

# The Synergy of Chemical Conventions; Opportunities Obstacles - an IPEN Perspective -

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Contamination shows no respect for territorial borders

Countries alone cannot respond effectively

Synergy - response to increasing environmental pollution & chemical body burden

Coordinated implementation of chemical conventions / MEAs

- life cycle management of chemicals at national, regional & global level
- cornerstone for improved domestic ESM of chemicals
- stronger more effective regional & global frameworks
- info & technical capacity building



# The Chemical Conventions

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Framework for sound chemicals management :

- Stockholm Convention – eliminate/prohibit
- Basel Convention - avoidance & minimisation
  - Waigani Convention
  - Bamako Convention
- Rotterdam Convention -ban import & info exchange
- ILO Convention 170 – info on hazards for workers
- GHS for Classification & Labelling - info on hazards

Principles of Intergenerational Equity, Precaution, Elimination & Substitution, Polluter Pays, Common but differentiated responsibilities

Different focuses & approaches but commonalities & opportunities for synergies



# Coordination

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In policy, info management, technical skills, capacity building & training, legislation.

Combined chem MEAs address chemical life cycle:

- international trade in toxic chemicals
- transport of hazardous & radioactive waste
- evaluation of hazards based on inherent characteristic
- provision of information
- reduction & elimination of POPs releases, & their use & production
- environmentally sound remediation of stockpiles
- identification of contaminated sites
- avoidance of new haz chems via unintended use or illegal dumping
- development & application of clean production methods



# Impediments & Obstacles to Effective Interlinkages

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Impose extra commitments - countries need to define their needs when assessing which conventions to progressively ratify

Lack of stakeholder capacity – govts, industry, agriculture, NGOs & convention secretariats - sectoral interests

**UNU Report** - many small island face common problems – limited financial & technical resources, administrative capacity, political support

**Africa Review** – institutional & resource constraints - enforcement of legislation

# Absence of Comprehensive Legal Framework

- *South Pacific Case Study in Legislative Synergies*



## Solution/Options for Synergy

**Common Themes** - info exchange, participation of civil society, industry obligations, legislative requirements, monitoring & enforcement.

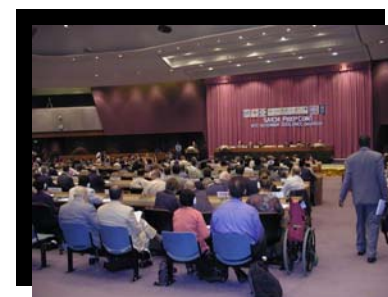
Themes interlinked & interdependent - synergies for capacity building

Coordinated training & capacity-building, info management, communications & human resources, legislation - saves resources, time & staff

Linking policies & actions - share & reduce costs, decrease burdens of implementing agencies.

Financing multipurpose projects – avoid duplications

- Competent Authority & Focal Points
- Participation of Civil Society
- Information Exchange Obligations
- Public Information
- Legislative needs



## Solution/Options for Synergy cont...

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Cooperation between govt dept., Secretariats, industry & NGOs

- information management - collating, organising & sharing chemical data
- standardising data collection & criteria
- capacity-building through training programmes
- coordinating research
- promoting technology transfer & clean production
- seeking financial support for national governments
- developing model legislation
- developing public awareness programmes
- promoting public involvement in chemical management strategies



## Solution/Options for Synergy cont...

EG: MOU between UNEP & South Pacific Regional Environment Program

– coordination/cooperation between Basel & SPREP Secretariats

- clearinghouse, training & fundraising
- adapt Basel documentation for Waigani - model legislation, movement & notification document, technical guidelines, reporting form & waste characterization



# Recommendations for Capacity Building Initiatives for Synergy

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Effective capacity building MUST reflect specific needs of participants.

Priority areas :

1. Information Management & Delivery
2. Training Kits & Workshops
3. Risk Assessment Tools
4. Template Model Legislation

*# A capacity building program should result in a suite of transferable capacity building and information tools in response to clearly defined needs.*





# Recommendations for Capacity Building Initiatives cont....

## 1. Information Management & Delivery

Aim 'to assist rapid & effective acceptance & implementation of the chemical conventions to gain the benefits of synergy.'

- based on 'user needs assessment'
- data consolidation in uniform information repository & retrieval system; logical cataloging and info criteria

## 2. Training Kits & Workshops

Fully coordinated, based on user needs of D/T countries. Uniform format appropriate to all levels, electronically & hardcopy, answer most common queries, searchable, background materials/ reference

## 3. Risk Assessment Tools

Distribute public domain risk assessment software; manuals & training kits;



## Recommendations for Capacity Building Initiatives cont...

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### 4. Model Legislation

Develop basic template models/ framework for environmental management legislation with avenues to encompass obligations under the conventions.

***South Pacific Case Study*** - model omnibus environmental legislation to establish legislative authority for the minister & department, with general provisions for environmental impact assessment; regulations can then be developed for specific conventions.

