

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

# WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS



## Annual Report 2010



**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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Swiss Confederation

**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**

*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

A key feature of GHS-related activities in 2010 was the large number of national workshops and training sessions held in various countries around the world. As highlighted in these Annual Reports over many years, GHS implementation will be an on-going process requiring continual training for the various stakeholders in government, industry and civil society. The wealth of information contained in this year's Annual Report is evidence of this now happening "on the ground".

Another dynamic component to GHS implementation is the updating of the Purple Book every two years by the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS. This means supporting materials to assist countries and stakeholders must also be kept up-to-date. So, in 2010, UNITAR and ILO updated two core guidance documents: "Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy" and the companion guide to the Purple Book, "Understanding the GHS". Revising the materials (and making them available in as many languages as possible) poses a challenge – but it is one that must be met in order to keep the momentum towards as broad and harmonised approach as possible to GHS implementation.

Based on progress to date, one area the Partnership could perhaps explore and enhance would be increased links with the private sector. This could include joint workshops or training sessions, for example. As GHS implementation moves from regulatory frameworks being established to implementation using GHS classifications, labels, and SDS, it is companies and firms that will increasingly be at the forefront of training needs, sharing information and experiences, and realising the benefits (and remaining challenges!) of GHS implementation. We shall perhaps see in the 2011 Annual Report if steps in this direction can be made in the context of the Partnership and what benefits it can bring.

UNITAR, ILO and OECD appreciate and would like to acknowledge the financial contributions of the European Union, the Government of Switzerland, and the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPTF) in 2010. 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 2011-2012 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:

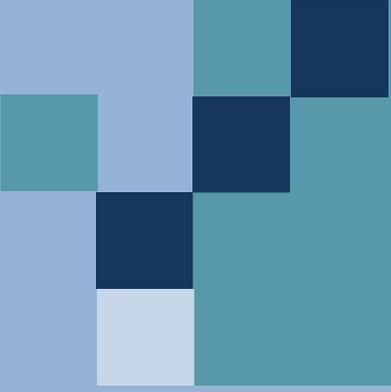
- enhance the protection of people and the environment by providing an internationally comprehensive system for chemical hazard communication;
- provide a recognized framework for those countries without an existing system;
- reduce the need for duplicative testing and evaluation of chemicals; and
- 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 Programme Advisory Group (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 2010 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 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.

### 2010 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 2010:

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

<u>Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) Switzerland</u>	CHF 50,000
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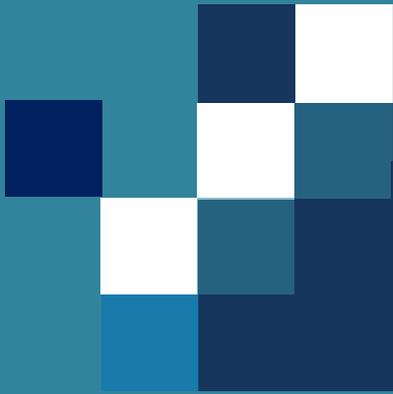
#### B. 2010 Financial Support to Core Partnership Activities

<u>European Union</u> Project on Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Implement the GHS in ASEAN -- Phase II (2010-2012)	EUR 526,683
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<u>SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPTF)</u> 2-year country projects in Zambia and Gambia	USD 325,000
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#### C. In-kind Financial Contributions in 2010 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, New Zealand, Orange House Partnership, and CIS Center (Moscow).



## **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 and trade with each other in chemicals. 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.

#### *2010 Activities and Progress made*

##### GHS Stocktaking Workshop for Southeast, East and Central Asia

As part of the wider EU funded project in ASEAN<sup>1</sup>, a “GHS Stocktaking Workshop for Southeast, East and Central Asia” was held 15-17 September 2010 in Beijing, PR China. It was organized through the collaboration of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of China, UNITAR, ILO and WHO, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland, the Government of Germany, and the European Union. It brought together about 120 participants from 20 countries, representing government delegates from countries of Southeast, East and Central Asia, relevant industry and public interest groups (including labour organizations and NGOs), IGOs, professional or research bodies and bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies.

The first part of the workshop provided the latest information regarding the GHS, as well as background on the current state of implementation in the region and the role of stakeholders. The second part was focused on the challenges of GHS implementation and reviewed the linkages between the GHS and international chemicals conventions. The third part of the workshop (undertaken mainly in working groups) addressed areas of collaboration – both nationally and regionally - and reviewed the current challenges to GHS implementation, the steps that should be taken to address the challenges, and the future issues that will be faced

During the three days, participants considered GHS implementation issues related to technical aspects, legal considerations, implementation process issues, and regional communication and information sharing needs. Recommendations and outcomes

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/ASEANproject>.

stemming from the discussions included, *inter alia*, the need to communicate the results of GHS classifications (and consider the need for a harmonized regional or international list of classified chemicals), share and coordinate implementation approaches (e.g. related to transition periods and implementation time-frames), strengthen regional and inter-regional information exchange and collaboration, and increase training and capacity-building activities (targeting SMEs in particular) nationally and regionally.

The workshop report and all materials related to the workshop may be accessed at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/events/asia-stocktaking-workshop>.

#### Asian Regional GHS “e-Forum”

As a follow-up to the GHS Stocktaking Workshop, a regional electronic Forum on the GHS (“Asian Regional GHS e-Forum”) was established in late 2010 to provide a simple platform for continual information exchange, tracking of progress, learning from experiences to date, regional coordination, and planning for the future. Key focal points in all countries and relevant sectors were identified and invited to join the Forum (the Forum officially went “live” in January 2011).

It is expected that the Forum will function for the duration of the project, as well as continue in to the future, based on the needs and priorities of the countries. The forum currently operates as an email distribution list but depending on the interest of users and level of activity over the course in the start-up phase, UNITAR may in the future consider to “upgrade” the e-Forum to a moderated list-serve format (or other e-format).

### ***Plans for 2011-2012***

#### Chemical safety awareness raising for consumers in SE Asia

UNITAR/ILO, in collaboration with relevant regional partners, plan a regional awareness campaign for chemical safety (based on the information provided by GHS-based labels, for example) in SE Asia. Workshops and/or awareness raising seminars in relevant consumers’ contexts such as market places, or through existing consumer networks would focus on chemical safety, starting with the understanding of chemical hazard communication elements, such as interpreting labels, identification of pictograms, understanding hazard statements, etc.

#### Regional GHS training for Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in SE Asia

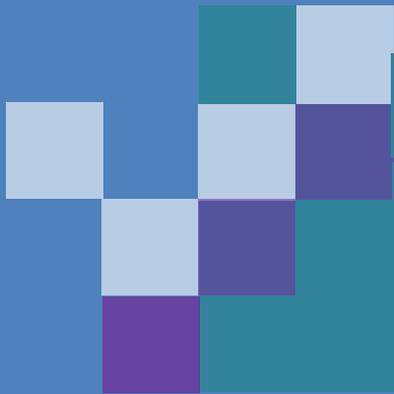
Building on the existing ASEAN-OSHNET activities (such as the 2009 “Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets” which are based on the GHS), additional training is planned to improve understanding the technical aspects of the GHS, in terms of how to use the GHS classification and hazard communication elements, in particular in a workplace setting. The

training can provide detailed information on how to improve worker safety through application of the system, and could provide the tools necessary to train workers, supervisors and companies on using the GHS as a foundation for improved chemical safety in the workplace.

#### Central and Eastern Europe

A project “Evaluating and Strengthening National and Regional Capacities for Implementing the GHS and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Central and Eastern Europe” was approved by the SAICM QSPTF in its ninth Round. The purpose of the project – hosted by Moldova - is to assess capacities within the CEE region to lay the groundwork for a coordinated sub-regional strategy for implementing the GHS, and thus supporting the implementation of SAICM. The project will support the development of a regional GHS capacity assessment to enable Central and Eastern Europe to identify capacity needs for sound chemicals management and implementation. Based on the outcomes of this assessment a regional GHS workshop with key stakeholders will discuss the results of the assessment and initiate work on a framework regional GHS implementation strategy. The project also aims at making a contribution to the implementation of international chemicals management agreements in general, such as the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions and Montreal Protocol, by focusing on labelling of chemicals as an important building block for sound chemicals management and trade in chemicals. Project activities are expected to start in 2011.





## **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 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 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 implementation strategy development completed in each UN region, including: national workshops, situation analysis, implementation strategy development and implementing legislation.
- National GHS Action Plan projects initiated in the greatest possible number of countries.

### *2010 Activities and Progress Made*

#### Barbados

An agreement was finalized between UNITAR and the Government of Barbados for the project “Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in Barbados”, supported by the SAICM QSPTF. The project will enable Barbados, *inter alia*, to work towards coordinated implementation of the GHS. It will also raise awareness of and train a critical number of decision makers and stakeholders in Barbados about the GHS, its relation to SAICM, and its potential benefits for sustainable development.

#### Gambia

In 2010, UNITAR signed an agreement with Gambia for the implementation of the project “Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in The Gambia” funded through the QSPTF of SAICM. The National Environmental Agency (NEA), the Focal Point for the project implementation, held a project inception meeting on 18 August 2010 in Banjul with the participation of the Project Implementation Committee, comprising representatives from Government, business and Industry, and consumers associations.

The Gambia will undertake "Supporting Activities, including awareness raising and Training for Civil Society and Industry"--such as the formation of partnerships and action networks and awareness raising for chemical dealers/users and local communities regarding safety labels on chemicals-- and "Enforcement of National GHS Regulations". Additional training sessions will be held in the first quarter of 2011.

### Jamaica

Jamaica has completed Phase 1 of its project “Training and Capacity Building for the Implementation of the GHS” consisting of a situation and gap analysis report as well as comprehensibility testing. A national workshop was held in 27 and 28 July 2010 to discuss the project outputs of Phase 1 of the project, raise awareness, and to discuss further national GHS implementation activities. The workshop involved the participation of government ministries and stakeholder representatives implicated in the GHS. The country initiated a legal analysis for all four sectors concerned by the GHS and is developing detailed draft sectoral implementation plans for each of the four sectors.

### Zambia

Zambia has begun a 2-year GHS capacity building and implementation project, with the support of the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPTF). A project inception meeting was held to initiate activities on 24 September 2010 with the participation of representatives from the government, consumers, transport, industry, NGOs and the media. In addition, a GHS train-the-trainer session was conducted in Lusaka from 13 to 15 December 2010, for 38 trainers who will be in charge of training other stakeholders in the country.

**Photo 1: Participants at the Zambian GHS Planning and Inception Meeting**



### PR China

An agreement was signed between UNITAR and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of PR China in early December 2010 for a 2-year GHS implementation project supported by the EU. A key result in 2010 was the establishment of the National GHS Project Coordination Committee involving government agencies for the four sectors and key participants from industry associations and research institutes.

A National GHS Planning Meeting will take place early in 2011 and will involve participants from the key governmental departments and industry associations and research institutes, as well as UNITAR. As part of initial activities, China is developing a situation and gap analysis report. It consists in analysing China's existing implementation capacities (including existing legal, technical and administrative infrastructures) to determine capacity gaps and areas that require strengthening for implementation of the GHS. The purpose of this activity is to better understand, for specific target groups and areas, which particular capacity building interventions are needed and provide a contribution to national GHS implementation.

### Indonesia

A Memorandum of Agreement was finalized between UNITAR and the Directorate General of Manufacturing Industrial Base, Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia and signed in December 2010. A national multi-stakeholder GHS implementation committee was formalised as part of this agreement.

As part of initial project activities, Indonesia will hold a national project inception meeting in early 2011 and is working on the update of the existing National GHS Implementation Strategy. Indonesia has also initiated work on the completion of GHS implementing legislation.

### Malaysia

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between UNITAR and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Government of Malaysia in November 2010. A National Planning and Inception meeting will be held on 21 January 2011 involving the national project coordination committee and participants from the key governmental departments and representatives of business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations.

Malaysia is now working on completing the national GHS-implementing legislation for the industrial workplace sector.

### Philippines

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between UNITAR and the Department of Trade and Industry, Board of Investments (BOI), of the Philippines in November 2010.

The BOI serves as the national co-coordinating agency for the project with the involvement of government co-sponsors from each of the four sectors. A key result was the formation of a multisectoral National GHS

Implementation Committee with representatives from government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations, along with subcommittees on comprehensibility testing, legislation, technical training, awareness raising and international relations.

A National GHS Planning Meeting will take place on 1 February 2011 and will involve participants from the key governmental departments and representatives of business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations. The country is now working on the update and further development of the national GHS implementation strategy.

### Thailand

The Ministry of Public Health, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of Thailand and UNITAR signed a Memorandum of Agreement in September 2010. The existing national GHS implementation committee involves government agencies for the four sectors and from stakeholder groups in business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations.

A National GHS Planning Meeting took place on 17 November 2010 involving some 26 participants, including key governmental departments and representatives of industry and public interest and labour organizations, as well as a representative from UNITAR. The EU was also represented at the meeting to acknowledge the continuous contribution of the EU to the global GHS capacity building programme for GHS implementation. As an output from the meeting, the FDA submitted an inception report which also served as the workplan and budget for initial activities. Thailand also initiated the update of its national GHS implementation strategy.

In addition, as a contribution to UNITAR-EU Project, Thai FDA, in collaboration with Office of the Basic Education Commission and Thailand Environment Institute, has launched the GHS pilot school project. In 2010, there were 9 pilot schools incorporating GHS pictograms into their teaching curricula for pre-schoolers, primary school and secondary school students. In May 2010, there was a seminar on the development of GHS school network, bringing pilot schools to share their experiences with other interested schools and representatives of concerned agencies, business and NGOs. Moreover, the FDA has developed various GHS learning materials for children, for example posters, notebooks, and learning kits containing GHS labels on simulated products, in order to support the learning process in schools (see Photo 2).

**Photo 2: Teaching GHS in pilot schools**



*Plans for 2011-2012*

Congo

UNITAR and Congo, whose SAICM QSP Trust Fund proposal was accepted in 2010, 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 Congo about the GHS and its potential benefits for sustainable development.

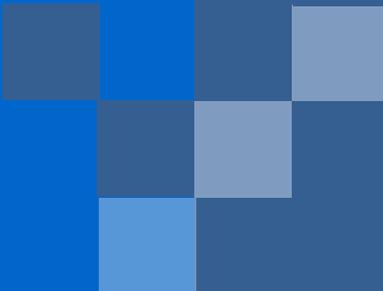
Chile

A GHS project funded by the SAICM QSPTF for Chile will start in the second half of 2011. The project activities will mainly focus on the elaboration of a national GHS implementation strategy, the provision of training on the GHS, the organization of a national GHS workshop as well as supporting activities and awareness raising for civil society and industry.

Other countries

The QSPTF of SAICM has approved full size projects in Cameroun, Kiribati, Togo, Haiti, and Madagascar that include a GHS component. MOAs will be discussed between UNITAR and these countries and activities should start late in 2011.





## 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.

### *2010 Activities and Progress Made*

#### Guidance Document for Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy

UNITAR/ILO updated the guidance document on “Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy” in September 2010 (the first 2005 edition was pilot tested during the phase 1 project and feedback from the countries was used in the updating process). This document is intended to provide guidance for countries that choose to develop a National GHS Implementation Strategy through a systematic, country-driven process. The document has three parts. Part A provides a background and context for the GHS. It first introduces the concept of chemical hazard communication and provides an overview of key GHS provisions including an overview of the hazard classes and details on hazard communication. Part B discusses issues related to coordinating GHS capacity building and implementation, from the key sectors affected by GHS implementation (*i.e.* industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products) to the key actors involved in GHS implementation at the national level (*i.e.* government, business and industry, and civil society). Part C provides guidance on developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy. A number of Annexes provide further details on the context of the GHS and additional resources for further information on the system. The Guidance Document is available in English and Russian. It will also be translated to both French and Spanish. Each partner country received copies of the Guidance Document, which were widely distributed among government agencies and stakeholders. See: <http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/publications/ghs.aspx>.

#### Companion Guide to the Purple Book

During 2010, UNITAR updated the Companion Guide based on the Third Revision Edition (2009) of the GHS Purple Book. The purpose of this guide is to explain the Purple Book in less technical, more accessible terminology (especially helpful for stakeholders to understand how they can contribute to GHS implementation). This document is available in

English and Russian. It can be found at the following link: <http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/publications/ghs.aspx>. French and Spanish versions will be available in 2011.

#### Comprehensibility Testing Training

GHS Comprehensibility Testing (CT) is a survey-based method for obtaining information on the understanding of GHS hazard communication elements among the public. "Comprehensibility" refers to the ability of an individual reading a label or safety data sheet to understand the information sufficiently to take the appropriate precautionary measures. CT is therefore a key tool for assessing the effectiveness of chemical hazard communication pictograms and/or key statements and provides important feedback for developing a chemical hazard communication system and targeted training.

UNITAR updated the existing CT training package, based in part on feedback received from its partner countries where the package was pilot tested, and made it available for use in September 2010. It may be found at [http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/ghs\\_partnership/CT.htm](http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/CT.htm).

#### *Plans for 2011-2012*

##### Guide to the linkages between GHS and International Chemicals Management Agreements

UNITAR/ILO and the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention (and Secretariats of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions), are developing a guide to the linkages between GHS and International Chemicals Management Agreements. This document will provide information regarding the linkages between the provisions of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and the provisions and requirements of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The target audience is both those individuals and agencies within countries that have responsibility for GHS implementation (and thereby should be familiar with relevant provisions in convention requirements, for example, regarding the use of labels or safety data sheets) and those with responsibility for convention implementation (and could thereby benefit from knowing how GHS implementation links to the convention provisions which need to be implemented at the national level). It is expected that the guide will be finalized and distributed during the second half of 2011.

##### Training Courses on the GHS

The Basic Training Course has been pilot tested in several venues during 2010 (in Australia, Jamaica, Zambia, and Uruguay), and feedback has been received. This feedback will be used to update and refine the course prior to its being converted to an online training format and made available for use on the UNITAR website, planned during 2011.

The complete draft of the Advanced course will be distributed to the expert group for review in early 2011, and their comments will then be incorporated to the entire package. Following that review, the revised

draft will be made available to the UNSCEGHS for input. It is hoped that the advanced training package will be pilot tested in the second half of 2011.

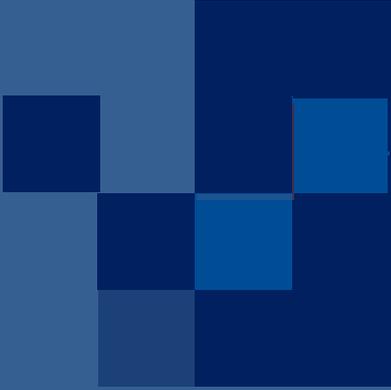
#### Other Training and Guidance Materials

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 2011-2012 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;
- 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, side events and presentations.

### *2010 Activities and Progress Made*

#### GHS Presentations

##### *OSH Workshop in Hong Kong*

UNITAR/ILO was invited to attend the Occupational Safety and Health Branch Annual Conference 2009-2010 held in Hong Kong on 25 February 2010. An introductory presentation on the GHS and an overview of the UNITAR/ILO Partnership on Capacity Building for the Implementation of the GHS all over the world was given. Participants were also informed about the new ASEAN phase-2 project, supported by the EU.



**Photo 3:** Hong Kong SAR Occupational Safety and Health Branch Annual Conference 2009-2010, 25 February 2010

##### *Implementation of GHS, CLP and REACH in Tunisia*

The Government of Tunisia, through its Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity, invited UNITAR/ILO to 2 day workshop on "*Implementation of GHS, CLP and REACH in Tunisia*" held on 18 and 19 May 2010 in Tunis. The aim of this workshop was to discuss, at the national level, the status of implementation of the three systems and to learn about the UNITAR/ILO as well as experience of France in implementing the systems.

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

As part of the agreement signed between UNITAR and the CIS Center of

Moscow, UNITAR took part on 26 March 2010 in a seminar on Belarus' National Strategy to Implement the GHS, organized by the Belarus State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus and the CIS-Center. CIS-C 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.

On 15–16 September 2010, UNITAR/ILO was invited by the State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the CIS-Center to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of CIS Countries on “The regulation of chemical product safety, UN Recommendations and European regulations (GHS, REACH and CLP)” which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

#### *Orange House Partnership (OHP)*

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNITAR and the Orange House Partnership.<sup>2</sup> The main objective of this partnership is to assist developing countries and emerging economies with the introduction of compliance monitoring systems for chemicals and strengthening of existing programmes for the harmonization of national regulations on chemical safety based on the GHS.

The collaboration with OHP led to the organization, in Uruguay, of an in-depth training course to implement the GHS from 31 May to 3 June 2010 (see picture 4). The target audience of this training course included technical experts responsible for classification and labelling, occupational health officers and officials responsible for hazard communication. UNITAR guidance document and training materials were used. This training was conducted by experts from Orange House Partnership. The extensive report can be downloaded from the OHP website [www.orangehouse.eu](http://www.orangehouse.eu) under project RT(2009)4.



**Picture 4:** OHP/UNITAR training team in Uruguay

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.orange--house.eu/>

### *Plans for 2011-2012*

During 2011-2012, 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. Among these activities:

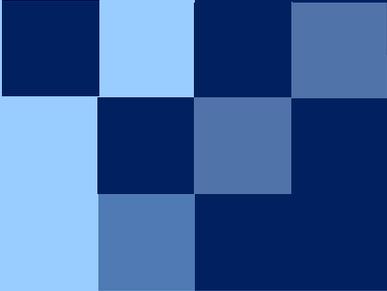
#### *GCC Regional Workshop*

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat, Qatar Ministry of Environment, UNEP ROWA and UNITAR/ILO will hold a Regional GHS Workshop for Arab States of the Gulf on 22 and 23 February 2011. 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.

#### *GHS Workshop in Durban*

Two training workshops on the GHS are scheduled for 10-11 and 14-15 March 2011 respectively in Durban and Midrand, South Africa. The Durban workshop will be held back-to-back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Environment (organized by RPMASA). Both training workshops will be conducted by Orange House Partnership (OHP), in collaboration with UNITAR/ILO.





## Chapter 6

# Related Initiatives and Activities in 2010



## Chapter 6 Related Initiatives and Activities in 2010

A number of GHS activities were implemented in 2010 which were not directly coordinated through the UNITAR/ILO Programme Advisory Group, but nevertheless are important activities contributing to the goal of GHS implementation around the world.

### *National Activities*

#### Brazil

During 2010, several events (training courses, lectures on GHS, participation to meetings, etc) were organized by governmental and private institutions, including the Brazilian Working Group on GHS (WG GHS Brazil), which has also drafted a proposal for GHS implementation, which is in process of discussion. In addition, some industry sectors (chemical, petrochemical, etc.) are developing plans for the implementation, including awareness raising activities.

The Brazilian Standard, issued by Brazilian Technical Standards Association (ABNT), number 14725, part 1 (terminology), part 2 (classification), part 3 (labeling) and part 4 (SDS) will come into force for substances in 27 Feb 2011.



**Photo 5:** GHS Seminar, Porto Allegre, Brazil – 31.08.2010

#### European Union

In 2010, the European Commission prepared a draft amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation), for the purposes of its adaptation to technical and scientific progress. The text will incorporate into the CLP the changes introduced by the 3rd revision of the United Nations Globally Harmonised System (GHS).

It contains, inter alia, new sub-categories for respiratory and skin sensitisation, the revision of the classification criteria for long-term hazards (chronic toxicity) to the aquatic environment, and a new hazard class for substances and mixtures hazardous to the ozone layer and labelling provisions to protect individuals already sensitised to a specific chemical that may elicit a response at very low concentration. The Commission Regulation is expected to be adopted during first quarter 2011.

Linked to the 3<sup>rd</sup> revision of the GHS, an updated guidance on the environmental hazards and also a short guidance on ozone depletion potential are currently under preparation. Guidance on when and how to set specific concentration limits (different from the generic concentration limits) for certain health hazard classes e.g. for reproductive toxicity are being finalised and will be added to the CLP criteria guidance. The revisions of the CLP criteria guidance are foreseen to be published on ECHA's website at the end of 2011. New guidance on labelling including recommendations e.g. related to small packages, and selection of precautionary statements has been developed and is foreseen to be available on ECHA's website in April 2011.

On 20 May 2010, the European Commission adopted a Regulation bringing 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. In line with the CLP Regulation, transition dates are 1 December 2010, when CLP classification rules have to be applied to substances for the purposes of the SDS, and 1 June 2015, when CLP classification rules have to be applied to mixtures for the purposes of the SDS. The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is preparing guidance on compilation of SDS.

As stipulated in the CLP Regulation, all manufacturers and importers must notify classification and labelling of hazardous substances, either on their own or contained in a mixture, to ECHA when placed on the EU market. The notification deadline for substances that were on the market on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2010 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2011. After this deadline all hazardous substances must be notified to ECHA within one month of their placement on the market. By the first notification deadline, ECHA received around 3.1 million notifications for almost 108000 substances. Parts of the notifications, detailing the classification and labelling of substances according to CLP, will be made public on ECHA's website in the form of a Classification and Labelling Inventory in 2011.

The Commission has amended Directive 2008/68/EC on the inland transport of dangerous goods by Commission Directive 2010/61/EU to align European legislation with the international agreements on transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterways as applicable on 1 January 2011. These agreements are based on the framework set by the "Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations".

### Japan

Based on the 3<sup>rd</sup> revised edition of the GHS, Japan has revised the Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS) for labelling and SDS in 2010. In addition, a GHS Classification Guidance for government and industries was

also revised. The computer software for GHS classification of mixtures is available in English. 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: <http://jonai.medwel.cst.nihon-u.ac.jp/>.

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

#### Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC)

The implementation of GHS in Singapore is coordinated by the national GHS Task Force comprising members from relevant competent authorities, industries and professional bodies. In 2010, the custodianship of the GHS Task Force was transferred from the Ministry of Trade and Industry to the Ministry of Manpower. The Task Force has developed a roadmap for GHS hazard communication implementation. The target dates for implementing the GHS for single substances and mixtures are 2011 and 2013 respectively.

Cross-industry capacity building efforts continued in 2010 to equip stakeholders, including chemical manufacturers and suppliers, users of hazardous chemicals, and safety and health personnel, with the knowledge on GHS classification, labelling and safety data sheets. Depending on the subject matter and the intensity of the knowledge required, three training courses have been developed by the Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC) to cater for different target audiences:

- Half-day GHS Awareness Seminar
- 1-day GHS Chemical Users Course
- 2-day GHS Classification Course

In 2010, three GHS Awareness Seminars were organized with a total of approximately 400 people participating, and nine runs of the Chemical Users Course were conducted with a total of about 400 attendees.

GHS topics have also been incorporated into the Management of Hazardous Substances Course, which is conducted by the Singapore Environment Institute in National Environmental Agency, to train persons to be competent in managing hazardous chemicals used at workplaces. In September 2010, Singapore participated in a GHS Stocktaking Workshop for Southeast, East and Central Asia organized by UNITAR in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

In December 2010, a GHS webpage was launched to disseminate information on GHS at: <http://www.wshc.sg/ghs>.

### Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI)

A GHS/CLP Training workshop, hosted by the Serbian Chemicals Agency and supported by KemI, was held in Belgrade 25-29 October 2010. The workshop was part of the ongoing bilateral capacity development project in chemicals management and was attended by participants from Serbia and Macedonia. A Regulation on implementing GHS in Serbia was published in 2010 (in the RS Official Gazette No 64/2010).

The International Training Programme (ITP) “Strategies in Chemicals Management”, developed and run by KemI and financially supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), was held in Stockholm at two occasions in 2010. The two courses were attended by 41 participants from 19 countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Regional follow-up activities (ITP regional phase) were held in Croatia and South Africa. Several elements of the ITP emphasize the importance of the GHS for hazard assessment, communication and awareness in order to ensure safe handling and use of chemicals.

KemI takes part in a EU-Twinning project with Croatia where approximation of national legislation on chemicals management to that of the EU is a fundamental element. This approximation includes the adoption of the GHS through transposing EU's CLP-Regulation into Croatian legislation.

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

Hong Kong is preparing to adopt the GHS programme in several areas including the harmonization initiatives in industrial workplaces, storage and transportation of dangerous goods by land and sea. Training seminars on management of chemical safety and health have been conducted for government officials and the professional in the last year. UNITAR was represented in February 2010 at the Annual Staff Conference of the Labour Department and delivered a presentation on the GHS and the status of implementation around the world (please see page 29). A similar topic for discussion was also organised in the HKIOEH Annual Conference in April 2010. Physical and health hazard blocks were the most interesting subjects. It gave a good opportunity for the better understanding of the recent development of the GHS programme by both the government and private sectors.

Hong Kong as a member of the APEC Chemical Dialogue (CD), she would probably be updating the GHS Implementation Progress Report annually. Moreover, as a representative group of the health and safety professionals, HKIOEH will continue to provide more information on the development and views from the local.

### United States of America

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the United States of America has made significant strides toward adopting the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) into its Hazard Communication Standard. The framework of

OSHA's current Hazard Communication Standard will remain in place after the GHS is adopted. However, current provisions that are in conflict with the GHS will be modified. Over one hundred comments were received in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, published on September 30, 2009. The Agency also held hearings in Washington, D.C. and Pittsburgh, PA in early 2010, where more than 40 panels participated and provided testimony.

The comments received from stakeholders overwhelmingly favoured OSHA's proposal to adopt the GHS. Commenters generally agreed that harmonizing the current Hazard Communication Standard with the GHS would improve the quality and consistency of the rule. Several commenters also reasoned that adopting the GHS would enhance the effectiveness of the current Hazard Communication Standard by providing employers and employees with meaningful information about chemical hazards and hazard control strategies.

After the record closed on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, Agency staff analyzed all testimony and stakeholder submissions. OSHA is currently in the process drafting the final rule, which will be developed and written based on the information submitted to the record. The final rule is expected to be published sometime during 2011.

### ***International Activities***

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

In 2010, the OECD published the outcome of an analysis of GHS classification of selected chemicals listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention (No. 119 in the OECD Series on Testing and Assessment). The OECD Guidelines for Testing and Assessment of Chemicals have been updated with ten new or updated Test Guidelines in 2010; the results from Test Guidelines are often used for GHS classification. A second version of the eChemPortal was made available in December 2010. This second version still allows users to search by chemical identity, and in addition, now also provides new searches based on certain properties or effects, such as physical chemical properties, environmental fate and behaviour, ecotoxicity and toxicity in the participating databases that can offer direct searching of endpoint data. The eChemPortal is a very useful tool to find information on hazards, which is needed for GHS classification. In addition, it disseminates national/regional GHS classification. Access to the eChemportal is publicly available and free of charge ([www.oecd.org/ehs/echempportal](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/echempportal)).

#### 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/icstar](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcs/icstar).

To date, GHS classifications have been included on 290 ICSCs. The updated WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard was published during 2010 and now includes GHS classifications for acute oral and dermal toxicity.

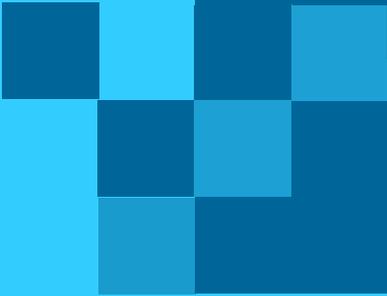
UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS/UNECE

In 2010, 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 (30 June–2 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 2011



## **Chapter 7 Further Development of the Partnership in 2011**

2011 will be a very active year, once again, for GHS related activities and training. The guidance materials updated in 2010 will be used in an increasingly broad range of projects executed by the UNITAR/ILO programme in particular. And as noted in the message from the founding partners (page 1), it is hoped that the Partnership will be further broadened in 2011 by increased links with the private sector, chemicals associations, and companies.

There will be a range of international chemicals meetings in 2011 (such as the Conferences of the Parties of the Stockholm, Rotterdam, and Basel Conventions, and SAICM-related meetings) that may provide a platform to discuss the linkages between those processes and GHS implementation. Any results will be reported back in the 2011 Annual Report. As always, the Partnership can provide an important global forum for sharing experiences, lessons learned, and best practices and all interested stakeholders are invited to get involved and participate in moving GHS implementation forward around the world.



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## **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, in their decision XIV/8 of 2002 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. At its 6th session (December 2003), the UNSCEGHS agreed to set up a correspondence group on Ozone Depleting Substances, which identified some issues and options to be discussed and resolved for ozone depleting chemicals. The work was carried over the next two biennial periods of work (from 2005 to 2008), during which the OECD, as the Sub-Committee’s focal point for health and environmental hazards, was requested to provide a detailed comparison of classification and labelling of existing systems addressing ozone depleting chemicals,

which was subsequently used as the basis for the development of a specific hazard class for these substances under the GHS. The work was completed in 2008 when the OECD submitted a proposal for a new hazard class for ozone depleting chemicals which was adopted by the Sub-Committee at its 15th and 16th sessions and endorsed by the parent Committee at its 4th session (December 2008). The third revised edition (2009) of the GHS Purple Book includes a new hazard class for substances and mixtures hazardous to the ozone layer<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> For additional information: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/c4rep.html> and <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgcomm/ac10rep.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>4</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>5</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>6</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>4</sup> Further information on relevant international bodies related to the GHS can be found in Annex 3.

<sup>5</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>6</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).

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**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



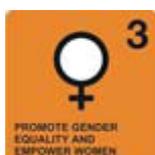
#### N 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The poor are at higher risk of exposure to toxic and hazardous chemicals because of their occupations, living conditions and lack of knowledge about handling chemicals. Sound management of chemicals can improve the living environment and work conditions of the poor and thus their health, while at the same time proper use of chemicals such as pesticides and chemical fertilizers can boost crop yields, protect the productivity of freshwater and marine fisheries and ecosystems on which poor communities depend.



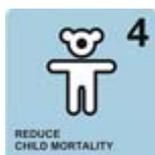
#### N 2: Achieve universal primary education

Raising awareness about chemical safety issues at the primary education level can contribute to reducing the occurrence of chemical-related accidents at home, in the community, or at work. Sound management of chemicals also helps to protect children's mental and physical development, enabling them to attend school and pursue education.



#### N 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution, water and food pollution and the negative effects of household chemicals, as they tend to assume the bulk of household and food preparation responsibilities. Occupational factors, such as the gender division of labour, further expose women to certain chemicals used in, for example, agriculture, the solvents industry, and health care. Biases in educational systems may result in the fact that women are less well-equipped to understand, cope with, and anticipate the implications of chemicals exposure, and environmental degradation. Sound management of chemicals can improve women's working and living conditions, increase their knowledge on the handling and health implications of chemicals and help protect them and their families.



#### N 4: Reduce child mortality

Improper labelling, storage and use of chemicals are significant causes of poisoning in developing countries. Yearly, many children die as a result of chemical at home or at work through involvement in activities such as agriculture and mining. In addition to acute poisonings, chemical pollution of air, soils, water, and food increase the incidence, prevalence, rate of mortality, and costs of certain paediatric diseases. Sound management of chemicals, combined with better nutrition can improve children's living conditions, decrease their sensitivity to chemicals and reduce child mortality..

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### N 5: Improve maternal health

Certain types of chemicals (such as POPs) can build up to dangerous levels in humans causing adverse reproductive, developmental, immunological, hormonal, and carcinogenic effects. Women who have accumulated these kinds of chemicals in their lipids or body fat can pass as much as one third of their toxic burden to their infant children, both prenatally and after birth (through breastfeeding). Sound management of chemicals 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

Proper use of medications and other chemical medical products (such as treated mosquito bed nets) play a major role in disease prevention and treatment. Chemicals are also used for effective control of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, kala-azar, dengue fever and chagas disease and help prevent millions of deaths worldwide. Sound management of chemicals promotes safe handling and disposal of expired medications and health care waste and encourages the use of environmentally friendly vector disease control practices.



### N 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Chemicals can contribute to global warming, ozone depletion and climate change, can cause severe environmental degradation and disrupt ecosystems through the contamination of water, soil, air and flora and fauna. Sound management of chemicals 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-ordination and co-operation efforts towards improved chemicals management, such as through the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) adopted in 2006, and chemicals-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), create global partnerships and initiatives. Global partnerships and initiatives help countries integrate objectives for the sound management of chemicals into national and local development policies and plans, while simultaneously identifying options to catalyze the necessary supporting financing.

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
PAG	Programme Advisory Group (UNITAR/ILO)
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







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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.

ORGANISATION  
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CO-OPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT



The OECD, which traces its roots to the Marshall Plan, groups 34 member countries committed to democratic government and the market economy. It provides a forum where governments can compare and exchange policy experiences, identify good practices and promote decisions and recommendations. Dialogue, consensus, and peer review and pressure are at the very heart of the OECD. The OECD is working for a stronger, cleaner and fairer world economy. The principle aim of the Organisation is to promote policies for sustainable economic growth and employment, a rising standard of living and trade liberalisation. By “sustainable economic growth” the OECD means growth that balances economic, social, and environmental considerations. The OECD is one of the world’s largest and most reliable sources of comparable statistical, economic and social data. It monitors trends, collects data, analyses and forecasts economic development, and investigates evolving patterns in a broad range of public policy areas such as agriculture, development co-operation, education, employment, taxation and trade, sciences, technology, industry and innovation in addition to environment.