

## COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

### Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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#### CAPACITY BUILDING

Transmitted by the expert from Japan

#### Capacity Building Activities for GHS in Japan

#### **1. Holding seminars and workshops**

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has devoted efforts to practical human resource development activities regarding GHS implementation in each country through organizing training courses in Tokyo, and holding seminars and workshops by dispatching experts to the host countries from 2003.

The benefits of holding seminars and workshops would include harmonization of classification criteria for chemicals, reduction of non-tariff barriers through resolution of problems which result from inconsistency in labelling and regulations in each country, and the development of chemical management systems or basic infrastructure.

The goal of these human resource development activities is not only to foster specialists who can classify chemicals by themselves based on GHS, but also to foster leaders in each country. Especially, regarding the GHS expert service program, a series of programs have been conducted and are scheduled for completion in the next fiscal year, based on the goal of GHS implementation in APEC, i.e., by 2006.

#### **2. Details of the project**

The goals and objectives of this training program are fostering of policymakers responsible for designing chemical management systems, and also fostering leaders in each country. The program comprises seminars and workshops.

The seminars or workshops were held in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam in 2004, the total number of participants were over 600. (See Table: Number of Participants in 2004) In the seminars, the experts gave presentations on topics such as GHS, the background of GHS, the necessity of GHS implementation and the global situation related to GHS, and each government in Asia reported the status of preparation for GHS.

In the technical workshops they taught small groups comprising specialists and representatives of the chemical industry about the specific content of GHS, in order to foster experts in the country.

Table: Number of Participants in 2004

Country	Date	Seminar	Workshop	Total
Thailand	September, 2004	149	20	169
Vietnam	October, 2004	70	88	158
Indonesia	October, 2004	80	43	123
Philippines	November, 2004	100	55	155
TOTAL		399	206	605

### 3. Future plans

METI received a great deal of feedback from the host countries about the seminars and workshops and heard that they corresponded well to the needs for continued cooperation in this area. These activities for ASEAN countries which participate in APEC will be conducted continuously until year 2005, based on the goal of GHS implementation in APEC.

It is also important to arrange such training courses by the level of the participants. METI has arranged three courses, elementary, intermediate and advanced from 2005. Meanwhile, METI will consider cooperation with Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar towards GHS implementation by 2008.

### 4. Other Plans

It is considered that the development of chemical management systems in Asian countries will contribute to environmental protection not only in Asian countries, but also worldwide. Moreover, by developing chemical management systems in Asia, the investment environment for businesses is expected to improve, and foreign investment expected to increase, while the business activities of companies already investing in Asia will also be stimulated.

Therefore, METI is now considering cooperation with Asian countries for the development of chemical management systems. Specifically, METI is considering dispatching experts to assist with the design and development of chemical management systems, and inviting policy-makers to the training course on the chemical management policy as mentioned above.

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