

# Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

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## Final Report



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The GHS workshop for countries of ASEAN was the third in a series of regional and sub-regional GHS workshops which are co-ordinated and supported through the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*, subject to availability of extra-budgetary resources. The event was 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 the Philippines and to the European Union, the Government of Switzerland, and Foreign Affairs Canada for their financial contributions to the workshop. The first workshop was held for the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region in September 2003, the second for the countries of Mercosur and the Andean Community in November 2004. Countries and organizations interested in supporting GHS workshops in other regions are encouraged the contact UNITAR at the address below.

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## Executive Summary

The Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) took place in Manila, Philippines, from 17-20 October 2005. The workshop brought together representatives from the ten countries of ASEAN, as well as representatives of international organizations, industry, non-profit public interest groups and labour unions.<sup>1</sup> The event represents the third in a series of regional and sub-regional GHS workshops that are coordinated and supported through the UNITAR/ILO *Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*.<sup>2</sup> It also contributed to the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*, which was initiated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The workshop was organized through the collaboration of the Government of the Philippines, UNITAR and ILO, with financial support from the European Union, the Government of Switzerland and Foreign Affairs Canada.

The workshop was opened by Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, Vice Chairman and Managing Head of the Board of Investments of the Philippines. Mr. Martin Bienz from the Embassy of Switzerland, Mr. Luc Vandebon of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, Mr. Steven Rheault Kihara of the Embassy of Canada and Mr. Jonathan Krueger of UNITAR also made opening remarks. During the four days, participants exchanged country experiences, examined existing regional structures relevant to GHS implementation, discussed challenges and opportunities regarding GHS implementation at the regional and national levels, and developed practical recommendations for GHS implementation for the three main actor groups affected by GHS (government, industry and non-profit civil society) and the four main sectors affected by the GHS (industrial workplaces, agriculture, transport and consumer product chemicals).

### Existing Infrastructure for GHS Implementation in ASEAN Countries

While noting that implementation of the GHS in ASEAN remains at the planning stage in some countries, participants at the workshop identified some relevant existing legal and administrative infrastructure in most countries. In planning for GHS implementation in ASEAN, participants recommended avoiding duplication of activities and instead favoured building on existing structures and initiatives. Participants identified the existence of some forms of chemical labelling systems in the majority of countries, generally for the transport and agricultural sectors. They recommended that these systems be adapted to conform to the GHS and stressed the need to ensure consistency across the region. Participants recognised the importance of involving a range of government ministries, as well as other interested groups and stakeholders, in planning and executing national implementation of the GHS, and identified the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as a possible umbrella institution at the regional level.

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<sup>1</sup> ASEAN member countries are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

<sup>2</sup> The first UNITAR/ILO Subregional GHS workshop was held for countries of SADC (Southern African Development Community) in September 2003 and the second for countries of Mercosur and the Andean Community in November-December 2004.

## **Challenges and Opportunities of GHS Implementation in ASEAN**

Workshop participants supported the implementation of the GHS at the national level in ASEAN countries. They identified reduced risks to public health and the need for the harmonization of existing systems as key drivers for implementation of the system. In terms of benefits, participants anticipated that the GHS would serve to reduce costs, increase access to accurate information, and improve market access and the competitiveness of companies. At the regional level, participants specifically highlighted simplified customs procedures and improved control of illegal traffic as potential benefits of GHS implementation. Multiple languages, a lack of information, weak or conflicting institutional frameworks and low technical capacity were identified as obstacles to implementation at both the national and regional levels.

Participants concluded that the workshop provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on experiences, discuss key issues and suggest concrete next steps in the area of chemical hazard communication and GHS implementation. UNITAR and the other workshop organizers were encouraged to widely distribute the report of the workshop, both electronically and on paper, to all interested parties, including national decision makers at all levels and the Secretariat of ASEAN.

## 1. Introduction

An important aspect of protecting human health and the environment from potentially toxic chemicals is the development of national systems that ensure that chemicals are properly classified and labelled and that safety data sheets are made available, in particular in the workplace. These communication tools provide workers, consumers and the public with important information about the hazards of chemicals (hazard communication) and thus help to trigger precautionary protective behaviour. For this to be effective, messages must be comprehensible and accompanied by appropriate supporting measures. The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is a new internationally-agreed tool for chemical classification and hazard communication.

As part of the UNITAR/ILO series of regional and subregional GHS workshops, the countries of ASEAN met in Manila, Philippines, from 17-20 October 2005, to discuss their experiences with chemical hazard communication and consider concrete measures related to GHS implementation in the region.

The workshop is part of a two-year project (2005-2007) to strengthen capacities in ASEAN countries for implementing the GHS, executed by UNITAR in the context of the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme* with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Switzerland. The project involves: regional capacity building activities for all ten ASEAN member countries; country-based pilot projects in at least three countries (who will share their experience towards GHS implementation with other countries); supporting activities for civil society; securing active engagement of the chemical industry in GHS implementation at the national and regional levels; and development of a regional approach to GHS implementation.<sup>3</sup>

### 1.1 The GHS: An Important Tool for Protecting Human Health and the Environment

The GHS provides a comprehensive and universal tool for chemical classification and hazard communication, and countries around the world are taking an interest in developing national strategies for implementing the GHS and building capacities for effective chemical hazard communication. Responsibility for the maintenance, updating and promotion of the system, adopted in 2002, rests with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (SCEGHS).<sup>4</sup>

Countries can draw upon the GHS to develop national chemical hazard communication systems where those infrastructures are weak or

<sup>3</sup> A brochure regarding this project is available from UNITAR.

<sup>4</sup> The UNSCEGHS website can be found at: [http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs\\_welcome\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html).

lacking, and will need to align existing regulations and procedures with the provisions of GHS. Additionally, implementation of the GHS may require strengthening, updating or establishing appropriate national legislation compatible with other international instruments such as the ILO Chemicals Convention 170 and Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Global implementation of the non-binding GHS will be undertaken through a strategic yet flexible approach in Member States, through collaboration between government and other interested and affected parties such as industry and non-profit civil society, including labour, consumer and public interest groups across the agricultural, industrial production, transport and consumer sectors.<sup>5</sup> The GHS therefore represents an important step in harmonizing national chemical hazard communication systems worldwide and has a great potential to improve chemical safety across all relevant sectors.

Specifically, the System is expected to:

- enhance the protection of people and the environment;
- provide a recognised framework for those countries without an existing system;
- reduce the need for duplicative testing and evaluation of chemicals; and
- facilitate international trade in chemicals whose hazards have been properly assessed and identified on an international basis.

### ***International Aspects***

According to the report of the IFCS Forum III meeting held in October 2000 in Brazil, the GHS will become a practical and coherent global standard for chemical hazard communication in the workplace, for those involved in work-related activities, for the transportation system, and for consumers. Forum III specifically recommended that “all countries, subject to their capacities and capabilities, should take account of the development of the GHS in any proposed changes to existing systems for classification and labelling, and in the implementation and enforcement of their chemicals legislation”. The IFCS also recommended that guidance and other tools necessary for the implementation of the GHS be made available by 2003 and that all countries should implement the GHS as soon as possible with a view to have the system fully operational by 2008, a target endorsed at the 2002 WSSD held in Johannesburg, South Africa (WSSD Plan of Implementation, paragraph 23(c), A/CONF.199/20).

IFCS Forum IV in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2003, adopted a GHS Action Plan – based on the workplan of the UNITAR/ILO/OECD *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS* – that encouraged, *inter alia*, “at least two regional GHS workshops

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<sup>5</sup> Use of the terms “multistakeholder” and “multisectoral” in subsequent sections of this report denote inclusion of the above mentioned stakeholders and sectors.



held and implementation strategies prepared by the end of 2005, taking into consideration regional economic integration arrangements”.

Additionally, recent discussions on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) have included the GHS in its draft Global Plan of Action. It consists of proposals for activities on the GHS under the objectives of risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, and capacity building and technical cooperation and in the work areas of information management and dissemination, and education and training. The GHS is an important tool that can contribute to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and facilitates the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

### ***Challenges for Capacity Building in Developing Countries***

One of the key factors that will ultimately determine the success of the GHS worldwide is the extent to which countries both recognise the potential benefits of chemical hazard communication and develop capacities to establish the necessary infrastructures to implement and operate the System. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition face particular challenges with regard to trying to limit and reduce the negative effects of chemical use in various sectors through appropriate hazard communication. Frequent mis-labelling of chemicals, a lack of understanding of labels on chemicals in use, and infrequent training in chemical safety are only some of the challenges specifically faced by countries with limited or non-existent national hazard communication infrastructures.

Widespread adoption of the GHS and effective chemical hazard communication is therefore only likely to occur if countries demonstrate a strong commitment to its implementation and if adequate support and technical assistance is made available to countries needing to build appropriate legal and technical infrastructures. Suitable training and education will be required to ensure the proper use of GHS tools in different national contexts. This will be of particular importance to those developing countries and countries with economies in transition that did not directly take part in the technical work of harmonization. Moreover, lessons learned from ongoing GHS pilot projects indicate the practical value of GHS capacity building activities for chemical safety at all levels and more than 68 countries have already indicated to UNITAR their interest in participating in a GHS capacity development project.

## 1.2 Workshop Objectives

The main goal of the workshop was to bring together key representatives from government, industry and non-profit civil society to discuss GHS implementation and capacity needs in the four GHS-relevant sectors of industrial workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products. The workshop focused on national GHS implementation among ASEAN countries and the elements of a possible regional GHS implementation strategy.

Specific objectives of the workshop included, *inter alia*, to:

- take stock of the status of GHS implementation in ASEAN member countries;
- initiate development of national GHS implementation strategies;
- examine existing regional institutions and initiatives relevant for GHS implementation;
- consider development of a regional GHS capacity assessment and implementation strategy; and
- identify the role, and consider initiating activities for industry and non-profit civil society groups (such as labour unions and NGOs) to contribute to national and regional GHS implementation activities.

## 1.3 Opening Statements

The workshop was opened by Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, Vice Chairman and Managing Head of the Board of Investments of the Philippines. After a warm welcome, he gave a brief overview of the Philippines contributions to international environmental issues and international agreements. He also recognized the importance of the GHS, citing the recent tragedy of poisonings in Bohol, Philippines which may have been prevented with better pesticides labelling. In closing, he linked the workshop and GHS with future outcomes of safer chemicals management.

Mr. Martin Bienz from the Embassy of Switzerland of the Philippines reflected the sentiments of the Swiss government that the workshop would be an important step toward effective GHS implementation in the region. He noted the benefits and potential risks associated with chemicals use and concluded by reiterating Switzerland's commitment to the GHS.

Mr. Luc Vandebon of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines noted the longstanding involvement of the European Commission in the area of chemicals management in the Philippines. He provided information on the two key EU directives for chemicals, the Dangerous Substances Directive and the Dangerous Preparations Directive, demonstrating the EU's commitment to the sound

management of chemicals.

Mr. Steven Rheault-Kihara of the Embassy of Canada of the Philippines reflected the pleasure of the Government of Canada in being able to contribute to the workshop. He also reviewed Canada's commitment to overall environmental issues, including a trust fund with the World Bank for the elimination of POPs. He noted that the GHS is the first step in the process of better providing basic information on chemicals, thus serving as an important risk management measure.

Mr. Jonathan Krueger of UNITAR reviewed the GHS, its importance in global chemicals management, and the need for capacity building activities to support implementation. He provided a background to the two-year GHS capacity building project in ASEAN and noted that given the amount of trade in the region, this workshop was extremely timely. He also provided an overview of the structure of the workshop and expected outcomes. He closed by thanking the workshop sponsors and supporting partners.



## 2. International Initiatives and Programmes for GHS Development, Implementation and Capacity Building

This section of the report provides more detail on the GHS, its role in national chemicals management, the GHS project in ASEAN, and the methodology to facilitate development of National GHS Implementation Strategies.<sup>6</sup>

### 2.1 Overview of the GHS

Mr. Peter Haynes (Australia) presented the GHS to workshop participants, beginning with its history, scope and application. He also described the structure of the related international bodies dealing with the GHS. He reviewed the principles and benefits of harmonization and highlighted the classification criteria and the hazard communication tools that comprise the key elements of the GHS. Classification criteria include physical, health and environmental hazards. Hazard communication tools include labels, safety data sheets, and training and education. He also provided information on the international implementation of the GHS and issues related to implementation. For the last part of his presentation, Mr. Haynes provided an overview of chemicals management and regulation in Australia, and the steps Australia is undertaking to implement the GHS by 2008.

Mr. Peter Peterson (UNITAR) presented the GHS in the context of national chemical management programmes and sustainable development. After an overview of the use and benefits of GHS, he described the responsibilities of producing/exporting countries in generating and verifying hazard information and producing SDSs, versus those of importing countries and users in regulating safe use and ensuring availability of information to all actors. Mr. Peterson reviewed national GHS implementation in countries with varying stages of economic development. According to Mr. Peterson, a number of incentives exist for ASEAN countries to undertake national chemicals management, including commitments to a national integrated chemicals management programme, commitments to multilateral environmental agreements (such as the Stockholm, Basel or Rotterdam Conventions), commitments to regional initiatives, and commitments to ASEAN consensus building approaches. Finally, Mr. Peterson reviewed how GHS contributes to sustainable development and the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Pavan Baichoo (ILO) highlighted “Control Banding” which is a complementary approach to protecting worker health by focusing resources on exposure controls. He explained that since it is not possible to assign a specific Occupational Exposure Limit to every chemical in use, a chemical is assigned to a “band” for control measures

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<sup>6</sup> All statements and presentations made during the week can be accessed on the workshop website at <http://www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs4.html>.

based on its hazard classification according to GHS criteria, the amount of chemical in use, and its volatility/dustiness. The outcome is one of four recommended control strategies:

1. Employ good industrial hygiene practice
2. Use local exhaust ventilation
3. Enclose the process
4. Seek the advice of a specialist

The International Chemical Control Toolkit (ICCT) provides user-friendly, simple matrices that provide the user with guidance for controlling exposures to hazards posed by chemicals at the workplace. If adequately trained, people who have little or no occupational hygiene experience, like a small employer, can implement the hazard assessment process and understand the sound occupational hygiene advice in the form of guidance sheets. The ICCT provides guidance for the more routine occupational hygiene problems. It also offers opportunities to overcome the scarcity of technical expertise in developing nations, as well as familiarising the workforce with GHS symbols. Employers can save money on hazard assessment and have more to spend on worker protection.

## **2.2 Overview of the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme**

Mr. Jonathan Krueger (UNITAR) provided an overview of the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*, noting that it was initiated in 2001 and entailed country level activities including GHS awareness raising workshops, national situation/gap analyses, and development of national GHS implementation strategies. He outlined the stages of the GHS pilot projects, noting that they are designed to assist countries in developing and implementing chemical hazard communication systems that contribute to the legal and institutional measures needed to implement the GHS. He highlighted the ongoing development of awareness raising, guidance and training materials, as well as supporting activities and services. Mr. Krueger also highlighted the regional component of the GHS Capacity Building Programme, such as co-ordinating and supporting regional workshops, conducting needs assessments and developing regional implementation strategies. This workshop, for example, is part of a two-year project (2005-2007) to strengthen capacities in ASEAN countries for implementing the GHS, funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland. The project involves regional capacity building activities for all ten ASEAN member countries and country-based pilot projects in at least three countries.

Mr. Krueger also described the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*, initiated by UNITAR, ILO and OECD in 2002. The goal of the Partnership is to mobilize support and catalyze partnerships for concrete activities at the global, regional and national levels to strengthen capacities in developing countries and countries in transition towards effective implementation of the GHS for industrial

chemicals, agricultural chemicals, chemicals in transport and consumer product chemicals.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> More information about the Partnership can be found at <[www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs\\_partnership/index.htm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/index.htm)>





### **3. Challenges and Opportunities of GHS Implementation in ASEAN Countries**

#### **3.1 Status of National GHS Implementation in ASEAN**

Participants from each ASEAN country were given the opportunity to present and discuss the status of GHS implementation at the national level, including achievements made to date, challenges encountered, and identified needs for capacity building and technical support.

Ms. Cheryl Chang of UNITAR presented a brief overview of GHS implementation in the ASEAN region based on a survey conducted by UNITAR and the Environmental Health and Safety Division of the Ministry of Environment of Japan titled, “Asia-Pacific Regional GHS Survey Report.” This survey found that most countries had existing chemical classification and hazard communication systems in place in at least one sector, most commonly in industry and agriculture. While all ASEAN countries are planning to implement the GHS, there is variation in the stages of national planning or preparations for implementation. A majority of countries indicated that they had begun preparing for revising related or creating new legislation and administrative procedures and many countries indicated that they had started a situation and gap analysis. ASEAN countries still face a number of challenges to GHS implementation including lack of resources and capacity, lack of awareness of the GHS and GHS as a low priority.

#### **3.2 Status of GHS Implementation in the Philippines**

Ms. Angelita Arcellana of the Board of Investments (BOI) explained the history of how the Philippines became a project country under the UNITAR/ILO Capacity Building Program. She provided information on national GHS activities to date, and the structure of the national GHS coordinating committee and related subcommittees. The BOI is the coordinating agency and co-chair of all sectoral committees. Further, co-sponsoring agencies were identified to represent the four sectors of GHS implementation: the Department of Labour and Employment through the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), Department of Agriculture, through the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA), Department of Trade and Industry through the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS), and Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) through their main office. These agency offices head their respective sectoral committees. Also, subcommittees have been formed to address cross-sectoral issues of GHS Legislation, Comprehensibility Testing, Awareness Raising, Technical Training, and International Relations.

Since the infrastructure was established, the Philippines has proceeded with a planning meeting, a GHS orientation seminar, and a meeting for the situation and gap analysis. Ms. Arcellana noted that the situation

and gap analysis is currently being conducted, as well as the comprehensibility testing. For the future, the Philippines will continue with implementation activities, including an upcoming National GHS workshop and the development of GHS implementing legislation. Further, there will be a number of activities for industry and civil society. It is expected that the Philippines will complete all project activities by the end of the two year project cycle.

### 3.3 Experiences of Other Countries

Mr. Haji Sarudin Mohd. Zakaria (Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation, Brunei Darussalam) informed the workshop that Brunei Darussalam is yet to embark on any plan or program to implement the GHS but is in the process of undertaking a situation and gap analysis to review the current chemical management system as a whole. Several challenges exist to both chemicals management and GHS implementation. First, present regulations are confined to pesticides. Second, controls on other chemicals are based on institutional measures, where a number of various agencies deal with chemicals, but need further coordination. Third, the majority of industry is small and medium size enterprises which lack capacity. Fourth, labelling awareness among stakeholders and users is low. There are opportunities for GHS implementation, but the first step is to review the overall chemical management system. In closing, he requested future collaboration with UNITAR.

Mr. Ken Choviran (Ministry of Environment, Cambodia) and Mr. Vanhan Hean (Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Land Improvement, Cambodia) described the scope of government institutions involved in chemicals management, and provided an overview of the laws and regulations that affect chemical use in Cambodia. However, Cambodia only imports and uses, but does not produce chemicals. These chemicals are divided into 10 groups, fertilizers, pesticides, pharmaceutical components, raw industrial chemicals, metals and metal compound products, mineral fuel and petroleum, consumer use chemicals, chemicals for laboratories, chemical waste, and persistent organic pollutants. Cambodia is also a signatory of a number of international chemicals conventions. The greatest challenges that Cambodians face in chemicals management are low levels of awareness and limited education, lack of capacity among government institutions, lack of cooperation among laboratories and stakeholders, and lack of expertise and finances.

Mr. Thomas Alfader Sitorus (Ministry of Transportation, Indonesia) explained that Indonesia is an importing country for chemicals and an exporter for reformulated consumer products, and that due to increase global trade, the use of chemicals has increased significantly in Indonesia. Most people in Indonesia are involved in the agriculture sector; therefore, pesticide use is a major issue within the scope of chemicals management. Indonesia is one of the UNITAR/ILO pilot

countries in ASEAN and has undertaken a number of activities to prepare for GHS implementation. They will work to revise the legal infrastructure, develop a national GHS implementation strategy and increase the number of training and awareness raising activities on the GHS.

Mr. Sivannakone Malivarn (Environment Research Institute of Science and Technology, Environment Agency of Lao PDR) reviewed the scope of regulations and laws for chemicals management in Laos. He also highlighted the responsibilities of the government agencies involved in chemicals management. While Laos is not a chemical producing country, there is significant chemical use from imports. Laos has recently drafted the Hazardous Chemical Strategic Plan for 2006-2020 and the Hazardous Chemical Action Plan for 2006-2010. These Plans are designed to provide a framework for the safe and effective management of chemicals. In terms of the GHS, Laos has begun to draft a project proposal to UNITAR and has set up a National Steering Committee. Currently, there are no specific laws to coordinate these activities and the GHS is a very new concept for Laos.

Ms. Habibah Binti Supoh (Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Malaysia) described the existing scope and the government agencies involved in chemicals management in Malaysia. Currently, there is no mandate for one national agency to coordinate steps toward GHS implementation, therefore implementation varies by government authority. The Department of Occupational Safety and Health has begun GHS implementation through awareness raising, training and education on hazard communication. They are in the process reviewing existing legislation and will enact new laws based on the GHS. This new law will be in place by 2008 and enforced by 2010. They are also developing a GHS manual based on the GHS purple book. There are a number of challenges faced by Malaysia in implementing the GHS, including difficulties in defining jurisdiction and lack of translators well versed in chemical safety and compliance. However, many steps are underway to overcome these challenges. In conclusion, the representative noted that Malaysia needs to establish a National Coordinating Committee to coordinate steps toward national GHS implementation.

Dr. Khin Saw Yi (Ministry of Health, Myanmar) noted the concerns of the country in dealing with human exposure and health risks associated with hazardous chemicals and pesticides. To address these concerns and others associated with health, environment and sustainable development, Myanmar established the National Commission for Environmental Affairs, in 1990. Among its programs, Myanmar has adopted Agenda 21, one part of which is to promote the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste. There are a number of industries in Myanmar working with chemicals and most chemicals are imported. The majority of industries

in Myanmar are small and medium size enterprises. There are no big chemical industries in Myanmar. There is no specific institution assigned to the task of overall management of chemicals and waste, but there are a number of existing frameworks in legislation, classification and labelling standards that could accommodate the GHS. Myanmar is currently preparing to revise existing legislation and administrative procedures to implement the GHS, however, many obstacles still exist including lack of resources and capacity.

Ms. Cindy Seow Chyng Khoo (Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore) informed the workshop that Singapore has a multi-agency government and industry taskforce on GHS implementation. One important role of this taskforce is to review Singapore's standards on specifications for labeling and hazardous substances and dangerous goods. These standards will be aligned with new rules to incorporate the GHS, with continuous communication and capacity building within both government and industry and the involvement of both public and private stakeholders. Some of the obstacles to GHS implementation include lack of knowledge and awareness within government and lack of expertise and resources.

Mr. Soodsakorn Putho (Ministry of Industry, Thailand) provided information from the perspective of the Ministry of Industry on the status of GHS. He reviewed the results of their situation and gap analysis and the steps necessary to be GHS compliant. As one of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Pilot Countries, Thailand plans to use the building block approach with phase-in strategies to implement the GHS. In Phase one they plan to implement all physical hazards and some health and environmental hazards which are considered urgent and necessary. In Phase two, Thailand will implement the rest of the health and environmental standards and introduce the implementation of hazards for both single substances and mixtures. To prepare for these phases, Thailand has worked to translate the purple book into Thai and begun training trainers from various agencies as well as worked to raise awareness amongst the public on the GHS. There are a number of government agencies, as well as public and private organizations, involved in the GHS implementation process.

Mr. Van Long Duong (Centre for Promotion of Technology, Environment and Chemical Safety, Vietnam) informed the group that standards for classification and labelling of chemicals have been in place in Vietnam since 1999. There are a number of government ministries involved with chemicals management, including the Ministries of Trade, Industry, Transport, Health and Fisheries. He provided a list of related legal regulations that would need to be revised to implement the GHS. He noted that GHS implementation thus far has been a multi-stakeholder process with both government ministries and civil society groups involved in guiding producers and users in implementing the GHS. Hopefully existing differences in the

classification of hazardous chemicals will be resolved by 2007. A number of key players are currently involved in the formulation and implementation of GHS legislation, with the Ministry of Industry in charge of the formulation of a draft law on chemicals.

### **3.4 The Roles of Industry, Labour and Non-profit Civil Society Groups in National GHS Implementation**

Representatives from Industry, Labour and Non-profit Civil Society were given the opportunity to present their views on the roles, perspectives and relevant activities of their respective groups to facilitate GHS implementation.

Mr. Phromphron Isarankura Na Ayutthaya (ASEAN Chemical Industry Council, ACIC) presented on the view of industry that currently there are many formats for SDSs and classification. The GHS would help streamline requirements, easing the burden on industry to comply with many separate standards and regulations. The ACIC has taken several steps toward GHS implementation including participation in the METI “GHS Expert Dispatch Program” as well as activities carried out by members from national representatives. He concluded by informing the group of the upcoming 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chemical Industries Council Conference on “ASEAN Chemical Industry after REACH” and the 2005 Asia-Pacific Responsible Care Conference.

Mr. Ariel B. Castro (Trade Union Congress, Philippines) gave a brief overview of how the GHS could benefit trade unions. He advised that the GHS could be integrated into the existing Participation-Oriented Safety Improvements by Trade Union Initiatives (POSTIVE) Project. The GHS should also be integrated into national occupational safety and health plans. Trade unions could become more involved with GHS implementation by playing a part in improving worker’s access to information and participation in workplace activities related to chemical safety; training and educating workers on hazard communication, labels, and SDSs; and forging closer links with civil society organizations to promote the GHS. Further he noted that GHS plays a part in Corporate Social Responsibility.

The first non-profit civil society representative, Ms. Kireen Marshall (Consumers Association of Penang), informed the workshop of the dangers of chemical use and their impact on human health and the environment. She emphasized that while GHS was one tool for improving chemical safety, the long term aim should be the ban of synthetic chemicals and the minimization of use of chemicals. She advised that there needs to be a system in place that will ensure that all countries are immediately aware of a ban on dangerous chemicals and that the size of danger warnings on labels should be big enough to be seen.

The second non-profit civil society representative, Ms. Sampaguita Quijano (Pesticides Action Network, Philippines) provided an overview of the scope of pesticide poisonings. She noted that the conditions in most developing countries make it difficult to guarantee appropriate use. From PAN's perspective she noted that GHS implementation would be important as a preventative measure for the protection of health and the environment, support workers' right to information, and improve product stewardship and corporate responsibility. The role of public interest NGOs would be to uphold the GHS framework and to ensure that chemical hazard communication has the correct content. Specific activities of NGOs include participation in national GHS implementation committees; education, training, and awareness raising; lobbying and monitoring; and the development of regional networks to exchange information and build capacity.

### **3.5 Relevant Regional Institutions for GHS Implementation**

Ms. Riena Prasiddha (ASEAN Secretariat) provided a background on ASEAN, its visions, policy framework for cooperation, and structure. She highlighted the various working groups, subcommittees and other ASEAN structures related to chemicals management, including in the areas of transport, the occupational safety and health network, standards and conformance, customs, environment and agriculture. The role of the ASEAN Secretariat is to provide support for these institutional bodies, act as a resource base, provide advice and information, coordinate the implementation of regional activities and programmes, service the meetings of the ASEAN environmental bodies, ensure coordination among activities of other sectoral bodies to promote synergy and avoid duplication, and to promote coordination among ASEAN bodies and programmes and those of dialogue partners and other international organizations in terms of resource mobilization and implementation. While there are currently no activities related to the GHS within the ASEAN Secretariat, there could be opportunities for future collaboration.

Mr. Takashi Fukushima (Ministry of Trade and Industry, Japan) provided an overview of Japanese GHS capacity building activities in ASEAN. The Working Group on Chemical Industry of the AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee have held a number of meetings on the GHS. Additionally, there have been workshops on chemical safety in ASEAN countries held twice a year since 1999, as well as the dispatch of chemical experts of JETRO on GHS and Responsible Care since 2002. From 2003-2005 METI has held GHS specific training programs, so far in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. By 2008 Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar will be invited to the GHS implementation course. METI has undertaken a phased approach to GHS training programs for ASEAN/APEC members, first with a GHS experts training program, then a GHS instructors training program. Further, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency has a training course for Chemical Management

Policy that includes GHS and other chemicals management tools. Japan also held a Workshop on industry and environmental protection for the ASEAN chemical industry that included basic concepts of GHS. To further contribute to GHS implementation, Japanese government ministries are working to classify some 1500 chemicals and this information will be available on the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation web site. Finally, the Japan Soap and Detergent Association is working to develop risk based labelling guidelines for consumer use products.





## 4. Summary of Working Group Discussions

During three working group sessions, participants from government, industry and civil society considered the development of national GHS implementation strategies in ASEAN member countries, national GHS implementation from a sectoral perspective, and implementation of the GHS at the regional level. The outcome was a summary of the issues and observations for presentation to and examination in Plenary in order to inform the development of national and regional GHS implementation strategies and provide a basis for workshop recommendations. This section provides a brief summary of the working groups' deliberations and their conclusions on the roles, benefits and challenges of GHS implementation. The agreed conclusions and recommendations are elaborated in the "Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations" in section 5 of this report.

### 4.1 National GHS Implementation Among the Actor Groups

In the first working group, participants considered National GHS implementation from the perspective of the separate actor groups of government, industry and non-profit civil society. They concluded that there were numerous benefits that cut across all four sectors of industrial workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products, in national GHS implementation including the provision of a recognized framework for countries without existing systems, promotion of chemical hazards awareness in communities and among workers, strengthening regulatory compliance, and providing a basis for sound chemicals management systems.

The working groups agreed that there are a number of reasons why a country would chose to implement the GHS, including the desire to work on a level playing field with GHS compliant countries or trading partners, concerns about health and the environment, motivation of civil society or NGOs and labour organizations to participate and cooperate, and the desire to contribute to global efforts for sustainable development.

The specific roles of the three actor groups in implementing the GHS are varied. First, the government working group noted that its role in implementing the GHS covers a wide range of areas. As GHS affects human health, safety, environment, trade and industry, legislation, education, enforcement, research, and emergency response, a wide range of government agencies need to be involved, but may depend on the specific infrastructure and situation within a country.

The industry working group concluded that industry plays a vital role in promoting GHS implementation through hazard classification, the preparation of labels and development of Safety Data Sheets and involvement in national GHS committees including legislation and

awareness raising.

The civil society working group noted that public interest groups and labour organizations play an important role in GHS implementation in information sharing, raising awareness and serving as a link between government, industry and the community. Labour unions can provide training or expert advice to their workers. Civil society organizations can also serve as monitors to ensure compliance and as advocates for GHS, and should participate in the development of legislation for GHS. There were concerns raised by civil society participants, including the need for further understanding of the GHS by civil society and for increased information distributed to civil society about the GHS.

## **4.2 National GHS Implementation Issues Among the Sectors**

In the second series of working groups, workshop participants divided by sector (industrial workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products) to discuss GHS implementation. While many of the overall benefits of GHS implementation were discussed in the previous series of working groups (see section 4.1), these working groups elaborated on many of the issues for specific sectors.

First, the working groups drew a number of conclusions that were applicable to all sectors. Overall they felt that GHS implementation, including National GHS committees, workshops and activities should involve participation from all four sectors and that sector-specific implementation activities should involve government, industry and civil society. Further, the working group participants suggested that awareness raising, promotional materials and use of outreach tools (e.g. via the media) should be undertaken in all four sectors. This information should be available at varying levels of complexity for different audiences. GHS information should be translated into local dialects and languages.

The working groups noted that all sectors need GHS awareness raising and promotion, enhanced communication, linkages and networking, emergency preparedness and disaster response, research, training, and technical services for risk assessment for all relevant areas of government. Further the working groups requested for all four sectors, specialized training, technical support and capacity building. Finally, it was recommended that in all sectors GHS implementation should be supported by laws, policies and regulations. To ensure this, groups such as industry associations, trade unions, civil society groups and international organizations such as ILO were recommended to lobby governments.

Within the working groups, participants also discussed GHS implementation among the specific sectors. They noted a number of benefits and challenges to GHS implementation. Further they concluded

substantive suggestions and recommendations for further activities toward GHS implementation. These are summarized in section 5.2.

The Industrial Workplace working group highlighted that GHS implementation was important for improving health and safety standards of workers. They agreed that cooperation was needed from more developed countries as well as from unions and other sectors. Finally, it was noted that GHS should be trade driven.

The Agriculture working group also concluded that GHS implementation was an important step in improving conditions for human and environmental health. They noted the challenges of implementing GHS among illiterate and low education populations.

The Transport working group felt that GHS implementation was important not only for transport and logistics workers, but for the communities through which goods are transported.

The Consumer Products working group noted the importance of communicating hazards to end users and civil society, including making clear for consumers the differences between risk and hazard based labelling. They also discussed the challenges of defining the consumer products sector, in that every country defines the sector differently.

### **4.3 Regional GHS Implementation Issues**

The workshop participants worked in groups divided by actor (government, industry and civil society) to discuss GHS implementation at the regional level. All groups agreed the benefits of a regional approach to GHS implementation include harmonization at the regional level to facilitate trade, encouragement of regional cooperation, provision of chemical hazard communications information to countries who would otherwise not have sufficient resources, compatibility and timeliness of implementation in all countries and protection for workers, consumers and the environment.

However, a number of challenges exist in GHS implementation in the ASEAN region, including obtaining buy-in from regional organizations such as the ASEAN Secretariat, other national priorities overshadowing regional implementation, difficulties in communicating information on the GHS in all regional languages and lack of resources and expertise to facilitate implementation. Further information on regional recommendations and conclusions can be found in section 5.3.



## 5. Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the deliberations in the working groups and further discussion in the Plenary, participants agreed to a number of recommendations, subject to the availability of financial resources, including national and regional follow-up activities to work towards the GHS implementation target of 2008.

The general agreements reached at the workshop are summarised below, while the national, sector specific and regional follow-up activities are listed in sections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3.

Participants made the following general observations of GHS implementation:

- Benefits of GHS implementation include:
  - providing a recognized framework for countries without existing systems;
  - promoting awareness of chemical hazards in communities and among workers;
  - reducing the need for multiple testing;
  - streamlining hazard communication;
  - providing cost savings;
  - strengthening regulatory compliance;
  - providing a basis for sound chemicals management systems;
  - supporting efficiency of local and international logistics groups.
- The incentives for countries to implement the GHS include:
  - the desire to work on a level playing field with GHS compliant countries or trading partners;
  - concerns about health and the environment;
  - motivation of civil society or NGOs and labour organizations to participate and cooperate;
  - support from donors and international organizations;
  - the desire to contribute to global efforts for sustainable development.

In the following general conclusions, workshop participants agreed to:

- Reaffirm the commitment to the WSSD target of GHS implementation by 2008, and the APEC 2006 target.
- Acknowledge the benefits of appropriate GHS implementation, including improved protection of human health and the environment, promotion of the safer use of chemicals, and facilitation of trade.
- Acknowledge that the development of GHS implementation mechanisms should be multi-sectoral and involve government,

industry, civil society and labour groups.

- Acknowledge the main obstacles to implementation including: lack of awareness, knowledge and information among all stakeholders about the GHS and the hazards of chemicals; non-existing or fragmented/conflicting national regulations/legislation; lack of capacity in SMEs; problems in the informal sector; numerous local languages; differing regional structures; lack of resources and expertise; and lack of training.
- Consider undertaking activities (and improve upon existing activities) to overcome obstacles at the national and regional levels involving government, industry, non-profit civil society and labour organizations in all sectors.
- Identify and contact a wide range of donors, including relevant international agencies (e.g. UN SCEGHS, UNITAR, ILO, IPCS, FAO), cooperation agencies (e.g. JETRO, USAID) and industry technical training programmes (e.g. under APEC framework) to support national, sectoral and regional GHS implementation.
- Acknowledge that GHS classification and harmonised hazard communication elements should be integrated in to other existing international standards (e.g. of FAO, WHO, ILO, etc.).
- Acknowledge the linkages between the GHS and international agreements such as the Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, Montreal Protocol, etc.

Workshop participants agreed on the following additional recommendations:

- Countries should ensure the incorporation of chemicals management into national sustainable development strategies (where they exist), or similar tools such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Participants should raise awareness and greater interest in their governments to obtain high level political support needed to undertake GHS implementation activities.
- Countries should identify funding opportunities related to chemical management in public and private sectors and also submit project proposals for GHS awareness raising, training and other implementation projects to potential donors and technical cooperation agencies.

- Countries should consider membership on the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS (SCEGHS).<sup>8</sup>
- When a country is involved in the development or updating of a National Profile, it should review and analyse GHS implementation activities in order to promote synergies.

### 5.1 National Follow-up Activities

Workshop participants agreed on a number of conclusions regarding the roles of specific actor groups and recommended specific activities for implementing the GHS.

- The role of government in implementing the GHS covers a wide range of areas. As GHS affects human health, safety, environment, trade and industry, legislation, education, enforcement, research and emergency response, a wide range of government agencies need to be involved, but may depend on the specific infrastructures and situation within a country. Agencies that are potentially involved in GHS implementation include:
  - Agriculture
  - Congress/Counsel of Ministers/Parliament
  - Consumer
  - Customs
  - Economic Development Authority
  - Education
  - Environment
  - Finance
  - Food and Drug
  - Foreign Affairs
  - Health
  - Industry
  - Local Government
  - Occupational Health and Safety/Human Resources
  - Rural Development
  - Trade
  - Transportation
- Workshop participants recommended governments to develop National Implementation Strategies including the involvement of industry and non-profit civil society groups.
- Industry plays a vital role in promoting GHS implementation through hazard classification and in the preparation of labels and development of Safety Data Sheets. Industry should also organize to

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<sup>8</sup> Interested parties should contact the GHS Secretariat at: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Transport Division, Dangerous Goods and Special Cargoes Section, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Fax. +41 22 917 0039.

form bodies that address GHS issues and work with governments to provide training to stakeholders and other affected parties. Finally, industry should participate in the development of legislation for GHS.

- Workshop participants recommended that industry ensure the accuracy of labels and Safety Data Sheets and submit them to the government and to users for coordination. Further, industry was encouraged to conduct training, and provide information and education on the GHS. Industry participants expressed concern about risk based versus hazard based frameworks.
- Non-profit civil society plays an important role in GHS implementation in information sharing, raising awareness and serving as a link between government, industry and the community. Labour unions can provide training or expert advice to their workers. Civil society organizations can serve as monitors to ensure compliance and as advocates for GHS, and should participate in the development of legislation for GHS.
- Non-profit civil society groups were encouraged by workshop participants to participate in the development of National Implementation Strategies, including serving as members of national GHS coordination committees, establishing networks at the national level, and sharing information (e.g. via websites).
- Civil society also can play a role in using public media to convey messages about the GHS (e.g. for consumers) or by providing posters in the workplace (e.g. labour unions).
- Civil society can also assist in training, for example, for workers and consumers. Finally, civil society groups can empower and build capacity among their stakeholders.

## 5.2 Sectoral Follow-up Activities

The workshop participants made the following general recommendations for all four sectors:

- National GHS committees and activities, including workshops, should involve the participation from all four sectors.
- Sectoral implementation activities should involve government, industry and civil society.
- Awareness raising, promotional materials and use of outreach tools (e.g. via the media) should be undertaken in all four sectors. This information should be available at varying levels of complexity for different audiences. GHS information should be translated into local



dialects and languages.

- Needs in all sectors include GHS awareness raising and promotion, enhanced communication, linkages and networking, emergency preparedness and disaster response, research, training, technical services for risk assessment and revision of laws/standards for all relevant areas of government. Training, technical support and capacity building is requested for each of the four sectors.

Participants made the following sector-specific recommendations:

### ***Industrial Workplace***

- Consider the establishment of incentive programs for GHS implementation. For example “Best Workplace Practitioner” of GHS implementation. Also consider the establishment of incentives for GHS training, SDS and labelling.
- Facilitate GHS implementation in the form of laws, policies and regulations through the lobbying of government by groups such as industry associations, trade unions, civil society groups and international organizations such as ILO.
- Cooperation should be sought from more developed countries implementing the GHS and from the other sectors.

### ***Agriculture***

- As pesticides are generally mixtures, testing may be required to enable comprehensive hazard classification and labelling in accordance with the GHS, where information is lacking.
- Specific training and guidance materials should be developed to address the needs of agricultural workers who are often illiterate or have low levels of education.

### ***Transport***

- Conduct a situation and gap analysis to cover all aspects of transport, including importers, exporters and local logistics groups.
- Transport specific training on the GHS should include trainers, customs officers, drivers, licensing agencies and cargo handlers.

### ***Consumer Products***

- Conduct a survey on the awareness level of the GHS with consumers and an information and education campaign to raise awareness on the GHS.

- Make clear for consumers the differences between risk and hazard based labelling.
- Ensure consistency across chemical regulations, and across local and national government departments.

### 5.3 Regional Follow-up Activities

The workshop participants made the following conclusions and recommendations for regional follow-up activities:

- All groups (government, industry and civil society) agreed on the benefits of a regional approach to GHS implementation, including compatibility and timeliness of implementation in all countries and protection for workers, consumers and the environment.
- GHS implementation should be included in the agendas and work programmes of relevant existing ASEAN bodies.
- ASEAN National Secretariats should establish GHS focal points for the purpose of regional communication.
- ASEAN member countries implementing the GHS should consider making implementation frameworks available regionally as a model or template, including standards, benchmarks, etc., when available.
- A regional GHS situation and gap analysis should be developed and a legislation review undertaken by countries to identify potentially suitable legislation for GHS implementation or the need for new legislation.
- The development of an “ASEAN GHS Implementation Programme” should be explored. The programme could include subsequent regional workshops and exploring synergies and/or further development of training with existing initiatives (e.g. Government of Japan activities).
- ASEAN member countries with existing testing facilities could provide those services on a regional basis.
- Workshop results will be reported to the ASEAN Secretariat to be further disseminated to the relevant ASEAN bodies for their information and appropriate action.
- Linkages to other regional GHS activities should be pursued (e.g. APEC activities, Government of Japan training activities, etc.).

- All relevant industry associations, for example the ACIC, should drive GHS implementation and a regional GHS workshop for industry should take place.
- Industry should identify and support regional GHS focal points and consider development of an “ASEAN GHS Industry Network”, including participation of all four sectors.
- Civil society should determine the level of GHS awareness in existing regional civil society organizations and undertake a survey regarding awareness and related existing activities.
- Civil society should develop an “ASEAN GHS Civil Society Network” and a regional GHS workshop for civil society should take place.
- Civil society organizations involved in the network should identify focal points for regional information sharing. Civil society groups should be involved in national GHS coordinating committees and relevant ASEAN meetings.

#### **5.4 Closing Remarks**

In making closing remarks, Jonathan Krueger (UNITAR) highlighted the enthusiasm and commitment of participants throughout the week to the topic of GHS implementation and capacity building, and congratulated them on the numerous and substantive recommendations for follow-up activities at the national and regional levels. He noted that UNITAR and its partners looked forward to working with interested parties in government, industry and civil society to implement activities to build capacity in support of GHS implementation in the ASEAN region as suggested by the workshop, starting in 2006. In conclusion, he thanked the workshop hosts, organizers and sponsors for the hard work and generous contributions towards ensuring a successful event.



## Annex A: Workshop Agenda

**Monday, 17 October 2005**

### 09.00 Opening Session

Moderator: Dr. Estrella P. Estrella-Gust, Dept. of Labor and Employment, Philippines

Welcome remarks by:

- Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, Vice Chairman and Managing Head, Board of Investments, Philippines
- Mr. Martin Bienz, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland
- Mr. Luc Vandebon, Head, Political, Economic, Trade and Public Affairs Section, Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines
- Mr. Steven Rheault Kihara, Counsellor for Political/Economic Relations and Public Affairs, Embassy of Canada
- Mr. Jonathan Krueger, Programme Officer, Programmes in Chemicals, Waste and Environmental Governance, UNITAR

*Coffee break*

### 10.00 Session 1: Introductory Presentations

*Session 1 provides a series of introductory presentations to familiarize participants with the GHS, its role in national chemicals management, the ASEAN GHS Project, and the methodology to facilitate development of National GHS Implementation Strategies.*

- Introduction to Session
- The GHS: Overview Presentation  
*Peter Haynes, Director, Chemicals Standards, Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (OASCC)*
- GHS in the Context of National Chemicals Management Programmes and Sustainable Development  
*Peter Peterson, Adjunct Professor, National University of Malaysia and Senior Special Fellow, UNITAR*
- Overview of UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme in ASEAN  
*Jonathan Krueger, UNITAR*
- The IPCS Chemical Control Toolkit: A Practical Application of the GHS  
*Pavan Baichoo, Technical Officer, ILO*

- Discussion
- Summary of Session

12.30 Lunch

#### **14.00 Session 2: Status of GHS Implementation in ASEAN Countries**

*Session 2 provides an opportunity for countries to present and discuss the status of GHS implementation at the national level, including achievements made to date, challenges encountered, and identified needs for capacity building and technical support.*

- Introduction to Session
- Summary of UNITAR/Environment Ministry of Japan Asia-Pacific GHS Survey for Countries of ASEAN  
*Cheryl Chang, Fellow, UNITAR*
- Experience of the Philippines with GHS Implementation in the context of the UNITAR/ILO Capacity Building Programme  
*Lita Arcellana, Board of Investments, Philippines*
- Country statements/presentations (5-10 minutes per country)

Coffee Break

- Discussion
- Summary of Session 2 and Close of Day 1 (17.30)

18.30 Reception hosted by the Government of the Philippines and UNITAR

**Tuesday, 18 October 2005**

#### **09.00 Session 3: The Role of Industry, Labour and Non-profit Civil Society in GHS Implementation**

*Session 3 provides an opportunity for representatives of industry, labour and non-profit civil society groups to present the role, perspectives and relevant activities of their respective groups to facilitate GHS implementation.*

- Introduction to Session
- Perspective of Industry  
*Mr. Phromphron Isarankura Na Ayutthaya, ASEAN Chemical Industry Club (ACIC), Federation of Thai Industries*

- Perspective of Labour  
*Mr. Ariel Castro, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines*
- Perspective of Non-profit Civil Society  
*Ms. Kireen Marshall, Consumers Association of Panang*  
*Ms. Sampaguita Quijano, Pesticide Action Network*
- Discussion
- Summary of Session 3

#### **11.00 Session 4: Development of National GHS Implementation Strategies in ASEAN Member Countries**

*Session 4 provides an opportunity for government, industry and non-profit civil society participants to discuss GHS implementation issues and challenges from their particular perspectives. This may include consideration of existing capacities, gaps, and necessary action to ensure an effective contribution of all actors to national GHS implementation.*

- Introduction to Session
- Introduction to Working Groups
- Session 4 Working Groups:
  - (A) Government
  - (B) Industry
  - (C) Civil Society

#### *12.30 Lunch*

- Working Groups Continue
- Presentation of Working Groups A, B & C in Plenary and Discussion (16.00)
- Summary of Session 4 and Close of Day 2 (18.00)

### **Wednesday, 19 October 2005**

#### **09.00 Session 5: National Implementation of the GHS from a Sectoral Perspective**

*Session 5 provides an opportunity for the different sectors to exchange information on experiences, activities and challenges towards developing Sectoral Implementation Plans at the national level through involvement of government, industry and non-profit civil society groups. The session will also discuss sector specific related training and capacity building needs and identify opportunities for development of relevant training and guidance materials.*

- Introduction to Session
- Introduction to Working Groups
- Session 5 Working Groups:
  - (D) Industrial Workplace
  - (E) Agriculture
  - (F) Transport
  - (G) Consumer Products
- Presentation of Working Groups D, E, F and G in Plenary (11.30)
- Summary of Session 5

12.30 Lunch

#### **14.00 Session 6: Implementation of the GHS at the Regional Level in ASEAN**

*Session 6 focuses on facilitating a discussion and developing concrete recommendations towards implementing the GHS at the ASEAN level. Specific attention will be given to identifying possible action through relevant bodies and networks of government, industry and non-profit civil society respectively.*

- Introduction to Session
- GHS-relevant Regional Institutions  
*Ms. Riena Prasiddha, ASEAN Secretariat*
- Japanese GHS Capacity Building Activities in ASEAN  
*Mr. Takashi Fukushima, Deputy Director, Chemical Management Policy Division, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan*
- Introduction to Working Groups
- Session 6 Working Groups:
  - (H) Government
  - (I) Industry
  - (J) Civil Society

*[Working Groups to take breaks as needed]*

- Presentation of Working Groups H, I and J in Plenary (16.30)
- Summary of Session 6 and Close of Day 3 (17.30)



**Thursday, 20 October 2005**

**09.00 Session 7: Workshop Conclusions and Follow-up Activities**

*In Session 7 the Secretariat will table the main observations and draft conclusions for discussion, amendment and possible adoption by participants.*

- Summary of Workshop Results

*10.30 Coffee Break*

- Discussion of National Follow-up Activities and Next Steps
- Discussion of Regional Follow-up Activities and Next Steps
- Summary of Session and Close of the Workshop (by 12.30)



## Annex B: List of Participants

### 1. Governments

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**Annex C: Issues to be brought forward to the UNSCEGHS**

Participants raised a number of issues and questions to be brought forward to the next meeting (December 2005) of the UN SCEGHS, including:

- What does the GHS consider to be a “consumer product”? What consumer products might be within the scope of the GHS?
- How much information is required to classify mixtures?
- It is advisable that the UNSCEGHS provide assistance to developing countries, especially in regards to classifying mixtures.
- How can the GHS best be incorporated into education curriculum?
- Will there be an assessment of the status of global implementation in 2008? Will any action be necessary if global implementation is not achieved by that date?
- Will guidance on using and understanding the GHS be developed? Will guidance for implementation be developed?
- Can it be ensured that GHS implementation does not compromise risk based hazard evaluations?
- It is advisable that FAO and WHO keep abreast of UNSCEGHS developments in order to take action accordingly.
- How are chemical by-products regarded under the GHS?
- How does the GHS relate to spent chemicals and chemical waste? What are the latest developments in GHS/Basel Convention discussions?
- How can it be ensured that micro and SMEs understand the benefits of the GHS?



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**Annex D: List of Acronyms**

ACIC	ASEAN Chemical Industry Council
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
ICSC	international chemical safety card
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OSHNET	Occupational Safety and Health Network
PIC	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SCEGHS	United Nations Sub-committee of Experts on the GHS
SCETDG	United Nations Sub-committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
SDS	safety data sheet
SME	Small and medium sized enterprise
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNRTDG	United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization









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