

Economic Commission for Europe

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Capacity-building activity within the Assistance Programme

Report of the National training on identification of hazardous activities for the Republic of Uzbekistan

I Introduction

1 The National training session on identification of hazardous activities was held in Tashkent on 6-7 December 2011. It was organized within the framework of the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe and it was funded by the UNECE-GIZ programme “Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management” and by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.

2 The Ministry of Emergency Situation of the Republic of Uzbekistan organized the training session.

II Objective

3 The objective of the National training session was twofold: (i) to improve the knowledge of governmental experts in the area of identification of hazardous activities under the Convention and under the Seveso II Directive (96/82/EC) as well as to enhance awareness of industry with respect to the potential risk of hazardous activities; and (ii) to discuss with representatives of the countries about the follow-up to the workshop on indicators and criteria for the implementation of the Strategic Approach (Bratislava, 3-6 May 2011).

4 The detailed objectives of (i) were to provide participants with the possibility to:

(a) Learn about the application of the Annex I to the Convention, including differences between Annex I and the location criteria of the Convention and Annex I of the Seveso II Directive;

(b) Discuss other techniques used for identification of hazardous activities (worst-case scenarios analysis); and

(c) Discuss good practices for collecting, processing and inventorying information on hazardous activities.

III Participation

5 The National training session was organized for experts from various authorities in the Republic of Uzbekistan, responsible for industrial safety in the country. Representatives from the following authorities participated to the training session: Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Committee on Nature Protection, State inspection, as well as Representatives of different industrial

installations located in different areas of the country. All industries represented at the training session had been included into the list of hazardous activities in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The training session was supported by three international experts and by a member of the secretariat. (List of participants provided in Annex 1).

IV Opening, welcome address

6 Mr. Jakhongir Isaev, the Chief of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, welcomed the participants and opened the national training session..

7 Mr. Iskandar Abdullaev, the Regional Advisor representing GIZ, delivered a welcoming statements informing on the GIZ activities in Uzbekistan

8 The representative of the secretariat of the UNECE Convention secretariat, also welcomed the participants on behalf of the UNECE and in particular the participants representing installations.. The secretariat also explained the focus of each part of the meeting and invited the participants to actively participate to the training session.

V Programme

9 The programme started with brief introductions from the secretariat of the Convention. It then continued with a presentation from a representative of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, who illustrated the path followed by Uzbekistan in the activities under the Convention's Assistance Programme since 2005. He also reminded to the participants about the legislation adopted in Uzbekistan which covered the requirements of the convention.

10 The substantial part of the training consisted of three Sessions and of a follow-up of the Workshop on Indicators and Criteria. Session I aimed at introducing the importance of the identification of hazardous activities in the framework of the convention and in gathering information on the current legislation in Uzbekistan on the matter.. In the session experts from Italy and Serbia informed the participants about the practices of identification of hazardous activities under the Convention in their respective countries.

11 Session II focused on Annex I to the Convention as an instrument to identify hazardous activities. The facilitators provided an overview of differences and similarities between the Annex I under the Convention and Annex I of the Seveso II Directive¹, demonstrating that the two instruments, because of the willingness of the international community, were harmonized.. The participants could also see a practical application of Annex I through the analysis of case studies. The discussion that followed allowed the participants to clarify with the facilitators issues or request for additional explanations, especially concerning the goals and procedures of the Convention.

12 Session III focused on the presentation of additional tools provided by the Convention for the identification of hazardous activities: the application of worst-case scenarios, risk assessment and location criteria. The facilitators showed examples of using location criteria for identifying hazardous installations that, in the event of an accident, would cause the release of hazardous substances into water and air paths causing transboundary effects. Furthermore the facilitators presented the use of "worst – case scenario" for a proper identification of hazardous activities falling under the Convention (i.e.

1 Directive on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances. Council Directive 96/82/EC, as amended by Directive 2003/105/EC.

facilities where accidents could cause transboundary consequences). The conclusion of this session aimed at drawing a possible follow-up for the country.

13 The final part of the workshop was devoted to the outcomes from the Workshop on Indicators and Criteria, which took place on 4-6 May 2011 in Bratislava, Slovakia. The secretariat reminded that the use of the indicators and criteria within the Strategic Approach was mandatory for all countries participating under the Assistance Programme, even if not yet Parties to the Convention. In this respect it was also recalled the commitment made by countries at the meeting in Bratislava to send to the secretariat the respective self-assessments on the level of implementation of the Convention. The self-assessment would be very useful for countries participating to the Assistance Programme to identify elements to be improved in the respective countries and possible needs for external assistance.

14 At the end of the session the participants, under the guide of the facilitators, simulated the self-assessment for the identification of hazardous activities using the indicators and criteria. By doing that, the Uzbek experts could benefit from a personalized exercise in assessing their progress level.

Findings of the training session

15 Concerning the first part of the training, the following elements concerning the situation of Uzbekistan were highlighted during the presentations:

(a) The Ministry of Emergency Situations was appointed after the State Committee on Nature Protection as the responsible authority for the coordination of the participation of Uzbekistan to the Assistance Programme. After the accession of the country to the Convention, another authority could be designated as Competent Authority;

(b) The legal framework (for great part adopted in 2006) seemed to provide mechanisms and division of responsibilities compatible with the requirements of the Convention for: (i) the classification of hazardous substances, (ii) the mechanisms of collection, analysis and validation of data, (iii) the annual review and revision of data. The Uzbek experts informed that only few elements of the legislation were still needed to complete the existing ones;

(c) For the classification of substances the country adopted the classification in use in the countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);

(d) The operators were in close contact with the state authorities and were fully informed and aware about the legislation. The facilitators were also assured that proper training procedures were in place for responsible employees in the installations;

(e) The list of hazardous substances for the identification of hazardous activities was in line with the requirements of Convention. Some difficulties arise with respect to which category to use in classification of the substance² – the experts advised the national authorities to refer the EU directive and Annex 1 of the Convention in this respect;

(f) The State inspection on Nature Protection maintained a list of hazardous activities, not available publicly, but circulated among the relevant authorities. The list was continuously updated (every 6 months). Regular

² For instance: toxic, flammable etc.

inspections of the facilities were in place in Uzbekistan: special groups were created for this purpose, composed of representatives of various agencies. The results of inspections were provided to both the operators and the local authorities;

(g) The country adopted a legislation on civil liability in case of accidents prescribing mandatory insurance for all operators of hazardous activities;

16 The following elements were also highlighted in the presentations of the facilitators as well as in the discussions:

(a) The identification of hazardous activities was to be aimed to get to a list of hazardous activities to be regularly updated. (and the preparation of a list of them) Therefore the preparation of such a list needed to be a dynamic process with constant updates;

(b) The cooperation between authorities and public sector was very important to reach effective industrial safety;

(c) The participants to the training session identified the need of create an interagency working group, in order to coordinate the efforts towards the implementation of the Assistance Programme, in view of the country to become a Party to the Convention. The interagency working group could be lead by the State Nature Protection Committee. The Ministry of Emergency Situations supported the idea;

(d) The participants highlighted the need for good practices and examples in the area of notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries. In particular what kind of information to share with the neighbouring countries, what format to use;

(e) More interaction with neighbouring countries with a similar situation (for instance with Kazakhstan) would be welcomed;

17 The discussion on the follow-up to the training session on the Benchmarks under the Convention brought to the following conclusions:

(a) The mechanism of the Benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents needs to be used by all the countries participating to the Assistance Programme irrespectively on whether they are or not Party to the Convention;

(b) The self-assessment (the first step to be done to use the Benchmarks) is a useful tool for the countries to monitor their progresses and to individuate needs for assistance. It could also be a useful tool in the preparation of project proposal for external assistance;

(c) The self-assessment for Uzbekistan had been completed by the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and was being circulated among the other institutions for comments;

(d) The country was aware of the need to submit the self-assessment to the secretariat on time for the relevant Bodies to provide their feedback;

(e) There were few elements that the participants thought should be clarified in the Russian version of the Benchmarks the area of work 3 Prevention in the Benchmarks document (ECE/CP.TEIA/2010/6) on page 20 progress stage 5 for the first indicator point (b) it was difficult for many persons to understand the meaning of the word “demonstration”;

Conclusions

18 The presentation of the national situation, and the feedback received from the participants of the meeting indicated adequate legal framework and procedures in place in the Republic of Uzbekistan, concerning the classification of chemicals and hazardous substances, the identification of hazardous activities, the collection of data from the operators, and the compilation of inventory of such installations.

19 The discussion and the exchange of experiences with the facilitators increased the awareness on the Convention and its provisions within the Uzbek experts, especially among experts from authorities so far not involved in the work under the Convention. Special recognition of the usefulness of this meeting came from participants representing industries. More authorities became aware of the usefulness to participate to the work under the Convention;

20 Some elements presented during the training were found by the participants as needing to be treated more in depth; such as: the elaboration of worst case scenario and the use of location criteria; safety reporting and the regime for hazardous installations with quantities of substances below the levels indicated by the Convention;

21 Participants of the training session saw the importance of enhancing exchange of information between the different authorities involved as well as between the operators. The Ministry of Emergency Situations indicated intention of forming an interagency group, as proposed by the State Nature Protection Committee, to work on the Convention implementation within the months following the workshop.

22 The participants agreed to submit to the secretariat the self-assessment by the end of December 2011 so that the country could receive feedback and guidance for it.

23 Participants agreed that it would be a pity to lose the opportunity of participating to the activities under the Assistance Programme with the aim of strengthening the implementation of the Convention and become a Party to it.

VI Closing of the training session

24 The representatives of the Republic of Uzbekistan expressed their satisfaction with the national training session, which provided an opportunity to bring to the same table various authorities and operators and to discuss the state of industrial safety on the national level and in the international context.

25 Participants appreciated the material made available by the experts and the possibility of discussing with them practice of identification of hazardous activities in their respective countries. The experience of Serbia appeared of particular interest, as it had just started implementing the process of identification of hazardous activities. However, procedures and practices in Italy were also of keen interest to the participants.

26 The representative of the secretariat thanked the team of the Ministry of Emergency Situations for organizing the national training workshop and welcomed the conclusions reached through the discussions. She reiterated the importance of participation of representatives of hazardous installations, and of cooperation between authorities and operator. The representative of the secretariat also expressed the appreciation for the readiness of the Republic of

Uzbekistan to proceed with the self – assessment and provide the results to the Secretariat in due time.

27 Mr. Isaev, on behalf of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, closed the national training session.

Annex 1. List of Participants

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6-7 December 2011
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Hotel Dedeman Silk Road

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