

GHS Conference for ASEAN: Implementation Towards 2008 and Beyond

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Final Report



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The GHS Conference for ASEAN: Implementation Towards 2008 and Beyond is part of a two-year project (2005-2007) to strengthen capacities in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for implementing the GHS. The first Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for countries of the ASEAN, took place in Manila, the Philippines from 17-20 October 2005. These events were also a contribution to the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS* which was initiated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

Special thanks are extended to the Government of Indonesia and to the European Union, the Government of Switzerland, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for their financial contributions to the workshop and also to the ASEAN Secretariat and the Government of Indonesia for their in-kind contributions. Regional and sub-regional GHS workshops are coordinated and supported through the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources. Workshops have been held for countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region (2003); Mercosur and the Andean Community (2004); ASEAN member countries (2005); Arab countries (2006); and Central and Eastern European countries (2006). Countries and organizations interested in supporting GHS workshops in other regions are encouraged to contact UNITAR.

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Executive Summary

The “GHS Conference for ASEAN: Implementation Towards 2008 and Beyond” was held 9-11 May 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia. During the three day conference, participants took stock of GHS capacity building in the context of national experiences and progress toward GHS implementation in ASEAN member countries; regional initiatives; and the activities of business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations. The Jakarta Conference also provided an opportunity for participants to review, discuss and agree on a proposed Regional GHS Implementation Strategy and Roadmap for ASEAN. The final version (Annex A) will serve as guidance for GHS implementation in ASEAN in the future. Conference presentations and documentation are available at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs12.html>.

This conference was part of a two year project (2005-2007) to strengthen capacities in ASEAN countries for implementing the GHS, and was organised with support of the Government of Switzerland, European Union, OPCW, the Government of Indonesia and the ASEAN Secretariat. Since the first Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), held in Manila, the Philippines from 17-20 October 2005, the project has made significant progress towards regional GHS implementation. Conducted in the context of *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*, completed or on-going activities include: regional capacity building activities for all ten ASEAN member countries; country-based pilot projects in five countries; supporting activities for public interest and labour organizations; and engagement of the chemical industry in GHS implementation at the national and regional levels.

1. Introduction

Despite the many benefits of chemicals, they also have the potential to pose adverse effects to human health and the environment. Therefore, hazard classification and communication, through appropriate labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) serves as a foundation for safe chemical use.

To address the global need for a consistent means of chemical hazard classification and communication, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) was introduced in Programme Area B in Chapter 19, Agenda 21 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. With the culmination of more than a decade of work by multidisciplinary experts, the GHS was adopted in 2002 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (UNSCEGHS) and endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2003. The GHS has the ultimate goal of providing a comprehensive and universal tool for chemical classification and hazard communication, available for workers, consumers and public. Responsibility of maintenance, updating and promoting of the GHS at the international level rests with the UNSCEGHS¹.

It is anticipated that, when implemented, the GHS will:

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

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), have endorsed a global GHS implementation target of 2008. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and International Labour Organization (ILO) were nominated as focal points for GHS capacity building and in 2001, UNITAR and ILO initiated the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Training and Capacity Building Programme* for assisting countries and regions to build capacities for implementation of the GHS. In April 2002, UNITAR and ILO, in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) established the *WSSD Global Partnership for*

¹ For further information, please consult the UN SCEGHS website:
http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html.

Capacity Building to Implement GHS as a means to accelerate global GHS implementation. Since its inception, the Partnership has initiated a number of specific support activities to strengthen capacities in all related sectors, such as industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products at the global, regional and national levels².

The GHS has been identified within the global chemicals agenda as a fundamental tool for sound chemicals management. During the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), held on 4–6 February 2006 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, ICCM participants finalised and adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). In the context of SAICM, activities on the GHS are stated under the objectives of risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, and capacity building and technical cooperation in the work areas of information management and dissemination, education and training. Further, the GHS supports the implementation of a number of international chemicals conventions, including the Rotterdam, Basel, Stockholm and ILO 170 Conventions. GHS implementation may also contribute to broader sustainable development goals (such as the protection of marginalised populations and clean drinking water and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs).

1.1 Background to the ASEAN GHS Conference

The “GHS Conference for ASEAN: Towards 2008 and Beyond” was held as the concluding event to a two-year project (2005-2007) to strengthen capacities in ASEAN countries for implementing the GHS. This project, which was executed by UNITAR/ILO in the context of the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme* with the financial support from the European Union and the Government of Switzerland, involved a range of activities, including:

- Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), 17-20 October 2005 in Manila, Philippines;
- Pilot country projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines and Thailand to develop National GHS Implementation Strategies;
- A Regional GHS Capacity Assessment for ASEAN³;
- Industry synergies side meeting at the APEC GHS Seminar, 20-22 September 2006

² Further information on the Partnership can be found at:
http://www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs_partnership/index.htm

³ The report can be found at:
http://www.unitar.org/cwg/publications/cw/ghs/GHS_Assessment_ASEAN_Final_Report.pdf

- GHS Capacity Building Workshop for Public Interest and Labour Organisations (PILO) of the ASEAN Region, 7-8 May 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia; and
- GHS Conference for ASEAN: Implementation Towards 2008 and Beyond , 9-11 May 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Participants included representatives from all ASEAN member countries, business and industry, public interest and labour organisations, international and regional organisations, and other international experts. The conference was an opportunity for participants to:

- recall that the GHS was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2003, and reaffirm that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) set the global GHS implementation target of 2008;
- agree that implementation of the GHS can reduce and prevent adverse effects to human health and the environment caused by inadequate and inappropriate classification and hazard communication of chemicals;
- note the additional benefits of GHS implementation to facilitate trade in chemicals and chemical related products, avoid duplicative testing, and improve consistency and comprehensibility of hazard information for chemicals;
- recognise that the involvement of government, business and industry, and civil society is essential for GHS implementation at the national and regional levels;
- recognise that GHS implementation will focus on four key sectors, i.e. industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer products; and
- acknowledge the contribution of the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme, for its two-year project (2005-2007) to strengthen capacities in ASEAN countries for implementing GHS, funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland.

1.2 Conference Objectives

The main goal of the “GHS Conference for ASEAN: Implementation Towards 2008 and Beyond” was to bring together key representatives from government, business and trade, and public interest and labour organisations from ASEAN member countries to discuss and agree upon a GHS implementation strategy for ASEAN, based upon progress to date. This strategy comprises an overall proposal for regional GHS implementation; immediate objectives; anticipated scenario at the regional level and national level; and a GHS implementation roadmap for the key actors: government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations, and the four key sectors: industrial workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products.

Additional objectives of the conference included, *inter alia*, to:

- take stock of the status of GHS implementation in ASEAN member countries;
- review experiences with GHS implementation and capacity building activities, including linkages to other national chemicals management and sustainable development priorities;
- examine progress related to GHS implementation at the regional level; and
- assess GHS capacity building and implementation activities among business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations.

1.3 Opening Statements

Dr. Husniah Rubiana Thamrin Akib, Head of the National Agency of Drug and Food Control, Indonesia, opened the conference by thanking the organizers and the sponsors for their efforts in putting together the event. She noted that there has been a significant increase in the use of chemicals worldwide, and while chemicals contribute to the quality of life, they also can pose hazards to human health and the environment. To promote chemical safety, GHS is a key tool in hazard classification and communication. She noted that much effort has been made at the international level, however, there is a need for GHS capacity building, for example, so that all chemicals users can understand GHS pictograms. She concluded that in the spirit of ASEAN this conference was an opportunity for countries of ASEAN to align and harmonise their national systems to work together in support of the 2008 goal of global GHS implementation.

Mr. Bernardino Regazzoni, Ambassador of Switzerland to Indonesia, noted that after the first ASEAN regional workshop held in Manila in October 2005, the Jakarta Conference served as an important step towards successful and effective implementation of the GHS in the ASEAN region. He highlighted the benefits and potential risks associated with chemicals use and also recognised the importance of the GHS. He reaffirmed the Swiss Government's support for implementation of the GHS by the 2008 global implementation target.

Mr. Bijoy Chatterjee, Head of the International Cooperation Branch of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), reviewed the goal of the GHS to address the need for safe use of chemicals by ensuring their classification according to their hazards based on an internationally agreed methodology. The OPCW has been privileged to have been associated with some of the past events on the GHS, such as the Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the GHS, held in South Africa in November 2005 and the Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe held in Slovenia in October 2006.

Dr. Soeung Rathchavy, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN, noted that ASEAN member countries have put in place necessary policies and legislation for the safe use and management of chemicals. He reviewed that several initiatives have been implemented for the GHS in ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets which are being finalised. Nonetheless, he mentioned that the capacity of the ASEAN member countries on GHS implementation still needs to be further strengthened and enhanced.

Mr. Pavan Baichoo, Technical Officer of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), highlighted that despite the benefits of chemicals, improper use of chemicals could endanger our health and poison the environment. He noted that ILO has been active in the area of chemical safety in the workplace since the year of its creation in 1919. The Chemicals Convention 1990 (No. 170) provides a system for the sound management of chemicals and played a significant role in shaping outputs such as International Chemical Safety Cards and the GHS.

Prof. Peter Peterson of UNITAR acknowledged the support of the Government of Switzerland, European Union, OPCW, the Government of Indonesia and ASEAN Secretariat in organising the Jakarta conference. He reviewed the ultimate goal of the GHS to ensure that information on chemical hazards was made available to workers and consumers via labels and SDS, in a harmonized and comprehensive format to ensure chemical safety. In addition, the GHS is a major theme in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management's (SAICM) and is a component of sound chemicals management highly relevant to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. Benny Wahyudi, Director General of the Agricultural and Chemical Industry Division of the Department of Industry, Indonesia, noted the importance of the GHS as a tool for chemical safety. With the reality of extensive global trade in chemicals, there is a strong need to develop national programs to ensure safe use, transport and disposal of chemicals. In this regard, the GHS provides an important basis for this effort. Special attention should be paid to small and medium size enterprises, as this is where most chemical misuse occurs.

2. Status and Progress of GHS Implementation

Mr. Jonathan Krueger (UNITAR) presented an overview of GHS activities in ASEAN and provided an introduction to the conference. The first Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for ASEAN was held 17-20 October 2005 in Manila, Philippines. Based on the workshop outcomes and recommendations, two survey studies were carried out: the study conducted by Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), entitled "Regional GHS Capacity Assessment in ASEAN"; and the survey conducted by Earth Council - Asia Pacific entitled "Public Interest and Labour Organisations in ASEAN: A review in the context of regional chemical safety and GHS implementation". A draft GHS implementation strategy and roadmap for ASEAN was then proposed by LESTARI for discussion at this conference. Regarding GHS activities at the national level, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand were selected in 2005 as pilot countries for GHS implementation and Cambodia and Lao PDR in 2006. These pilot projects include GHS awareness raising and training, national GHS implementing legislation, GHS sectoral implementation plans and a national GHS implementation strategy. Preparation for GHS implementation at both the national and regional levels involves multi-stakeholder participation.

2.1 Status of National GHS Implementation in ASEAN Member Countries

Participants from each ASEAN member country presented the status and progress of GHS implementation in their respective countries.

Mr. Cheok Hang Choo (Ministry of Health, **Brunei Darussalam**) informed the conference that Brunei Darussalam is aware of the importance of several Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) which aim to enhance the protection of human health and the environment. Brunei has acceded several United Nations Conventions, such as the Single Convention of Narcotics Drugs (in October 1987), Convention on Psychotropic Substances (in October 1987) and the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (in October 1989). Brunei Darussalam recognises that the GHS is a simplified system and implementation of the GHS could eliminate technical barriers to trade and facilitate the trade of chemicals. Although Brunei Darussalam is not a chemical producing country, it supports the implementation of the GHS.

Mr. Pichhra Phet (Ministry of Environment, **Cambodia**) reviewed that Cambodia does not produce chemicals but only imports chemicals from other countries. GHS was a new concept for Cambodia when it was introduced in 2006 under the National GHS Capacity Building Project with UNITAR/ILO. Initially, the level of GHS awareness was limited in Cambodia and several challenges for GHS implementation in Cambodia were identified, such as the absence of specific legal instruments for chemical safety and chemical hazard communication. However, implementation can be achieved through capacity

building and awareness raising, development of GHS implementing legislation, and development of sectoral and national strategies for GHS implementation and strengthening of cooperation, coordination and information sharing between relevant government agencies and other stakeholders.

As one of the pilot countries under the UNITAR/ILO Capacity Building Programme, Mr. Roland Hutapea (National Agency for Drug and Food Control (NADFC), **Indonesia**) informed participants that thus far, Indonesia has conducted comprehensibility testing and a situation and gap analysis. Following the outcomes of these activities, Indonesia has drafted umbrella legislation (in the form of a Presidential Decree) on GHS implementation. For GHS capacity building, a National GHS Training Workshop was held, as well as GHS awareness raising workshop for industry and civil society. Indonesia is in the process of establishing a National GHS Review workshop, to review the umbrella legislation (Presidential Decree) on GHS implementation and also to develop the GHS implementation strategy and roadmap. Represented by Komite Nasional Responsible Care Indonesia (KN-RCI), Indonesia also participated in the Japan Expert Dispatch Programme organised by JETRO and AOTS to enhance capacities on the GHS.

Ms. Setouvanh Phanthavongsa (Environment Research Institute, **Lao PDR**) explained that Lao PDR is a GHS pilot country under the UNITAR/ILO Capacity Building Programme. A multi stakeholder GHS committee has been established. Further, several workshops pertaining to GHS have been conducted. The Faculty of Medicine, National University of Lao PDR conducted comprehensibility testing. Meanwhile, the situation and gap analysis is on-going. Upcoming GHS activities include the drafting of GHS implementing legislations or regulations, capacity building and awareness raising for industry and public interest and labour organisations, drafting of GHS sectoral implementation plans, as well as development of a national GHS implementation strategy for national GHS implementation by 2008.

Ms. Shaliza Tay (Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), **Malaysia**) noted that MITI was selected as the national coordinating agency for GHS implementation and the first National Coordinating Committee for GHS Implementation (NCC-GHS) meeting was held in August 2006. NCC-GHS members include stakeholders from the government, industry and relevant associations. Lead agencies were appointed to operationalise the implementation of the GHS in key sectors. Responsibilities of the lead agencies are, *inter alia*, review existing laws and regulations on classification and labelling of chemicals in each sector for GHS implementation; identify and address sectoral issues (situation and gap analysis); and awareness raising and educating stakeholders on GHS. Some of the challenges faced by Malaysia are lack of capacity, lack of expertise and human resource, lack of awareness and public education and lack of funding.

Dr. Min Thaw Nyunt (Ministry of Health, **Myanmar**) described the various challenges faced while implementing the GHS in Myanmar. These include

absence of a GHS implementing body, lack of chemical safety laws, inadequate training on the GHS, weak authority commitment, weak knowledge and awareness, inadequate coordination between the government and private sector, and few trained persons. Nevertheless, there are several on-going initiatives pertaining to the GHS, such as a national workshop on chemicals management (in 2007); awareness-raising workshops on the GHS (in 2007-2008); GHS training courses (in 2007); and GHS implementation (in 2007-2008). In addition, the Myanmar Industries Association, Chemical Industries Group had participated in the Japan Expert Dispatch Programme organised by JETRO and AOTS.

Ms. Angelita Arcellana (Board of Investments, **Philippines**) explained that as a pilot country under the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Project, the National GHS Implementation Committee was the governing body for GHS implementation with the Board of Investments (BOI) as the coordinating agency for all sectoral committees. There are also a number of Sectoral Committees. Following the completion of comprehensibility testing and a situation and gap analysis for the four key sectors, the Philippines held a National GHS Workshop, where the results of these activities were presented. Additionally, several GHS activities for industry (including participation in the Japan Expert Dispatch Programme organised by JETRO and AOTS) and civil society were carried out. Other activities include the creation of a technical committee by the DTI-BPS for the preparation of label standards for chemicals. Additionally, completion of draft GHS legislation, a GHS Implementation Roadmap and the National Review Workshop are scheduled for June 2007.

Ms. Chua Jon Yen (Ministry of Trade and Industry, **Singapore**) informed the conference that Singapore has a multi-agency taskforce (consisting of government and the private sector) on GHS implementation. One important role of this taskforce is to review Singapore's standard SS 286 on specifications for labelling and hazardous substances and dangerous goods to align with the GHS. Some of the obstacles to GHS implementation included lack of knowledge and awareness within government, and lack of expertise and resources, especially for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). During the conference, one of the colleagues from Singapore, Ms. Chow Li Yee (Ministry of Trade and Industry) demonstrated the use of the MSDS Knowledge Workbench. The MSDS Knowledge Workbench was developed by the Ministry of Man Power, Occupational Safety and Health Division to be used as an automatic checker to ensure the quality of MSDSs and conformance to the GHS standard and to provide centralised repository of searchable MSDSs.

Ms. Aurus Kongphanich (Food and Drug Administration, **Thailand**) described that under the National GHS Capacity Building Project with UNITAR/ILO, numerous activities were carried out, including comprehensibility testing and a situation and gap analysis, translation of the purple book into Thai, a national workshop on GHS, and development of the GHS Standard Labelling for 10 groups of hazardous products for household and public health use.

Furthermore, the GHS was integrated into the third National Strategic Plan for Chemical Management (2007-2011), and with the approval of the Cabinet, Thailand is now preparing GHS national roadmap and translating the GHS activities into action through yearly work plans. She also mentioned that Thailand has already proposed target dates and a phase-in strategy for GHS implementation. Thailand also participated in the Japan Expert Dispatch Programme organised by JETRO and AOTS.

Mr. Van Long Duong (Ministry of Industry, **Vietnam**) informed the conference that regulations for classification and labelling of chemicals were implemented by Vietnam in 1999. There are various government agencies involved on chemicals management. He also provided a list of regulations that were related to GHS. He noted that the ministries and civil society organisations work together in guiding producers and users in implementing the GHS. However, GHS implementation has not reached consensus and it was anticipated that it will be resolved by 2007. Formulation of guidance on the GHS in relation to regulations in Vietnam was developed by numerous key players. The Ministry of Industry is drafting a law on chemicals, anticipated to be finalised by 2008.

2.2 Review of GHS Capacity Building at the National and Regional Level

Representatives from various organisations provided information from their perspectives on GHS capacity building at the national and regional levels.

Prof. Dr. Mazlin Bin Mokhtar (Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia) noted that with the collaboration of UNITAR/ILO and financial support by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland, a “Regional GHS Capacity Assessment for ASEAN” was carried out. The objective of this study was to assess GHS capacity at the regional level and to review national GHS implementation for all the 10 countries in ASEAN. The study showed that there were several infrastructures in the ASEAN region that could facilitate GHS implementation at the regional level such as the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN-OSHNET (ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network), AMEICC (ASEAN Economic Ministers – Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (AEM-METI) Economic and Industry Cooperation Committee), ACIC (ASEAN Chemical Industries Council), APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), CropLife International and Consumers International. For GHS implementation at the national level in ASEAN member countries, it was found that almost all the ASEAN member countries are progressing in terms of GHS implementation. However, remain a number of challenges encountered by most of the ASEAN member countries, such as limited financial and human resources; lack of expertise/capacity; low levels of awareness; poor coordination and cooperation amongst relevant agencies; time constraints; and low participation from SMEs.

Mr. Dadan Wardhana H.S. Hasanuddin (Basel Convention Regional Centre for South East Asia (BCRC-SEA)) gave an overview of the Basel Convention and noted that classification for waste must be harmonised, in terms of chemical hazards. Additionally, he agreed that GHS can be used as a foundation for establishing a framework for harmonisation and can serve as a consistent means of hazard classification and communication for chemical substances and mixtures, in order to support national chemical safety programmes. Cooperation between the GHS and Basel Convention was initiated in the fourth meeting of the Open Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG), where the OEWG agreed on the establishment of a Joint Correspondence Group between OEWG and United Nations Sub-committee of Experts on the GHS (UNSCEGHS) and this Joint Correspondence Group commenced in July 2005. Mr. Dadan highlighted several possibilities for cooperation in GHS implementation, including joint awareness and training programmes; capacity building efforts between chemicals and waste related programmes; and studies on accidents involving transboundary movement of hazardous waste, including their impact on health and environment.

Ms. Niko Kato (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan) presented Japan's capacity building programmes on chemicals. Japan has completed GHS classification for 1,500 chemicals and the information is stored at the National Institute for Technology and Evaluation (NITE). She mentioned that new tools such as classification manuals and teaching materials for SMEs, were needed to facilitate GHS implementation. In terms of awareness-raising, Japan has developed a GHS self study software and this software was anticipated to be released by July 2007. Additionally, Japan is in the process of developing GHS classification software for mixtures.

Dr. Peter Dawson (Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA), New Zealand) explained that all hazardous substances in all sectors (except transport) are regulated under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996. The amendment of the HSNO Act in 2001 adopted GHS classification. Hazard classification data on chemicals and mixtures are kept on an ERMA internal database, but only a portion are fully classified against GHS endpoints. Challenges encountered while classifying chemicals and mixtures include lack of data, interpretation of hazardous/non-hazardous thresholds for mixtures with chronic toxic components, and applying/adapting GHS hazard based on labelling to risk based situations.

3. Activities of Business and Industry, and Public Interest and Labour Organisations for GHS Implementation

During this session, representatives from business and industry, and public interest and labour organisations (PILOs) expressed their views and perspectives, and presented their activities to facilitate GHS implementation.

Ms. Ratna Devi Nadarajan (Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association) presented the outcomes of the workshop on the GHS Capacity Building for Public Interest and Labour Organisations in ASEAN held 7-8 May 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The event was organised by UNITAR, ILO, and Earth Council - Asia Pacific, with financial support from the EU and the Swiss Government. The participants of the workshop collectively agreed that a chemical safety network of PILOs is important for chemicals management as it allows PILOs to harness each other's area of expertise, enhance coordination, build synergies, enhance awareness and understanding and improve technical and financial capabilities. Thus, the Southeast Asia Public Interest and Labor Organization Chemicals Network (SEApChemNet) was established with an overall scope on chemical safety management with a current focus on GHS implementation at the regional, national and local level. An interim committee was formed to finalise administrative and networking issues. Currently, FOMCA is the interim lead convenor for SEApChemNet and hosts the webpage on the FOMCA site.

Dr. Qwanruedee Chotichanathawewong (Thailand Environment Institute) provided information on GHS capacity building activities in Thailand. Several tasks have been carried out involving NGOs, including trainings to strengthen NGO awareness of GHS; preparation of education tools and materials and information dissemination to target groups. One of the future plans in implementing the GHS is to integrate the GHS into formal education (as with energy and environment).

Mr. Rafel Mapalo (Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP)) noted that as far as GHS was concerned, TUCP would like to increase the awareness, understanding and appreciation of workers and their unions on the GHS; to integrate GHS into TUCP's training down to the local union level; and to mobilize the union POSITIVE (Participation-Oriented Safety Improvements by Trade Union Initiatives) Core Trainers for the rapid implementation of GHS at the workplace. Several activities were carried out, such as a regional training/workshop on GHS for POSITIVE core trainers and Enterprise-Level Orientation Sessions on GHS. A mini survey on GHS among Trade Unions was conducted and the findings showed that there is poor knowledge of GHS among unions. It was concluded that unions

and companies will unlikely implement the GHS due to lack of awareness and legal basis. However, unions have expressed that the success of GHS implementation at the workplace could be assured with union initiatives and active participation.

Mr. Phromphron Isarankura Na Ayutthaya (ASEAN Chemical Industry Club) explained that currently, there are six members in ACIC, and membership to the ACIC comprises the respective national chemical industry associations from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Several recommendations were presented on how ASEAN and ACIC could facilitate GHS implementation in the region, including support for further awareness raising and training. Mr. Phromphron also discussed the outcomes of the seminar on GHS and technical assistance that was held on 20-22 September in Thailand, organised by APEC Chemical Dialogue.

Ms. Teresita Corpuz (Chemical Industries Association of the Philippines (SPIK)) provided information on SPIK activities to support GHS implementation, such as awareness raising seminars and training, and a booklet entitled “GHS: Key Issues for SMEs and Industries”, developed in collaboration with UNITAR. SPIK chairs a Technical Committee that is working on the preparation of label standards for chemical substances and mixtures, a project of the Bureau of Product Standards. Additionally, SPIK actively participated in the review of draft regulations on the GHS. Several future plans were presented as well, including training for trainers, capacity building and funding assistance. As far as the GHS is concerned, she expected the GHS implementation in ASEAN could be strengthened through various channels, such as information sharing among industries in the region.

4. GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN

The main objective of the Jakarta Conference was to review, revise and agree on the Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN. LESTARI, in collaboration with UNITAR/ILO, prepared a draft GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN. This document was circulated to participants prior to the conference and the draft was deliberated by participants at the event.

To provide a wider context for the GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN, Dr. Peter Peterson presented a paper entitled “GHS Implementation in ASEAN: Looking Ahead”. He emphasised that GHS implementation should be mainstreamed within national development and environmental agendas. Further, the GHS could be linked to a number of regional initiatives within ASEAN, such as the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP). In the VAP, the pillars of ASEAN Security, ASEAN Economics and ASEAN Socio-economics all highlighted goals and objectives which GHS implementation could support. Finally, beyond the national and regional level, GHS implementation facilitates the implementation of a number of international chemicals management efforts, including SAICM and other MEAs.

Dr. Mazlin Bin Mokhtar presented the proposed GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN developed by LESTARI. After his presentation, conference participants discussed the draft Strategy in four working groups. The objective of the working groups was to discuss and revise the proposed GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN based on the viewpoints of working group members. The following guidance questions were given to the conference participants:

- For the proposed strategy, are all the relevant stakeholders identified?
- Is the timeframe realistic? How will the timeline be ensured?
- Keeping in mind the proposed activities and steps, how will sustainability and progress for regional GHS implementation be ensured and what transition periods may be necessary (keeping in mind the benefits of a harmonized implementation timeframe)?
- Are there any elements that should be added or revised within the strategy?
- How will the various stakeholders communicate about progress made?

After in-depth review of the draft Strategy within the working groups, each group presented its results in Plenary. Participants discussed the precise text of the proposed Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN and areas of further development or clarification. Below is

a summary of the main areas of discussion based on review of the proposed Strategy.

At the regional level, participants felt that further understanding was needed of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and how it relates to GHS implementation. However, there was acknowledgement that the VAP served as an important overall vision for the future of ASEAN and therefore should not be excluded from discussions related to regional GHS implementation.

Among the sectors, it was acknowledged that further clarification was necessary regarding GHS in the agricultural sector, in particular in relation to WHO and FAO guidelines, as well as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). For industrial workplaces, while participants felt that the development of regional guidelines for the industrial workplace would be ideal, they felt that disseminated guidelines may not be agreed by all member countries. Therefore, if such an effort was to move forward by ASEAN-OSHNET or ACIC, then they would need to ensure that a feedback mechanism was established.

From the discussions regarding stakeholders, building upon the information provided in the presentation by FOMCA on the newly created SEA_pChemNet, participants supported further recruitment of a wide range of NGOs especially in the agricultural sector. For business and industry, further guidance was sought on how Confidential Business Information (CBI) would be respected under the GHS system.

In regards to implementation issues, participants agreed that it would be ideal for ASEAN member countries to harmonise the application of the building block approach to GHS implementation. However, it was acknowledged that this would prove to be very difficult, even in a region as cooperative as ASEAN. They further discussed, in view of limited resources, the possibility of prioritizing certain sectors of GHS implementation. It was discussed, for example, that it would be especially important to accelerate GHS implementation in the consumer products sector. In order to further promote regional capacities for the GHS, it was suggested that regional centers be identified and accredited to perform GHS classifications and prepare SDSs and labels. Participants further considered where information, such as data and training materials, should be centrally stored. Participants seemed to agree that any research or training materials or other data should be kept with an international organisation.

Based on the discussions, LESTARI incorporated the comments and recommendations into the strategy and roadmap. The final version was then presented to participants during the final session of the Conference. The agreed Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN is as included as Annex A.

5. Conclusions

In the closing session, Mr. Jonathan Krueger, UNITAR, noted with appreciation that presentations and discussions for the past three days had updated the conference participants on national experiences and progress, regional initiatives, and the activities of business and industry and public interest and labour organisations for GHS implementation at national and regional levels. The conference revealed that a great deal of progress has been made toward GHS implementation and capacity building in ASEAN, since the first regional workshop in 2005. The Jakarta conference also provided opportunity to the ASEAN member countries to review and discuss the proposed Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN, including the Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap. The Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN may serve as guidance for ASEAN GHS implementation for 2008 and beyond.

In order to build upon the discussions and results of the Jakarta Conference, the participants recommended to:

- utilise GHS implementation nationally and regionally to help reduce adverse effects to human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals;
- continue efforts to adopt and implement the GHS and as appropriate use the Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap as a guide for future actions;
- assist member institutions of ASEAN countries in strengthening GHS implementation at the national and regional levels, including awareness raising and training, to the extent possible; and
- periodically review national GHS implementation progress in support of sound chemicals management, in line with WSSD objectives and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Dr. Dedi Fardiaz of the NADFC closed the conference by thanking the participants, sponsors and organizers for their active engagement in the Jakarta Conference and expressed his honour at the opportunity for Indonesia to host the Conference. He noted that much information had been presented over the last days, and that significant thought and commitment had gone into realising the final Regional GHS Implementation Strategy and Roadmap for ASEAN. He hoped that the Conference would serve as a platform for further work toward GHS implementation in the region. Finally, he expressed that he looked forward to taking action on the agreed activities in the Regional GHS Implementation Strategy and Roadmap for ASEAN and for further regional cooperation in the future.

Annex A: Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN

Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN

GHS Conference for ASEAN:
Implementation Towards 2008 and Beyond

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Jakarta, Indonesia
9-11 May 2007

Prepared by:

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1.0 Introduction

As the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), and International Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) have endorsed a global GHS implementation target by 2008, the world is now placing a priority on the implementation of Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Under the two-year project (2005-2007) to strengthen capacities in ASEAN countries for implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), executed in the context of *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme* with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Switzerland, several initiatives have been carried out, including a regional GHS workshop in October 2005 (Manila), a Regional GHS Capacity assessment in ASEAN (2006), a workshop for public interest and labour organizations (2007), GHS Conference for ASEAN: Implementation towards 2008 and Beyond (2007) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In order to bring together regional governments, business and industry groups, and public interest and labour organizations and determine the required next steps towards 2008 and beyond, a draft Regional GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN has been developed. It consists of the proposed regional GHS Implementation Roadmap and the correlation between the roadmap and the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) of ASEAN.

2.0 Regional GHS Implementation Strategy

2.1 Goals of the Regional GHS Implementation Strategy

To establish an ASEAN Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap through multi-stakeholder consensus involving collaboration, networking, synergetic efforts, communication expertise, information sharing, and exchange of ideas within the ASEAN, and beyond through ASEAN external relations.

2.2 Objectives of the Regional GHS Implementation Strategy

Overall Objective:

To facilitate ASEAN member countries, in particular, supporting activities for capacity building, with the aim to achieve GHS implementation by 2008.

Immediate Objectives:

- To agree on appropriate activities for the GHS implementation at national and regional level by incorporating the needs of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) or other relevant infrastructures in ASEAN.
- To identify the key stakeholders and the timeline for each activity.
- To strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders for GHS implementation.
- To facilitate the GHS implementation within ASEAN member countries and also ASEAN partnerships.

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- To strengthen national, regional and international cooperation and collaboration on the GHS implementation.
 - To integrate the GHS into existing workplans and budgets of implementing bodies in ASEAN and consider possible requirements for additional resource mobilization if required.

2.3 Anticipated Scenario of GHS Implementation in ASEAN by 2008

In order to develop the Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap for ASEAN, the following scenario for GHS implementation in ASEAN by 2008 is proposed:

GHS implementation at regional level:

- Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap is agreed and implemented.
- ASEAN-OSHNET Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets is agreed and adopted by ASEAN member countries.
- GHS elements are incorporated into the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme that was promoted under the Strategic Plan of Action (2005-2010) of ASEAN Cooperation on Food, Agriculture and Forestry.⁴
- ASEAN Protocol 9 (transport) is amended by incorporating international technical documents that are in-line with GHS.
- Capacity across the four key sectors, i.e. industrial workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products in the region in terms of GHS implementation is enhanced through multi-stakeholder approach.
- A committee/working group for consumer products in ASEAN is established.
- ASEAN Steering Committee on the GHS (ASCGHS) is established, if feasible (See Section B and Figure 1).
- ASEAN Group of Resource Persons on the GHS (AGRPGHS) is established, if feasible (See Section B and Figure 1).
- Harmonise Building Block Approach (BBA) among the ASEAN member countries [note: guidance on the interpretation of the BBA can be found at Annex 1.1]
- Transitional period for GHS implementation is identified.
- Incentives for coordinated implementation of GHS among ASEAN member countries are identified.
- Issues on mechanism of Confidential Business Information (CBI) have been identified and discussed.

GHS implementation at national level:

- All the ASEAN member countries have established a National Coordinating Committee for GHS Implementation (NCCGHS) or equivalent agency or body (See Figure 1).
- Develop a multilingual (at least in English and the national language) website that consists of GHS implementation status across the four key sectors and other GHS related information.

⁴ At national level, in certain countries within ASEAN, the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO), if feasible, could incorporate GHS elements into their respective National IPM Programme.

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- Harmonise Building Block Approach (BBA) across the four sectors.
 - National GHS Implementation Strategy is established and implemented.
 - Capacity enhanced across the four key sectors, i.e. industrial workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products in the nation in terms of GHS implementation through a multi-stakeholder approach.
 - Infrastructures for implementation of national GHS legislation, where applicable, are established
 - Harmonise CBI across the four key sectors

2.4 Proposed Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap

There are two sections for the Proposed Regional GHS Implementation Roadmap:

Section A: GHS Implementation at ASEAN regional level (by sector)

Section B: Cross-sectoral GHS Implementation issues at ASEAN regional level

Section A: GHS Implementation at ASEAN Regional level (by sector)

NO	PROPOSED MEASURES	PROPOSED IMPLEMENTING BODY	PROPOSED TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	REMARKS
(A1) GHS Implementation at ASEAN Regional Level: Industrial Workplace				
1	Disseminate the 'ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets' throughout the ASEAN member countries	ASEAN-OSHNET	September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the cooperation programmes under the ASEAN-OSHNET, i.e. Standards (Programme Coordinator: Malaysia), is currently finalising the 'ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets'. It is anticipated that the guidelines will be disseminated to ASEAN member countries soon.
2	Ensure the 'ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets' are accepted by the relevant government bodies in all the ASEAN member countries.	Senior Labour Official Meeting (SLOM) and ASEAN-OSHNET	December 2007 (upon consultation with relevant stakeholders by establishing a feedback mechanism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document can be served as an important technical document in the region, particularly to government bodies such as the department of occupational safety and health • It is anticipated that these guidelines will establish a mutual agreeable approach on the GHS implementation amongst ASEAN member countries and therefore, this could reduce and eliminate impediments that can occur in the region. • Ministry of Labour in some countries is not a key player in implementing GHS
3	Organised training courses based on the 'ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets'	ASEAN-OSHNET and ACIC	March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training courses can be established after the acceptance on the 'ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets' by the ASEAN member countries.
4	Strengthen the role of	ACIC	December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As discussed in the APEC Seminar on GHS

	ASEAN Chemical Industries Council (ACIC) in the region in terms of GHS implementation		(it should be a continuous process)	<p>Implementation and Technical Assistance on 20-22 September 2006, representatives from ACIC had proposed the following strategies to strengthen the role of ACIC, particularly in GHS implementation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Inviting non-ACIC members to regional GHS training events (currently, the members of ACIC only comprise six out of ten ASEAN member countries', i.e. Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand). 2) Nominating a company representative for GHS in countries where no ACIC representative exists. 3) Executing training and awareness raising workshops for industry throughout the region 4) Providing updates on GHS implementation in ACIC publication and news letters.
5	Identify mechanisms to take into account the needs of confidential business information (CBI) and GHS in the region	ACIC	December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACIC could collaborate with APEC to develop guidelines on how to take into account the needs of CBI and GHS in the region. • These guidelines should not compromise the safety of users • CBI may vary from country to country
6	Organise GHS training and awareness raising workshops for industries, traders, labourers and government agencies	ASEAN-OSHNET and ACIC	December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With adequate financial resources, and based on the development of 'ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets', ASEAN-OSHNET could collaborate with ACIC to organise regional GHS training and awareness raising workshops. • Raise the issue of funding at the ASEAN Ministerial level

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN-OSHNET should initiate the discussion with ACIC on the issues of collaboration, including the type and frequency for the training and awareness raising workshops for industries and government agencies, and identification of financial resources that be tapped. • Training materials could be developed and trainers could be trained and identified through the collaboration between ASEAN-OSHNET and ACIC.
7	Identify and nominate accredited institutions within the region to prepare SDS	SEOM and ACIC	September 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the industries in ASEAN often encounter difficulties in preparing the SDS for their product due to lack of facilities and capabilities. Thus, as far as SDS is concerned, most of the industries send their products to countries like Japan or Australia for the preparation of SDS. • It is possible for ASEAN member countries to identify and nominate accredited institutions within the region to develop SDS. Thus, this can reduce the cost for the product and also strengthen the capacity and capability of the ASEAN in terms of GHS implementation. • The accredited institutions should be signatories to International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) [note: the roles of the ILAC and APLAC are shown in Annex 2] • National agency takes up the role as data depository. • When a hazardous substance or product containing hazardous substances is developed, the SDS should be submitted to the appropriate depository in that country.

(A2) GHS Implementation at ASEAN Regional Level: Agriculture				
1	Incorporate GHS element into the Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF)	March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IPM has been promoted under the Strategic Plan of Action (2005-2010) of ASEAN Cooperation on Food, Agriculture and Forestry. However, the GHS elements were not yet incorporated into the IPM. • Since the GHS labelling will affect the labelling on the pesticides, and those pesticides are intentionally being formulated to control the pests, thus the GHS elements should be incorporated into IPM. • The GHS labelling on pesticides should be in-line with the updated technical guidance documents from international organizations such as FAO and WHO that had incorporated elements of GHS
2	Agree on the labels (that are in-line with GHS labelling) for registered pesticides that are accepted by the ASEAN member countries and then upload it into the ASEAN Pesticides Network and Database.	SOM-AMAF and ASEAN Network for Pesticides Regulatory Authorities	December 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASEAN Pesticides Network and Database serves as a platform for information sharing, discussion, identification, prioritisation, implementation and resolutions of problems related to pesticides management.
3	Strengthen the role of local agencies and members of SEApChemNet related to agriculture sector and CropLife Asia in GHS implementation in	Local agencies and members of SEApChemNet related to agriculture sector ⁵ and CropLife Asia	June 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to strengthen the role of SEApChemNet and CropLife Asia that are related to the agriculture sector, more associations at the national and regional levels should be encouraged to join the SEApChemNet and/or the CropLife Asia • When assessing a crop protection product, the regulatory authority must respect the intellectual

⁵ The Southeast Asia Public Interest and Labour Organisations (PILO) Chemicals Network (SEApChemNet) was established on 8 May 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

	ASEAN			property right of the data submitted, and the data provided in supporting the classification and labelling.
4	Organise GHS training and awareness raising workshops for farmers, farm workers and government inspectors.	SOM-AMAF, ASEAN Network for Pesticides Regulatory Authorities and local agencies and members of SEApChemNet related to agriculture sector and CropLife Asia	September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOM-AMAF could initiate discussion with SEApChemNet and CropLife Asia regarding the issue of GHS training and awareness raising workshops for farmers and farm workers in ASEAN. • Besides that, training materials and trainers could also be identified through the collaboration between related ASEAN sectoral working groups under SOM-AMAF, SEApChemNet and CropLife Asia.
5	Address issues related to confidential business information (CBI) and GHS in the region	CropLife Asia, Civil society , government and ASEAN Network for Pesticides Regulatory Authorities	October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CropLife Asia could collaborate with APEC, civil society and government to develop guidelines on CBI and GHS in the region. • These guidelines should not compromise the safety of users
(A3) GHS Implementation at ASEAN Regional Level: Transport				
1	Amend Protocol 9 that provides for the simplification of procedures and requirements of the transit transport of dangerous goods in ASEAN.	ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM) / ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM)	December 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Protocol 9 was signed by ASEAN Transport Minister on 20th September 2002 and the Protocol 9 provides for the simplification of procedures and requirements of the transit transport of dangerous goods in ASEAN. • However, the Protocol 9 were referred to the 12th Revised Version of UNRTDG (2001), ADR and Restructured ADR (2001). • As far as GHS is concerned, the Protocol 9 should be amended by incorporating the latest version of United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNRTDG) (i.e. 15th Revised version, 2007) and European Agreement concerning

				<p>the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (i.e. ADR 2007) that are in-line with GHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol 9 should also incorporate International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (of the International Maritime Organisation), and the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (of the International Civil Aviation Organisation) that are in-line with GHS.
2	Organise GHS training and awareness raising workshops for transport workers	ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM) / ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM)	October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transport workers (road, air and water) should receive adequate training on the GHS across the region
3	Provide training and awareness raising workshops for customs officers and other concerned agencies in the region	Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC)	October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs officers are involved in goods clearance, goods transit etc, thus their capacity in handling chemicals and dangerous goods should be enhanced. • Training and human resource developments are parts of the ASEAN Customs Vision 2020.
(A4) GHS Implementation at ASEAN Regional Level: Consumer Products				
1	Establish a committee/working group for consumer products in ASEAN	ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ), private sector and SEApChemNet	December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the ACCSQ, there are various committee and working groups, such as wood-based product working group, rubber-based product working group etc. • Since the elements of GHS (e.g. pictograms) can be incorporated into the labels of consumer products such as paints, dyes, cleaning products etc, thus it is necessary to establish a committee/working group for consumer products in ASEAN. • If the consumer products classification and labelling

				<p>is standardised in the region, then directly or indirectly it can facilitate the trade of consumer products within the region, as well as international trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To coordinate GHS regulations with other sectors
2	Ensure that GHS is considered as a standard which could facilitate the implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs)	ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ)	December 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As GHS can be illustrated as international accepted standards, thus adoption of GHS could accelerate the implementation of MRAs • Prioritize the consumer products. • Risk based labeling • Should be voluntary or mandatory according to national conditions.
3	Strengthen the role of Regional Consumer Organisations in terms of GHS implementation in ASEAN	SEApChemNet and other relevant organisations	December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to strengthen the role of SEApChemNet, more associations at the national and regional levels should be encouraged to join the SEApChemNet. • A dedicated website will be established by mid 2007. • Enhance capacity for the SEApChemNet.
4	Establish training and awareness raising modules	SEApChemNet and other relevant organisations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Consumer Organisations, e.g CI Asia Pacific perhaps could establish training and awareness raising modules and this module can be disseminated to the member organisations in ASEAN.

Section B: GHS Implementation at ASEAN Regional level (cross sectoral)

(B) Cross Sectoral GHS Implementation Issues at ASEAN Regional Level				
NO	PROPOSED MEASURES	PROPOSED IMPLEMENTING BODY	PROPOSED TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	REMARKS
1	GHS can become as an agenda item to be discussed in the ASEAN senior officials meeting and if feasible, to the ASEAN Ministerial meetings.	Relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies, senior official meetings, and technical working groups	September 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GHS can become as an agenda item to be discussed in various ASEAN meetings, such as ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meetings (SLOM), Senior Official Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agriculture Training and Extension, ASEAN Technical Working Group on Research and Development, ASEAN Network for Pesticide Regulatory Authorities, ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM), Transport Facilitation Working Group, Air Transport Working Group, Land Transport Working Group, Maritime Transport Working Group, ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ), Working Group Accreditation and Conformity Assessment, ASEAN Cosmetic Committee (ACC), Pharmaceutical Product Working Group (PPWG), Wood-Based Product Working Group (WBPWG), Rubber-Based Product Working Group (RBPWG), The Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC), The Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG), The Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group (CECWG), The Customs Capacity Building Working Group (CCBWG), ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN), ASEAN Working Group on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (AWGMEA) etc.
2	Establish the ASEAN Steering Committee on the GHS (ASCGHS)	Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) / ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM)	June 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before the establishment of the ASCGHS, each ASEAN member countries should establish the National Coordinating Committee on the GHS Implementation (NCCGHS), respectively. Thus, the chairperson of the NCCGHS (or the national focal point for GHS) from

				<p>each member countries should become members of the ASCGHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The responsibility of the ASCGHS includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update member countries on the GHS implementation status at their respective countries (pre-GHS and post-GHS). 2) Ensure the ASEAN Regional GHS Implementation Strategy is being implemented (amend the GHS implementation strategy if needed). 3) Identify obstacles for the GHS implementation and formulate strategy to reduce and eliminate those obstacles. 4) Obtain inputs from the ASEAN Group of Resource Persons on the GHS (AGRPGHS) 5) Update progress of other international institutions, such as APEC, UNSCEGHS, UNITAR, ILO etc. 6) Report the GHS implementation status in ASEAN to the SEOM/AEM. 7) Harmonise the Building Block Approach (BBA) among the ASEAN member countries. 8) Coordinate the contents of the GHS website (if the website is available at each of the ASEAN member countries) 9) Identify transition period for the GHS implementation. 10) Recognise ASEAN member countries who had implemented GHS earlier. 11) Coordination of ASEAN database of GHS classified substances.
3	Establish Group of Resource Persons on the GHS (GRPGHS) in ASEAN	AMEICC Secretariat	September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the establishment of the GRPGHS at the ASEAN level, each ASEAN member countries should establish the GRPGHS in their respective countries. • As a starting point at the national level, those who had

				<p>completed the GHS instructor training courses organised by JETRO/AOTS through the ‘Japan GHS Expert Dispatch Programme’ can become members in the GRPGHS. The GRPGHS can provide technical inputs to the NCCGHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Later, the members of the GRPGHS at the national level can meet twice a year at the regional level (since the UNSCEGHS will meet twice a year in July and December, thus ideally the GRPGHS should meet in September and March every year in order to incorporate the outcomes from the UNSCEGHS). • TOR should be established upon formation of the group • The responsibility of the GRPGHS includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide technical inputs to the ASCGHS 2) Update the ASCGHS with the latest outcomes of the UNSCEGHS 3) Provide technical information on the harmonisation of the BBA amongst ASEAN member countries across the four key sectors, i.e. industrial workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products. 4) Convey the outcomes of the Working Group on the Chemical Industry (WGCI) under the AMEICC to the ASCGHS.
4	Facilitate the GRPGHS meeting at the regional level	AMEICC Secretariat	July 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the secretariat services to the GRPGHS at the regional level. • Identify and compile the name list and agencies for those (from ASEAN) who had completed the GHS instructor training courses organised by JETRO/AOTS through the

				'Japan GHS Expert Dispatch Programme'.
5	Facilitate GHS implementation at the ASEAN regional level	ASEAN Secretariat (Bureau for Economic Integration)	June 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the secretariat services to GHS implementation at ASEAN regional level.

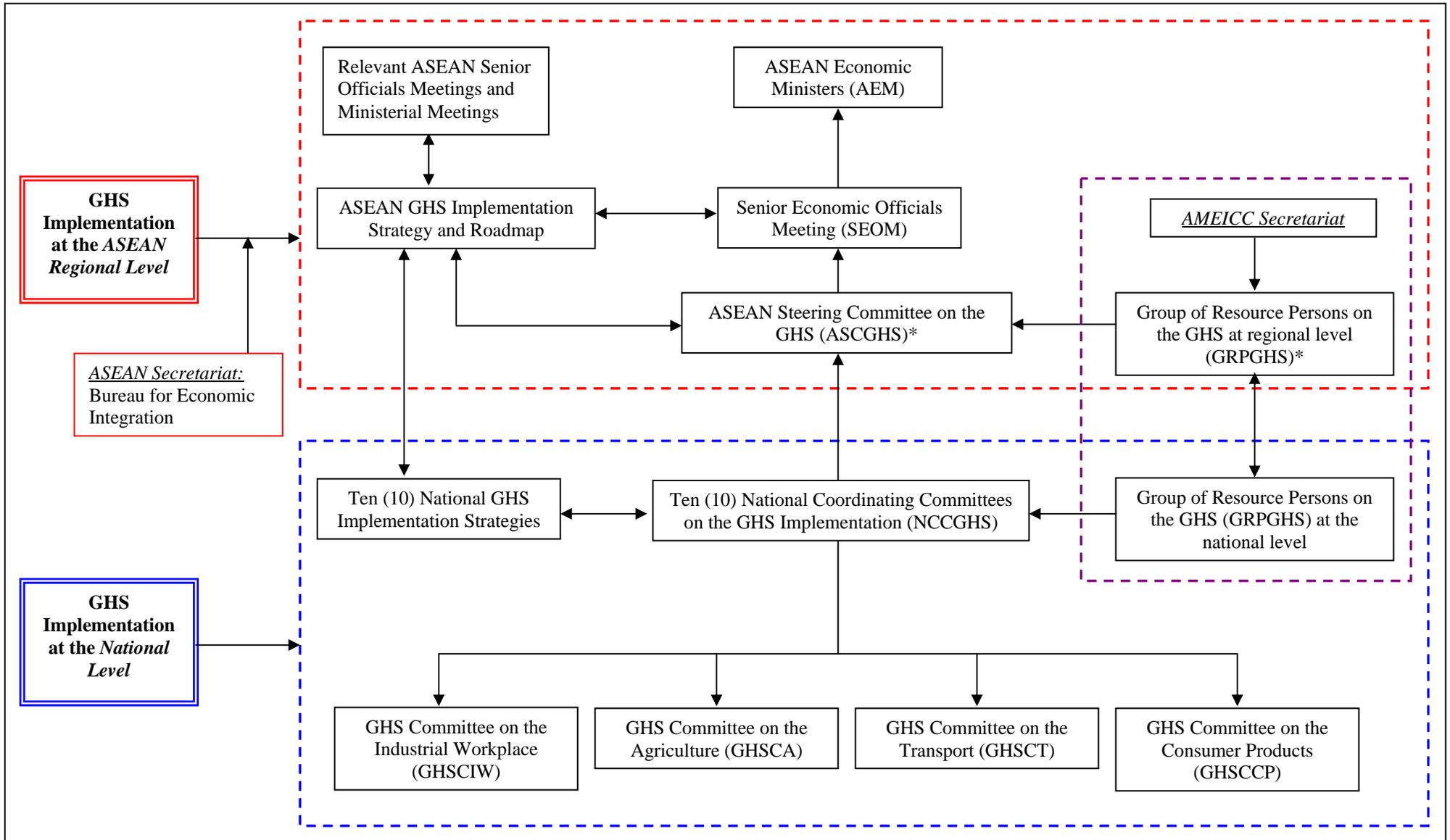


Figure 1: Proposed Mechanism for GHS Implementation in ASEAN

(* Proposed new structures/bodies)

3.0 Correlation between GHS implementation strategy in ASEAN with Vientiane Action Programme (VAP)

Vientiane Action Programme (VAP)	Correlation with GHS implementation strategy in ASEAN
<p>2.3.5 Trade Facilitation 2.3.5.1 Customs 2.3.5.1.1 Uniform system of classification of goods and commodities. (<i>Customs Tariff Classification</i>) 2.3.5.1.6 Simplification, accelerated harmonisation of documents, formalities, procedures and practices related to customs clearance to enhance economic competitiveness of international transactions in ASEAN. (<i>Customs Clearance</i>) 2.3.5.1.7 Free movement of means of transport and goods transiting ASEAN national territories and enhancement of customs control. (<i>Customs Transit</i>) 2.3.5.1.12 Enhancement of credibility, of customs integrity and professional capacity of customs officers (<i>Customs Human Resource Development and Administration</i>) 2.3.5.1.14 Cooperation with stakeholders and promoting of voluntary compliance partnership. (<i>Partnership with Customs Stakeholders and the Trading Community</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHS implementation will facilitate international trade of chemicals and chemical related products, including in ASEAN. • When the chemicals and chemical related products were classified based on the international basis, the duration for customs clearance should be shortened. • Through the GHS awareness raising and training programme, customs officers will have a better understanding on the risks associated with the chemicals and chemical related products. • Although GHS implementation is a voluntary basis, nonetheless, due to trade facilitation concerns, as well as enhance protection on human health and the environment, industries in ASEAN are willing to adopt the GHS.
<p>2.3.5.3 Standards and Conformance 2.3.5.3.1 Accelerate the implementation/development of sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) for priority sectors, as appropriate. 2.3.5.3.2 Encourage domestic regulators to recognise test reports issued by testing laboratories which are accredited by national accreditation bodies in ASEAN that are signatories to International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC). 2.3.5.3.3 Set clear targets and schedules for harmonisation of standards in priority sectors whenever required. Where</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GHS can be illustrated as an international accepted standard, thus, by adopting GHS as standard at the ASEAN level, this can accelerate the process of MRAs when the goods are traded across the countries' border. • Besides that, nominating accredited institutions that are capable to develop SDS in the region will facilitate industry to comply with GHS, especially for those industries that lack expertise and facilities in the development of SDS.

<p>international standards are not available and when requested by industry, align national among member countries.</p>	
<p>2.4 Trade in Services 2.4.1 Services Liberalisation 2.4.1.4 Adoption of agreement to facilitate the free movement of business people, skilled labour and talents in the region 2.4.1.5 Establishment of a ‘Professional Exchange’ to promote the use of ASEAN professional services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the ASEAN Group of Resource Persons on the GHS (AGRPGHS) will facilitate the free movement of the GHS resource persons to provide technical inputs to the ASEAN Steering Committee on the GHS (ASCGHS).
<p>2.6 Transport 2.6.1 Operationalisation of the ASEAN Framework Agreements on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of Protocol 9 is one of the items in the Article 25 of the ASEAN Framework Agreements on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit. • Thus, amendment of Protocol 9 can be illustrated as part of the efforts in operating the ASEAN Framework Agreements on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit where the international documents that are in-line with GHS should be incorporated into Protocol 9.
<p>2.10 Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors 2.10.7 Strengthen ASEAN’s cooperation and joint approaches in addressing issues and problems affecting trade in the region’s food, agriculture and forestry products including environment and labour issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the pesticides that are traded inter and intra-ASEAN complied with the GHS, this definitely this will facilitate the trade of pesticides, as well as enhance protection on human health and environment.
<p>3.2 Managing the Social Impacts of Economic Integration 3.2.1 Developing and enhancing human resources in the workplace. 3.2.1.1 Establish a network of skills-training institutions and a programme on vocational skill-training methodology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is anticipated that the ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheets will serve as a basic document to enhance capacity of the workers in the region. • ASEAN-OSHNET and ACIC could formulate the outline for the training courses based on the ASEAN Guidelines on Chemical Classification, Labelling and

	Safety Data Sheets.
3.3 Promoting Environmental Sustainability 3.3.1 Global environmental issues 3.3.1.2 Promote national and regional cooperation to address measures related to the cluster of multilateral environmental agreements addressing chemical and chemical wastes such as the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GHS is a basis for sound chemicals management.

ANNEX A1

Information from the Report of the 12th Session of the UNSCEGHS (Geneva, 12-14 December 2006)

Chapter 1.1

1.1.3.1.5 Add a new paragraph 1.1.3.1.5.4 to read as follows:

“1.1.3.1.5.4 Guidance on the interpretation of the building block approach

(a) Hazard classes are building blocks:

Within their jurisdiction and keeping in mind the goal of full harmonization as well as international conventions, competent authorities may decide which hazard classes they apply;

(b) Within a hazard class, each hazard category can be seen as a building block:

For a given hazard class, competent authorities have the possibility not to apply all categories. Nevertheless, in order to preserve consistency, some restrictions to this principle should be set, as follows:

(i) The classification criteria such as the cut-off values or concentration limits for adopted hazard categories should not be altered. However, adjacent sub-categories (e.g. carcinogenicity Categories 1A and 1B) may be merged into one category. Nevertheless, adjacent hazard categories should not be merged if it results in renumbering the remaining hazard categories. Furthermore, where sub-categories are merged, the names or numbers of the original GHS sub-categories should be retained (e.g. Carcinogenicity Category 1 or 1A/B) to facilitate hazard communication;

(ii) Where a competent authority adopts a hazard category, it should also adopt all the categories for higher hazard levels in that class. As a consequence, when a competent authority adopts a hazard class, it will always adopt at least the highest hazard category (Category 1), and, where more than one hazard category is adopted, these hazard categories will form an unbroken sequence.

NOTE 1: Some hazard classes contain additional categories that can be considered on a stand alone basis, for example, Specific target organ toxicity, Category 3: transient target organ effects (Chapter 3.8) and Reproductive toxicity: Effects on or via lactation (Chapter 3.7).

NOTE 2: It is noted, however, that the goal of the GHS is to achieve worldwide harmonization (see 1.1.2.3). Therefore, while differences between sectors may persist, the use of an identical set of categories at a worldwide level within each sector should be encouraged.

ANNEX A2

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) is an international cooperation between the various laboratory accreditation schemes operated throughout the world. The aim of the ILAC is to facilitate trade by promotion of the acceptance of accredited test and calibration results. The ILAC focuses on:

- Developing and harmonizing laboratory and inspection accreditation practices
- Promoting laboratory and inspection accreditation to industry, government, regulators and consumers.
- Assisting and supporting developing accreditation systems.
- Global recognition of laboratories and inspection facilities via ILAC Arrangement, thus facilitating acceptance of test, inspection and calibration data accompanying goods across national borders.

(Information of the ILAC was retrieved from the ILAC homepage: <http://www.ilac.org/home.html>)

The Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) groups organisations in the Asia Pacific region responsible for accrediting testing and inspection facilities. Members are nationally recognised accreditation bodies and are usually owned or endorsed by government.

(Information of the APLAC was retrieved from the APLAC homepage: http://www.aplac.org/aboutaplac/about_general_info.htm)

ANNEX A3

Experiences from other countries in implementing the GHS (e.g. New Zealand and Japan) can be shared, adopted, adapted and be incorporated into national strategies. For example, New Zealand incorporated the GHS into several regulations under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 and they had regulated several consumer products through the Group Standard. (Group Standard is an approval under HSNO for a group of hazardous substances of a similar nature, or type or having similar circumstances of use). There are 28 types of different Group Standard:

- 1) Additives, Process Chemicals and Raw Materials
- 2) Aerosols
- 3) Animal Nutrition and Animal Care Products
- 4) Class 4 Substances
- 5) Class 5.1.1 Oxidising Substances and Class 5.2 Organic Peroxides
- 6) Cleaning Products
- 7) Compressed Gas Mixtures
- 8) Construction Products
- 9) Corrosion Inhibitors
- 10) Cosmetics
- 11) Denatured Ethanol

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- 12) Dental Products
 - 13) Embalming Products
 - 14) Fertilisers
 - 15) Fire Fighting Chemicals
 - 16) Food Additives and Fragrance Materials
 - 17) Fuel Additives
 - 18) Laboratory Chemicals and Reagent Kits
 - 19) Leather and Textiles
 - 20) Lubricants
 - 21) Metal Industry Products
 - 22) N.O.S. (Not Otherwise Specified) Substances
 - 23) Photographic Chemicals
 - 24) Polymers
 - 25) Refining Catalysts
 - 26) Solvents
 - 27) Surface Coatings and Colourants
 - 28) Water Treatment Chemicals

Furthermore, in clause 96E for the HSNO Act stipulated that *'If a group standard applies to a hazardous substance or product, the substance or product must comply with the group standard'*.

For Japan, approximately 1,500 chemicals were classified using GHS criteria. Additionally, the GHS elements were incorporated into Japan Industrial Standards (JIS).

ANNEX A4

Prior to the establishment of the ASEAN Steering Committee on the GHS (ASCGHS) and A Group of Resource Persons on the GHS (GRPGHS) at the ASEAN regional level, the ASEAN member countries should establish a National Coordinating Committee on the GHS Implementation (NCCGHS) and the GRPGHS in their respective countries.

These are some important information to be filled by ASEAN member countries in order to facilitate the establishment of ASCGHS and GRPGHS:

For the NCCGHS:

Country	National Coordinating Committee on the GHS Implementation (NCCGHS) or equivalent agency	Contacts
Ten (10) ASEAN member countries	(Identify the National competent authority, such as national focal point on the GHS implementation in all the ASEAN member countries. The members of each of the NCCGHS could also be identified and listed)	

For the NGRPGHS:

Country	List of GHS experts in the country or GHS instructors who had completed the instructor training courses of the 'Japan GHS Expert Dispatch Programme' organised by JETRO/AOTS	Contacts
Ten (10) ASEAN member countries		

Annex B: Conference Agenda

Wednesday, 9 May 2007

8:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Moderator: Mr. Syarief Syamsoeri, Head, Bureau of International Cooperation, NADFC, Indonesia

- Mr. Pavan Baichoo, Technical Officer, ILO
- Professor Peter Peterson, Senior Special Fellow, UNITAR and Adjunct Professor, National University of Malaysia (UKM)
- Mr. Bijoy Chatterjee, Head, International Cooperation Branch, OPCW
- Mr. Bernardino Regazzoni, Ambassador of Switzerland to Indonesia
- Dr. Soeung Rathchavy, Deputy Secretary General, ASEAN
- Mr. Benny Wahyudi, Director General, Agricultural and Chemical Industry, Department of Industry, Indonesia

Official opening of Conference:

- Dr. Husniah Rubiana Thamrin Akib, Head, National Agency of Drug and Food Control (NADFC), Indonesia

Group Photo

Coffee break

10:15 Introduction to the Conference

- Overview of GHS activities in ASEAN and Introduction to the Conference, UNITAR by Mr. Jonathan Krueger, UNITAR

10:30 Session 1: Status and Progress of GHS Implementation in ASEAN Countries

- Country statements/presentations (5-10 minutes per country)

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Session 2: Review of GHS Capacity Building at the Regional Level

- Presentation of the Regional GHS Capacity Assessment in ASEAN, Prof. Mazlin Mokhtar, LESTARI UKM
- “Regional GHS Implementation and the Basel Convention”, Mr. Dadan Wardhana H.S., Basel Convention Regional Centre – Southeast Asia (BCRC-SEA)
- “GHS Capacity Building Activities: new tools and targets”, Ms. Niko Kato, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan
- “GHS Implementation in New Zealand: approach and practical lessons learned”, Dr. Peter Dawson, Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA), New Zealand

Coffee break

16:00 Session 3: Activities of Business and Industry, and Public Interest and Labour Organisations for GHS Implementation

- “Southeast Asia Public Interest and Labour Organisations (PILOs) Network for Chemical Safety and GHS Implementation - Outcome of workshop on GHS Capacity building for Southeast Asia PILOs (7th May – 8th May 2007, Jakarta)”, Ms. Ratna Devi Nadarajan, Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (FOMCA)
- “Roles of Thai NGOs in GHS Implementation”, Dr. Qwanruedee Chotichanathawewong, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)
- “Promoting GHS for Agriculture, Transport & Industrial Workers: The TUCP Initiative”, Mr. Rafel Mapalo, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, TUCP
- “The Role of Industry and ACIC in Regional GHS Implementation: next steps for industry involvement”, Mr. Phromphron Isarankura Na Ayutthaya, Federation of Thai Industries / ASEAN Chemical Industry Club
- “Experience of Industry with GHS Implementation at the National Level”, Ms Teresita Corpuz, SPIK Philippines

17.30 Close of Day 1

19.00 Evening Reception hosted by Government of Indonesia

Thursday, 10 May 2007

9:00 Session 4: Draft GHS Implementation Roadmap for ASEAN

- “GHS Implementation in ASEAN: looking ahead”, Prof. Peter Peterson, Senior Special Fellow, UNITAR
- Presentation of Proposed Regional GHS Implementation Strategy, Prof. Mazlin Mokhtar, LESTARI UKM

Coffee break

10:30 Session 5: Working Groups

Introduction to the Working Groups

12:30 Lunch

14.00 Working Groups continued

Coffee break

16.00 Presentation of Working Group Outcomes and Discussion in Plenary

17.30 Close of Day 2

Friday, 11 May 2007

10:00 Session 6: Review of GHS Implementation Strategy for ASEAN

- Presentation of integrated outcomes from Session 5

Coffee break

- Discussion and agreement of Implementation Strategy

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Session 7: Conference Conclusions and Follow-up Activities

- Summary of Conference Results and Follow-up Activities
- Certificate Ceremony
- Closing Remarks

16:00 Close of Conference

Annex C: List of Participants

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Annex D: List of Acronyms

ACCSQ	ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality
ACIC	ASEAN Chemical Industries Council
ADR	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road
AEM	ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting
AEM-METI	ASEAN Economic Ministers – Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
AMEICC	AEM-METI Economic and Industry Cooperation Committee
AOTS	Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
APLAC	Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
ASCGHS	ASEAN Steering Committee on the GHS
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-OSHNET	ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network
ATM	ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting
CBI	Confidential Business Information
CCC	Coordinating Committee on Customs
CI	Consumer International
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GRPGHS	Group of Resource Persons on the GHS
HSNO	Hazardous Substances and New Organisms
IFCS	International Forum on Chemical Safety
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
JETRO	Japan External Trade Organization
JIS	Japan Industrial Standards
MRAs	Mutual Recognition Arrangements
NADFC	Indonesia National Agency for Drug and Food Control
NCCGHS	National Coordinating Committee on the GHS Implementation
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisation
SDS	Safety Data Sheets
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SEApChemNet	Southeast Asia Public Interest and Labour Organisation Chemicals Network
SEOM	Senior Economic Officials Meeting
SLOM	Senior Labour Official Meeting
SOM-AMAF	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
STOM	ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNRTDG	United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
UNSCEGHS	United Nations Economic and Social Council's Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS
UNSCETDG	United Nations Economic and Social Council's Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
VAP	Vientiane Action Programme
WGCI	Working Group on Chemical Industry
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development



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