
Pre Report

Sub-regional workshop
on

Electronic interactive toolkit for environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals

Sponsored by

Secretariat of Rotterdam Convention, Geneva
under
Small Scale Funding Agreement

December 19-20, 2013



(CSIR - NEERI)



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Stockholm Convention Regional Centre on POPs for Asia

Introduction

CSIR-NEERI was nominated as Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC) on POPs for Asia region in September, 2010 and has been endorsed as the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer for Asia Region at COP-5 meeting held at Geneva, during April 25 – 29, 2011.

The main objective of SCRC is to serve different parties/countries in the Asia region in their capacity building, transfer of technologies related to persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and new POPs, raise awareness and promote environmentally sound management (ESM) of POPs and POPs contaminated sites in the region. The centre will also assist the parties of Asia region in fulfilling their obligations of the Stockholm Convention.

Background of the Project

The project on ***“Development of electronic interactive toolkit for environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions”*** was awarded to CSIR-NEERI by the Secretariat of Rotterdam Convention (SRC), Geneva under the small scale funding agreement (SSFA) which included following objectives;

- a) Development of an electronic interactive tool to assist developing countries in setting up an industrial chemicals management system. This electronic interactive tool will provide:
 - Provide accurate and consolidate information so as to assist developing countries in responding to their related obligations under the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
 - Provide information of existing international standards and best practices such as the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS);

- Provide a step-by-step tailored and modular approach that covers basic, intermediate and advance aspects for the management of industrial chemicals.
 - Serve as a one stop shop for the identification of best practices by providing guidance and training materials for the setting up of an industrial chemicals management system.
 - Be available for distribution through a memory stick, DVD or CD-ROM, so as to allow ready access independently of internet connectivity.
 - Take into account the approach and methodology developed with the IOMC Toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management (<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org>).
 - Take into consideration the approach and methodology developed on the Draft guidance on socio-economic assessment for national implementation plan development and implementation under the Stockholm Convention (Decision tree: <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/Guidanceoncalculationofactionplancosts/tabid/3167/Default.aspx>).
- b) Design, organize and implement the sub-regional workshop on industrial chemicals with decision makers and national stakeholders from a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 countries in the region and, based on the feedback provided in the workshop, adapt the interactive tool accordingly.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between CSIR-NEERI and Secretariat of Rotterdam Convention (SRC) in the third week of November 2013. As per the MoU, CSIR-NEERI had to develop an electronic interactive toolkit on industrial chemical management and organize the sub-regional workshop within a very limited timeframe which needs effective execution of the project objectives and efficient team work. The challenge was accepted by CSIR-NEERI and the objectives of the project were accomplished efficiently and effectively wherein, a sub-regional workshop was organized in which the draft version of the toolkit was discussed in detail.

Scope of the project

At present, most countries have well developed regulatory frameworks for the management of pesticides; however, industrial chemicals are not so well managed. National authorities have little information on the amounts of industrial chemicals traded and used and also lack knowledge of the adverse environmental and human health impacts linked with the improper management of these chemicals. The effective implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is predicated on a framework for the sound management of industrial chemicals at the national level. Countries have stressed the importance of technical assistance to enable them manage industrial chemicals effectively and thus meet their obligations under these conventions. One of the specific mandates for the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention is to support the development of industrial chemicals management schemes for developing countries. This project will provide sufficient information and understanding to the national/regional stakeholders on the effective implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on a framework for the sound management of industrial chemicals through the development of electronic interactive toolkit. The major objective under this project is the strengthening of the capacity of countries to manage industrial chemicals at all stages of their lifecycle leading to the protection of human health and the environment from the adverse effects of these chemicals. Considering the importance of environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals, an electronic interactive toolkit is prepared which will provide sufficient information and understanding to the national/regional stakeholders on the effective implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on a framework for the sound management of industrial chemicals. This toolkit is aimed for the strengthening of the capacity of countries to manage industrial chemicals at all stages of their lifecycle leading to the protection of human health and the environment from the adverse effects of these chemicals. The knowledge acquired through this toolkit will support the countries to meet their obligations under Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Structure of the Workshop

To achieve the objectives of the project, CSIR-NEERI organized a two day workshop on ***“Electronic interactive toolkit for environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals”*** during December 19-20, 2013. This workshop served as a platform to gather and share the information with respect to management of industrial chemicals especially pertaining to Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, management strategy followed in India and abroad. National participants from various agencies viz. Central Pollution Control Board, various State Pollution Control Boards, Indian Chemical Council, NGOs and International participants from **Nepal, Sri Lanka** and **Vietnam** attended the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated with the welcome address by Dr. S. R. Wate, Director, CSIR-NEERI which was followed by a presentation on various activities of SCRC by Dr. Asha A. Juwarkar, Chief Scientist and Head, Eco-System Division and Organizer of the workshop. The workshop covered various lectures by experts followed by working group exercises by participants to share their views and knowledge gained by them on various aspects of industrial chemicals management. Different aspects of industrial chemicals management covered during the workshop include introduction to Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions; industry perspective to chemical management; scope of environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals; globally harmonized system for labelling and classification of all chemicals etc. The draft electronic interactive toolkit was also presented during the workshop to get the feedback from the participants. Extensive discussions among the participants on the draft toolkit resulted in many valuable suggestions which will be highly beneficial in finalizing the toolkit. The draft toolkit was highly appreciated by the participants and they opined that CSIR-NEERI is efficient enough to undertake such works in short time span. Lab visit was organized to demonstrate various facilities available at CSIR-NEERI for analysis of different pollutants in various environmental matrices. The agenda of the workshop is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.



Dr. S. R. Wate, Director, CSIR-NEERI, delivering welcome address of workshop

Discussions and Recommendations

Extensive interaction and discussion among the participants and experts on various aspects of the draft toolkit and industrial chemical management was the highlight of the workshop. At each step of the toolkit and presentations, lively and active discussions were made in which many suggestions and recommendations were received to improve the quality of the toolkit. The discussions included topics related to various management practices of industrial chemicals as well as recommendations to enhance the quality of the toolkit. For example, during the presentation on scope of ESM of chemicals, a participant from Vietnam informed about the about the licensing and training of personals involved in transportation of chemicals. Also, an industry representative discussed that the approach for chemical management should start from bottom to top for effective implementation. Representatives from Nepal and Sri Lanka informed the participants about the post NIP activities and chemical management rules in their respective countries.

Various comments and suggestions on the draft toolkit were received such as, the first and a foremost suggestion received from all the participants was the correction

in the title of the toolkit so that its objectives should be clearly defined. All the participants were of agreement that the title of the toolkit should be “*Electronic interactive toolkit for environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals covered under Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions*”. Sri Lankan representative suggested to link awareness materials/brochures to the toolkit so as to make it more informative. Similarly, many other suggestions to make it attractive and easy to use were received from the participants.



Workshop participants and CSIR-NEERI team

The workshop was concluded on December 20, 2013. The workshop demonstrated an effective gathering of the relevant stakeholders with extensive interaction among the participants. The workshop was greatly appreciated by the participants and they requested to organize more such training programme in future.

Overall, the workshop was extremely effective and successful which strengthened the centre to conduct more such programmes in this field.

Annexure - I

Agenda of Workshop

Date: December 19, 2013

CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur

Time	Lecture/Presentation	Speaker
10:00-11:15 hrs	Welcome Address	Dr. S. R. Wate, Director, CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur
	Introduction to the Workshop	
	Introduction to Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, India	Dr. Asha A. Juwarkar, CSIR-NEERI
11:15-11:30 hrs	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:30-13:00 hrs	Introduction to Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions	Mr. Piyush Mohapatra, Toxics Link
	Management of chemicals: Industry Perspective	Mr. S. Ganesan, Indian Chemical Council
13:00-14:00 hrs	Lunch Break (CSIR-NEERI Guest House)	
14:00-16:00 hrs	Introduction to the electronic interactive toolkit for environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals	Mrs. Rashmi R. Misra, CSIR-NEERI
	Guidance to use of electronic interactive toolkit (online and offline)	Mr. Dinesh Lingote, CSIR- NEERI
16:00-16:15 hrs	Tea/Coffee Break	
16:15-17:30 hrs	Globally harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of all Chemicals (GHS)	Mr. Jitendra K. Sharma, CSIR-NEERI
	Interactive session	
20:00 hrs onwards	Reception Dinner (CSIR-NEERI Guest House)	

Date: December 20, 2013

10:00-11:00 hrs	Scope of environmentally sound management of chemicals	Dr. A. N. Vaidya, CSIR-NEERI
11:00-11:15 hrs	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:15-13:00 hrs	Country situation of Sri Lanka on various chemical conventions	Ms. Vindya Hewawasam, Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, Sri Lanka
	Post NIP activities in Nepal	Mr. Mani Ram Bhusal, Ministry of Environment, Nepal
	Chemical management in Vietnam	<i>Mr. Vu Tat Dat M.s, Vietnam Pollution Control Department (PCD) Environment Administration (VEA)</i>
	General framework for sound management of industrial chemicals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information Collection/Inventorization 2. Hazard/Risk Assessment 3. BAT/BEP for management of industrial chemicals 	Dr. Asha A. Juwarkar / Mr. S. K. Singh, CSIR-NEERI
	Working Group Exercise	CSIR-NEERI
13:00-14:00 hrs	Lunch Break (CSIR-NEERI Guest House)	
14:00-15:00 hrs	Lessons Learnt/Discussions	CSIR-NEERI, Participants
15:00-15:45 hrs	Concluding Remarks	CSIR-NEERI
15:45-16:15 hrs	High Tea	