

Bridging Prevention with Preparedness for Industrial Accidents. – Roles of Competent Authorities and other Stakeholders

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- Shall maintain a full *overview* of risk and vulnerability in society in general. We promote measures which *prevent* accidents, crises and other undesirable incidents. We shall ensure sufficient *emergency planning* and efficient *management* of accidents and crises.
- Competent Authority for hazardous installations control



Scope of presentation

- General issues in connection with the relationship between prevention, damage or consequence mitigation, emergency preparedness planning and response
- Focus on roles of the most important Stakeholders
- No distinct borders between these issues and there is significant overlap
- Safety Continuum/Emergency Management Cycle



Background

- Rapid growth in the handling of hazardous substances poses new risks in society
- Management of risk a matter of profound public interest
- Severe accidents continue to happen despite efforts to control risk
- Lessons learnt have not been properly implemented
- This calls for careful planning for both on-site and off-site safety



Central terms

- **Prevention:** Measures to avoid incidents and lessening their impacts or consequences
- **Preparedness:** Measures aiming at consequence reduction through emergency planning, land use planning and risk communication
- **Response:** Actions following an accident for the limitation of adverse consequences, providing immediate relief as well as taking steps towards clean up and restoration
- **Stakeholder:** Any individual, group or organization involved, interested in or potentially affected by chemical accidents



Industrial safety a multi-stakeholder activity

- Industry
- Public authorities at local, regional and central levels
- Public at large
- Labour organizations
- Media
- Research/Academic institutions
- International organizations
- NGOs



General responsibilities of industry

- The primary responsibility for the safety of hazardous installations rests with industry itself (Cradle to grave)
- Safety must be established through both technical and organizational measures, if necessary supplemented by land-use restrictions
- Hazard identification and risk assessment
- Safety should be demonstrated (Safety Report)
- Safety Policy and Safety Management System
- On-site preparedness and response



General responsibilities of Public Authorities

- **Setting safety goals and objectives**
- **Adopting legislation**
- **Identification of installations**
- **Applying approval, consent or other mechanism for operation**
- **Control, inspection and monitoring**
- **Land-use policies**
- **Off-site emergency plans**
- **Information to the public**



Emergency Planning

- **On-site and off-site emergency plans are key elements in every major hazards control system**
- **Must be prepared by industry and public authorities respectively, but in close co-operation**
- **Planning and exercises must include all parties involved**
- **Plans must be based on realistic scenarios**
- **Plans must be flexible**
- **Plans must be modified whenever necessary**
- **Involvement of media is essential**



Land-Use Planning

- Key feature in hazardous installations safety
- Measure to mitigate effects of possible accidents
- Normally a responsibility of local planning authorities
- Control safe location
- Control future developments
- Must provide for public to influence on planning process and decision making



Information to the Public

- Public concern about risks in society should not be underestimated
- Mechanisms should be established for the provision of information to the public and for public participation in decision making processes
- A better informed public can make a more realistic evaluation of risks and respond more appropriately in cases of emergencies



Key-words:

- Co-operation
- Co-ordination
- Transparency
- Communication

