

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

Eleventh session, 12 (p.m)-14 July 2006
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Activities of the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and UNITAR/ILO/OECD WSSD GHS Partnership

Transmitted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

1. This document provides an update regarding activities in the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and the UNITAR/ILO/OECD WSSD GHS Partnership for the period January - July 2006.

UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

Country-based Activities

2. Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, Thailand and The Gambia continued their country-based pilot projects to develop a national GHS implementation strategy. Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Thailand and The Gambia each held their National GHS Workshops during the first half of 2006 and are now continuing with concrete activities toward GHS implementation including the development of draft GHS implementing legislation and engagement with stakeholder groups.
3. Cambodia and Laos will initiate national capacity building projects in the second half of 2006, with support of the Government of Switzerland and the European Union.
4. The UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme Advisory Group (PAG) will meet on 11 July 2006 to review programme documents, ensure complementarity with other chemical hazard communication initiatives and provide overall guidance regarding Programme implementation. A report of the meeting will be provided to the UNSCEGHS Secretariat.

Regional Activities

5. Activities are ongoing for the development of an ASEAN Regional GHS Implementation Strategy, including a GHS regional capacity assessment carried out in collaboration with the LESTARI Institute of the University of Malaysia.
6. A GHS Workshop for the ASEAN OSHNET, supported by UNITAR, took place in Malaysia from 6-8 March 2006 and a GHS Workshop for Malaysian Government Officials, supported by the Malaysian Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) and UNITAR took place 9-10 March 2006.
7. In follow-up to the Informal Consultation with Participants from SADC Countries for Further Development of a Regional Approach to GHS Implementation, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 18 November 2005, UNITAR will continue to work with SADC to further support GHS implementation in the region, including development of a regional GHS standard.
8. A workshop for countries of Central and Eastern Europe, hosted by Slovenia and funded by the OPCW and Switzerland, is scheduled to take place 24-26 October 2006. Additionally, a workshop for Arabic region countries, hosted by Egypt and supported by the Government of Switzerland, is planned for the week of 30 October.

Guidance, Training and Resource Materials

9. Guidance and resource documents, including and updated GHS Capacity Building Guidance Document, updated Comprehensibility Testing Guidance, the development of GHS training courses (on general GHS information, classification of chemicals, and preparation of chemical hazard communication tools), and the development of guidance for public interest and labour groups will continue throughout 2006 and shall continue through the year. Additionally, there are a number of other guidance materials in the initial stages of development which will be discussed at the July 2006 PAG meeting.

Supporting Services

10. UNITAR/ILO hosted a side-event on the GHS at the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in Dubai during February 2006. Speakers included representatives from governments, business and industry and public interest and labour organizations. Information on the event can be found at: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs8.html.
11. The report of the Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the GHS that took place from 15-18 November 2005 in Johannesburg, South Africa can be found at: www.unitar.org/cwg/tw/tw9.html.
12. The founding partners of the WSSD Global GHS Partnership (UNITAR, ILO and the OECD) will host a side-event on the GHS at the IFCS Forum V event in Budapest, Hungary in September.

WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS

13. The Annual Report 2005 for the Partnership, which contains a review of 2005 activities and an outline of planned activities for 2006-2007, is online at the Partnership homepage www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/index.htm.
 14. The Partnership website is being updated, including the addition of GHS related events, “frequently asked questions” (in collaboration with the UNECE) and an updated resource library.
 15. UNITAR/ILO developed an online GHS Roster of Experts where viewers can find professionals with expertise related to the GHS. This database is searchable by technical, geographic, and linguistic expertise, among others. This roster will be available on the WSSD Global GHS Partnership website at: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs_partnership/index.htm.
 16. UNITAR/ILO and OECD are planning on initiating a survey of the status of activities for GHS implementation to all countries in order to assess the status of GHS implementation in the world. Please refer to UN/SCEGHS/11/INF.10 for further information.
 17. The second meeting of the WSSD Global GHS Partners is planned for 11 December 2006.
 18. UNITAR would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland, the European Union and the OPCW for financial support to UNITAR/ILO implemented Partnership activities, including the Partnership Secretariat, national GHS implementation projects, and regional and global workshops.
 19. GHS capacity building activities organized by UNITAR/ILO continue to be funded by extra-budgetary resources. UNITAR/ILO welcome suggestions and proposals from the SCEGHS regarding how ensure sustainable funding to meet the growing demand for GHS capacity building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
 20. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of the next year.
-