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>.

<sup>4</sup> A/CONF.199/20, paragraph 23(c).

- 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 marginalized groups such as women and children).

A full report of the meeting is available at UNITAR.

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

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 organizations to support continued efforts and activities for GHS implementation. The report of the meeting is available at:

[http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/publications/event/ghs\\_partner\\_meeting\\_12\\_jul\\_2007/report/MOP2\\_GHS\\_final%20report.pdf](http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/publications/event/ghs_partner_meeting_12_jul_2007/report/MOP2_GHS_final%20report.pdf).

### **ANNEX III: International Bodies and Initiatives Relevant to GHS Capacity Building**

#### *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 Program 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 IV: Linkages between Sound Management of Chemicals and the Millennium Development Goals**

**Millennium Development Goal**      **Sound chemicals management's contribution towards achieve the Millennium Development Goals**



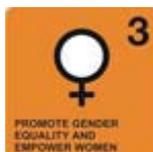
N 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The poor are at higher risk of exposure to toxic and hazardous chemicals because of their occupations, living locations, and lack of knowledge about chemicals. Sound chemicals management can improve their living environment, and consequently their health, and can help increase their revenue (e.g. proper use of pesticides can boost crop yields and protect the productivity of freshwater and marine fisheries).



N 2: Achieve universal primary education

Establishing basic knowledge of science in primary education will lay the foundation for students to assimilate science-based curricula within the secondary and tertiary levels. Knowledge of science will help nations to progress in many fields while awareness raising about for example, chemical safety issues, can reduce the occurrence of chemical related accidents.



N 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Women being the primary care takers, food preparers, and gatherers of fuel used in the household, are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution, and water/food-borne illnesses. Women's empowerment and knowledge of proper storage, handling and disposal of chemicals within the home can help protect themselves and their families' fauna.



N 4: Reduce child mortality

Chemicals (in medications) play a major role in the control of vector borne diseases such as malaria that is still the number one cause for child mortality in developing nations. In many developing countries children are exposed to chemicals through agricultural work (e.g. through improper use of pesticides), in their homes (i.e. because of bad labeling and storage of chemicals and indoor air pollution) and their living environment. Sound chemicals management combined with better nutrition can improve children's working and living conditions, decrease their sensitivity to chemicals, and reduce child mortality.

**Millennium Development Goal**

**Sound chemicals management's contribution towards achieve the Millennium Development Goals**



N 5: Improve maternal health

Certain types of chemicals can build up to dangerous levels in humans causing adverse reproductive, developmental, immunological, hormonal and carcinogenic effects. Women who have accumulated these kind of chemicals (e.g. in their lipids or body fat) can pass as much as one fifth of their toxic burden to their infant children, both prenatally and after birth. Improved SMC can lower a women's risk of contamination, improve maternal health and therefore the health of future generations



N 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

Malarial medications (prophylactics) and other chemical products (for example treated mosquito bed nets) prevent millions of deaths worldwide from this disease. Chemicals (medications) are helping to control HIV/AIDS and prevent mother-to-child transmission



N 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Chemicals can contribute to global warming, ozone depletion and climate change and can be major contributors to environmental degradation through the contamination of water, soil, air and flora and fauna. Sound chemicals management can help prevent and/or minimize harmful chemicals from entering the environment and reduce the need for difficult and costly environmental remediation.



N 8: Global partnership for development

International co-operation and co-ordination efforts towards improved chemicals management such as through the recently adopted Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and chemicals related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) create global partnerships, efforts and initiatives that help countries in integrating sound chemicals management objectives into national and local development policies and plans.

*Source: UNDP/GEF: Managing Chemicals for Sustainable Development, 2007*

**Annex V: LIST OF ACRONYMS**

APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BAFU	Swiss Federal Office for Environment (FOEN)
CEFIC	European Chemical Industry Council
COPASQ	Commission for Chemical Safety (Brazil)
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CT	comprehensibility testing
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN)
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of 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
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemicals Weapons
OSHA	US Occupational Safety and Health Administration
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
QSPTF	Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (under SAICM)
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
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development







**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

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.

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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.