

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
Transport of Dangerous Goods

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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 August–December 2005.

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. Draft GHS situation and gap analyses and comprehensibility training and testing were carried out in Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Thailand and The Gambia.
3. Two additional countries in the ASEAN region are expected to initiate national capacity building projects early in 2006, with support of the Government of Switzerland.
4. The UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme Advisory Group (PAG) will meet on 6 December 2005 to review programme documents, ensure complementarity with other chemical hazard communication initiatives and provide overall guidance regarding Programme implementation.

Regional Activities

5. The Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of ASEAN was held in Manila, Philippines, from 17-20 October 2005, 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. It 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*. The workshop was attended by government representatives from the ten countries of ASEAN, along with stakeholders from industry, non-profit civil society, labour unions, and resource persons. Through a series of working groups and plenary sessions, the workshop developed recommendations for action towards GHS implementation at the national and regional levels and for the four sectors affected by the GHS (industrial workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products). A draft report of the workshop will be available during December 2005.
6. A GHS Workshop for the ASEAN OSHNET, supported by UNITAR, is planned to take 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 is planned for 9-10 March 2006.

7. An informal consultation with Participants from SADC countries for further development of a regional approach to GHS implementation, was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 18 November 2005. Participants agreed to complete and update the *2004 SADC GHS Assessment Report*, support further development and participation of member states in the SADCSTAN initiative on a regional GHS standard, and develop a detailed proposal for a medium term project on “Strengthening National and Regional Capacities for GHS Implementation in SADC”. A report of this consultation will be available during December 2005.
8. A workshop for countries of central and eastern Europe, and central Asia, hosted by Slovenia and funded by the OPCW and Switzerland, is scheduled to take place in 2006. A workshop for Arabic speaking countries, hosted by Egypt and supported by the Government of Switzerland, is also planned for 2006.

Guidance, training and resource materials

9. A review of guidance and resource documents for pilot countries, the development of GHS training modules (regarding classification of chemicals, preparation of chemical hazard communication tools – labels and SDS, and effective chemical hazard communication to end users), and the development of guidance for non-profit civil society groups took place at the November 2005 Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the GHS (see entry #10).

Supporting services

10. The Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the GHS took place from 15-18 November 2005 in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was organized by UNITAR in collaboration with ILO, the Government of South Africa and the University of Cape Town (UCT), with financial support from the Government of Switzerland and the OPCW. The workshop brought together 87 representatives from developing countries, countries with economies in transition, industrialized countries, international organizations, industry and non-profit civil society organizations. Through a series of working groups and plenary discussions, participants developed a number of observations and recommendations, grouped under several major themes that emerged during the workshop. A draft report of the workshop will be available during December 2005.

WSSD Global Partnership for capacity building to implement the GHS

11. The Annual Report 2004 for the Partnership, which contains a review of 2004 activities and an outline of planned activities for 2005-2006, is online at the Partnership homepage (www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/index.htm) and the 2005 Annual Report will be available early in 2006.
 12. The second meeting of the WSSD Global GHS Partners is planned in mid-2006, in connection with the tenth meeting of the Programme Advisory Group (PAG).
 13. UNITAR would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland, the European Union, the OPCW, Foreign Affairs Canada and UCT for financial support to UNITAR/ILO implemented Partnership activities, including the Partnership Secretariat, national GHS implementation projects, and regional and global workshops.
 14. 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.
 15. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of the next year.
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