



## **Training and Capacity Building Programmes in Chemicals and Waste Management**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

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Welcome to the second issue of the UNITAR Chemicals and Waste Management Newsletter. Inside, you will find out about recent developments at UNITAR as well as events and achievements of countries that contribute to the sound management of chemicals. For further details on UNITAR CWM programmes and services, please refer to our website at [www.unitar.org/cwm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm). We welcome any comments or questions: they can be sent to the address below, or by email to [cwm@unitar.org](mailto:cwm@unitar.org).

### **News from the International Level ...**

#### **Opportunities for Country Support**

- *Pilot Projects on Integrated Chemicals and Waste Management in three developing countries (funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)*  
Application Deadline – 30 December 2003
- *National Profile Preparation and Priority Setting (funded by the European Commission)*  
Application Deadline – 29 February 2004
- *Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management – Geneva, Switzerland, 1-3 March 2004*  
Call for Abstracts – deadline for submission 30 January 2004
- *National Profile Preparation as Part of a Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan*  
For more information on how to access UNITAR assistance as part of your GEF-supported National Implementation Plan, please contact your GEF Implementing Agency and/or UNITAR.

For more information on these opportunities, please see the UNITAR CWM website at: [www.unitar.org/cwm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm).

#### **Three New CD-ROMs Available from UNITAR**

UNITAR has released three new CD-ROMs to assist countries and interested parties with key topics of chemicals management capacity building:

- *National Profile CD-Rom (2003 Edition)* contains 47 National Profiles (up from 30 in the previous edition) and relevant guidance and training materials;
- *GHS Capacity Building Library* contains a wide variety of guidance and training materials for use by countries and interested parties; and
- *PRTR Capacity Building Library (2003 Edition)* comprises an up-to-date resource of guidance, training and other capacity-building-related materials associated with PRTR development.

All three CD-ROMs are also accessible over the Internet at: [www.unitar.org/cwm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm).

#### **Integrated Chemicals and Waste Management Focus of New UNITAR/IOMC/SDC Collaboration**

Country applications are being accepted until 31 December, 2003, for three pilot projects as part of a new collaborative programme focused on supporting countries to develop coordination and synergies for national chemicals and waste management.

More information is available at the UNITAR CWM website: [www.unitar.org/cwm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm).

#### **Global Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building**

UNITAR, in collaboration with several international organisations and with funding provided by the Swiss Agency for Development Co-operation and the OPCW, will organise a “Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management” in Geneva, Switzerland, 1-3 March 2004. The workshop will provide an opportunity to obtain lessons learned to-date in identifying and implementing synergies for capacity building under relevant international agreements at the country level. Abstracts outlining relevant experiences will be accepted by UNITAR until 30 January 2004.

### ***First Meeting of WSSD GHS Partnership Approves Workplan***

The first Meeting of Partners for the WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 10 July 2003, bringing together representatives from 16 governments, 8 intergovernmental organisations and 12 non-governmental organisations. The meeting discussed partnership contributions and management, and approved the framework workplan. A report of the meeting is available from UNITAR.

### ***POPs Companion Guidance for National Profile Preparation Now Available***

New draft companion guidance designed to assist countries that wish to develop or update a National Profile as part of a Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan (NIP) project is now receiving widespread country testing. The document, which is available in English, French and Spanish, can be downloaded at [www.unitar.org/cwm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm).

UNITAR is welcoming comments from countries and other interested stakeholders until 31 December 2003, after which a first edition of the document will be made available. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has recommended that countries that are developing a Stockholm Convention NIP consider developing or updating a comprehensive National Profile as an early activity.

For more information on how to access UNITAR assistance as part of your GEF-supported National Implementation Plan, please contact your GEF Implementing Agency and/or UNITAR.

### ***UNITAR Proposes Key Elements for SAICM Deliberation on Capacity Building***

In advance of the first preparatory committee meeting of the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management, UNITAR has proposed, in a formal submission, the following four key elements for consideration:

1) the need to develop precise benchmarks for national chemicals management programmes in order to improve national profile and other self-assessment development processes;

- 2) the further development/possible endorsement of Integrated National Programmes for Chemicals Management – building on experiences in some 7 countries to-date and in anticipation of an additional 3 UNITAR-supported pilot country projects scheduled to commence in 2004;
- 3) the systematic identification and application of the concept of synergies for capacity building under international chemicals management agreements; and
- 4) the development of skills and capacities for project planning and financial resource mobilisation in developing and transition countries.

These suggested elements are based on lessons learned and experiences gained from work with a wide variety of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. For a copy of the submission, please contact UNITAR.

### ***Visit the GHS Partnership Website and Virtual Capacity Building Library***

This interactive portal for GHS capacity building information is now on-line. Ongoing activities, recent and planned events, links to relevant websites and other important information are now available at the click of a button. In particular, a wide variety of key GHS resource documents are available in the virtual GHS Capacity Building Library, which is also available in CD-ROM format.

Point your browsers to:  
[www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs\\_partnership/index.htm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/index.htm).

### ***PRTR Virtual Capacity Building Library and Virtual Classroom***

Key documents relating to PRTR design and implementation can now be accessed through the PRTR Virtual Capacity Building Library. The library, which can be accessed through the Internet at [www.unitar.org/cwm/prtrcd](http://www.unitar.org/cwm/prtrcd) or with a CD-ROM version available from UNITAR, will be regularly updated through the PRTR Virtual Classroom.

An innovative information and communication exchange tool – the Virtual Classroom – is currently being developed by UNITAR to assist countries in developing national PRTR systems using Internet technology. The Classroom – which will go on-line in 2004, will feature a

number of functions, including: document posting and exchange; the virtual PRTR library; discussion boards; email lists; a calendar of events; and a listing of relevant websites. The initiation of an interactive PRTR learning course is also envisaged as a future activity.

Keep posted on developments at: [www.unitar.org/cwm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm).

### **News from UNITAR's Partner Countries ...**

#### **Chile Kicks Off a National PRTR Design Project**

In follow-up to initial project work in Chile supported by Environment Canada and UNITAR, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and UNITAR are supporting Chile's efforts to design a national Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. Project objectives include:

- formalising the process of PRTR design in Chile including participation of concerned parties;
- providing information and technical expertise to Chile relevant for making informed PRTR decisions which take into account national needs and circumstances;
- strengthening capacities of non-governmental organisations to participate meaningfully in the PRTR design process; and
- raising awareness of high-level decision-makers with the goal to institutionalise a PRTR in Chile.

A National PRTR Proposal developed through and endorsed by a multi-stakeholder process will be a key outcome of the 24-month project. The PRTR Design Proposal will serve as the core document for government decision-makers in Chile responsible for formally institutionalising a PRTR system.

#### **Ghana Commences with Registration of Pesticides**

Ghana has commenced registering pesticides as the result of training under a Dutch-supported UNITAR project. The project "Strengthening Capacities for Decision-Making for Pesticides Registration and Priority Chemicals" involves: ensuring that Ghana's pesticides registration committee and responsible staff have the needed human resource skills in-place to evaluate priority

pesticides, and that Ghanaian government officials and stakeholders are able to take action on priority chemicals in general. Ghana's pesticide registration system will be operational at the completion of the project (by end-2003); and a number of less harmful pesticides alternatives are in the late stages of the registration process. As a follow-up to the project, further training in areas identified by Ghana for strengthening is planned through twinning with another country.

#### **South Africa Completes GHS Situation and Gap Analysis**

South Africa has taken a significant step towards GHS implementation with the completion of a situation analysis and gap analysis (including socio-economic evaluation). The situation analysis crucially revealed a lack of uniformity in SDS and that much of South Africa's hazard communication infrastructure (classification, labelling, SDS) is not yet aligned with the GHS. It is expected that the major impact of GHS implementation would be on trade in chemicals as non-implementation of the GHS could result in non-tariff barriers to a country's exports for not conforming to the harmonised system of hazard communication. South Africa's GHS implementation strategy will be finished by the end of 2003.

#### **Zambia Develops GHS Implementing Regulations**

Implementation of the GHS is moving swiftly in Zambia, with the commencement of a regulatory process to identify and adopt provisions to implement the GHS in all sectors. In addition, Zambia has started to implement a number of priority activities as outlined in their national GHS action plan, including introduction of an annual national chemical safety day, launching of a certificate-based training program with the University of Zambia, and further customs training.

#### **SADC Countries Recommend Regional GHS Implementation Strategy**

The first in a series of regional and sub-regional GHS awareness raising workshops was held for countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region in Livingstone, Zambia, from 1 to 4 September 2003. The workshop was supported by GTZ, UNITAR (with resources provided by the Governments of Switzerland and The Netherlands), IFCS and the ICCA.

One of the key outcomes was a commitment to initiate the development of a regional strategy with the goal to ensure SADC-wide harmonisation of GHS implementation by 2007. Complimentary to this workshop, a regional GHS needs assessment and implementation report is being prepared as a basis to further inform the development of the regional strategy. A report of the meeting is available from UNITAR.

### ***India Initiates Preparation of Comprehensive National Profile***

The Government of India has commenced development of a comprehensive National Chemicals Management Profile, in an 18-month process designed to build on an existing mini-profile that was developed a number of years ago. The project is funded by Environment Canada with UNITAR technical support. Due to the vast size and diversity of chemicals-related activities in India, a series of regional planning meetings will take place in Indian states to provide more detailed input to the process – a first in UNITAR's experience. The result is expected to be an authoritative, "living" document that will be a reference for the myriad chemicals-related activities planned for the future in one of the world's most populous countries.

### ***New National Chemicals Management Profiles and CD-ROM***

With UNITAR support, a number of new or revised National Chemicals Management Profiles have been developed in a variety of countries, including Jordan, Guinea (Conakry), Mali, South Africa (draft) and Syria. In addition, Armenia, Barbados, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Tunisia, Yemen and Zambia are all in the process of developing/updating their National Profiles with direct UNITAR assistance. A new (2003 edition) UNITAR/IOMC National Profile CD-ROM is now available from UNITAR. The CD-ROM contains Profiles from countries, and relevant guidance and training materials in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

An on-line version of the CD-ROM can also be found on the Internet at [www.unitar.org/cwm/np\\_cd](http://www.unitar.org/cwm/np_cd).

### ***Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming UNITAR Supported Meetings ...***

- *Sub-Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on PRTRs – Central America and Caribbean Region*, 2-3 December 2003, San José, Costa Rica
- *India National Profile Planning Meeting*, 11-12 December 2003, Delhi, India
- *National Profile Planning Meeting*, December 2003, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- *Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management*, 1-3 March 2004, Geneva, Switzerland

### ***Application Deadlines ...***

- **31 December 2003:** Pilot Projects on Integrated Chemicals and Waste Management in three developing countries
- **30 January 2004:** Abstracts for Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management
- **29 February 2004:** National Profile Preparation and Priority Setting

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