



National Follow-up Seminar Report on Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention

Trinidad and Tobago



22ND JULY 2015

THE HILTON HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BACKGROUND

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (SRC) in collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region (BCRC-Caribbean) have embarked on a programme for the 'Sound Management of Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention for the Caribbean region'. The programme is expected to achieve the following objectives:

1. To facilitate capacity-development of developing country Parties to assess and manage risks, prepare and communicate import responses, and take decisions on final regulatory actions for hazardous industrial chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention in accordance with the PIC procedure;
2. To provide an opportunity for the promotion and coordination of integrated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
3. To generate on-the-ground results and experiences that will also be fed as case studies into the electronic toolbox of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) that assists countries at differing levels of economic, technical and institutional development to manage industrial chemicals.

In order to achieve the objectives, the Programme involved three (3) core activities:

- holding an 'Introductory Workshop on Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention for the Caribbean Sub-Region' for key stakeholders involved in industrial chemicals management at the national level for the Caribbean Parties and Signatories to the Rotterdam Convention;
- facilitation of a National Chemical Profile update in three (3) pilot countries in the Caribbean region: Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago);
- facilitation of a National Follow-up Seminar in the three (3) pilot countries to set up a national committee for chemicals management and refine the national frameworks for the management of industrial chemicals.

The entire Programme is expected to result in enhanced awareness of the importance of the Rotterdam Convention among the decision-makers at the national level involved in the management of industrial chemicals. It is also expected to improve the processes and tools used in the development and strengthening of national infrastructure for industrial chemicals management and its outputs.

In line with meeting the requirements of the Programme, the BCRC-Caribbean hosted a one-day national follow-up seminar at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference, Port of Spain, Trinidad on the 22nd July 2015. The seminar focused on organizing a National Committee to address the Rotterdam Convention obligations on industrial chemicals and refine the national framework for the management

of industrial chemicals developed at the introductory sub-regional workshop for Trinidad and Tobago. The National Follow-up Seminar also provided an opportunity to collect any outstanding data to finalize the National Chemical Profile update for Trinidad and Tobago as well as to present the findings of the report. The seminar also provided the opportunity for the stakeholders to discuss the way forward for chemicals management in Trinidad and Tobago.

SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS

The seminar began with an official call to order and welcome of participants by Dr. Ahmad Khan (Director of the BCRC-Caribbean). This was followed by a safety briefing explaining the evacuation procedure for the Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre. Opening remarks were then made by Dr. Khan who discussed the history of the chemicals industry in Trinidad and Tobago inclusive of the oil and gas, petrochemical and iron and steel industries. The different Ministries managing chemicals were briefly mentioned and focus was made on the data collecting process. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) also gave an overview of the project and highlighted that the seminar involved bringing the different stakeholders together to discuss the way forward to manage chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as to fill the data gaps within the existing draft report of the National Chemical Profile update.

The participants then introduced themselves. There were representatives from different Ministries/Agencies, the private sector and other organisations and associations such as:

- Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MEWR);
- Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA);
- Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications (MTIIC);
- Ministry of Health (MoH), Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division;
- Environmental Management Authority (EMA);
- Petrotrin;
- Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation Limited (PLIPDECO);
- Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM);
- Trinidad and Tobago Emergency Mutual Aid Scheme (TTEMAS); and
- American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad & Tobago (AMCHAM)

Mr. Alexander Mangwiro (BRS Secretariat) gave opening remarks via skype. He welcomed the participants to the National Follow-up Seminar on behalf of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. He provided a brief background on the overall project and spoke about the importance of industrial chemicals within different economic sectors. He emphasized the key role and objectives of the Rotterdam Convention and highlighted the challenges faced by developing countries to conduct risk assessments and to facilitate risk management of industrial chemicals. Mr. Mangwiro (BRS Secretariat) mentioned that the overall goal of this project deals with improving the capacities of countries to manage chemicals, hence the importance of developing ownership of this programme for the sustainability and continuation of the activities, and to come up with ideas for future tools and mechanisms to improve industrial chemicals management infrastructures and systems.

Three technical sessions followed. The technical sessions included presentations on the following:

- the programme overview;
- a summary of the national chemical profile update highlighting new finding as well as deficiencies and the recommendations to achieve the sound management of chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago; and
- the development of a national chemical framework for Trinidad and Tobago.

Presentation I: “*Sound Management of Industrial Chemicals: Programme Overview*” by Dr. Khan (Director of BCRC-Caribbean)

This presentation provided a brief overview of the Basel Convention, its operations and institutional framework. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) spoke on the national implementation and compliance with the Convention as well as the linkages with other Conventions (Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata) with regards to chemicals and chemical wastes. The functions of the BCRC-Caribbean and other regional centres with similar portfolios were discussed in terms of training, technology transfer, information dissemination, awareness raising and consultancy to other countries within the region.

The presentation continued with an overview of the Rotterdam Convention, its purpose and objectives. The scope of the programme “Sound Management of Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention for the Caribbean sub-region” was explained together with the programme objectives, activities and outcomes. The guidelines used for the project was also explained.

Questions/Comments

- Mr. Gregory de Souza (EMA) stated that the Hazardous Waste Rules for Trinidad and Tobago is still in the draft phase but hazardous waste is currently regulated by the Certificate of Environmental Clearance (CEC) Rules. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) then asked if everyone were aware of these rules. The invited stakeholders were in agreement that they have a good understanding of the CEC rules.

Presentation II: “*National Chemical Profile Update of Trinidad and Tobago*” by Dr. Dhaniram (Research Analyst, BCRC-Caribbean)

This presentation began with an overview of the importance, purpose and benefits of having a national chemical profile document for a country. The methodology used to update the national chemical profile for Trinidad and Tobago was discussed and a summary of the stakeholders’ contributions as well as the format of the updated national chemical profile document were outlined. The presentation then discussed the findings from the national chemical profile update for Trinidad and Tobago with regards to the sound management of industrial chemicals throughout their life cycles, in term of the legislative, institutional and infrastructural capacities, data viability, emergency preparedness, international linkages, awareness and understanding, as well as availability of human resources in country. The presentation concluded with a summary of the chemicals management situation in Trinidad and Tobago.

Questions/Comments

- Ms. Gale Alleyne-Sinclair (Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications (MTIIC)) asked about the chemicals tests that cannot be done locally. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) replied by stating that although most of the laboratories within the public and private sector are fully equipped for chemical testing and analysis, there are still a minority of tests that cannot be done locally. These include some trace metal analysis, chemical profiles for complex organic molecules and, base neutral and acid neutral extractables. He also stated that there is capacity in country to quickly set up the necessary equipment if there is a demand for these tests.
- Mr. Gregory de Souza (EMA) indicated that he was surprised by the data gaps in the report and emphasized that both the public sector, especially at a Ministerial level and the private sector should make a greater effort to produce the necessary data. Dr. Dhaniram (BCRC-Caribbean) agreed and stated that one of the reasons for the seminar is to bring all the stakeholders involved in chemicals management together to try and fill the gaps highlighted in the national chemical profile update for Trinidad and Tobago. She also stated that a major gap in the project was the 'no response' from Customs and Excise with regards to collecting data. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) noted that the procedure for collecting data in Trinidad and Tobago is very lengthy and there is no structure/system in place to collect data on chemicals and waste. He further stated that he hopes this project will lead to the creation of a steering committee for chemicals and waste as well as create a system where data can be collected in a meaningful manner. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) stated that Trinidad and Tobago relies heavily of data attained from the Central Statistical Office (CSO) but over the past year the CSO has been dealing with institutional issues. He further stated that the private sector has data in a more structured manner and there needs to be a national system in place where the private sector can report annually. He highlighted that reporting is a requirement of the international Conventions and suggested that the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs be the central body for collecting data.
- Ms. Malinda Jagessar (PLIPDECO) revealed that PLIPDECO has data in the dangerous cargo manifesto with regards to chemicals. She also stated that as the landlord of PLIPDECO, they are privy to data on chemicals manufactured and stored on the Point Lisas Industrial Estate and that this information can be shared and will be useful. Dr. Dhaniram (BCRC-Caribbean) inquired about data on warehousing facilities to which Ms. Malinda Jagessar (PLIPDECO) positively responded.
- Mr. Richard Glasgow (Pesticide and Toxic Chemical Inspectorate (PTCI)) mentioned that he was surprised at some of the data gaps in the report as the data exists within the PTCI and stated that the PTCI is a repository for information. He also suggested that the Single Electronic Window system managed by MTIIC holds data on all goods entering Trinidad and Tobago and be can be used to get data on chemicals import. He further stated that this system has traceability, transparency and collects data. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) agreed to have a further look into the Single Electronic Window system.

Presentation III: “National Framework development for the management of industrial chemicals” by Dr. Dhaniram (Research Analyst, BCRC-Caribbean)

This presentation began with a recap on the Rotterdam Convention and explained how the Convention works in terms of managing chemicals. The procedure for the implementation of a National Chemical Committee was highlighted, inclusive of the need for the establishment of an effective project planning and management structure. She stated that the proposed structure to manage chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago took into consideration the deficiencies of the current system and made recommendations to be implemented for its refinement. This presentation also gave an overview on the way forward to manage chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago. Emphasis was placed on legislative reform, the setting up of a National Coordination Committee for chemicals management, chemical inventory and development of a database, increased infrastructural capacity and public awareness, training, and research and development.

Questions/Comments

- Ms. Shinel Granger (Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA)) stated that the Petroleum Act does not allow the MEEA to properly manage and regulate chemicals on a national scale, but only the chemicals used within the energy sector, hence the MEEA is not the best candidate to lead the National Chemical Committee (NCC). She suggested that the Ministry of Health (MoH) be the lead Ministry.
- Mr. Richard Glasgow (PTCI) stated that the PTCI is the lead agency with pesticides and toxic chemicals only and has no jurisdiction over other chemicals. The chemicals covered by the PTCI are the chemicals defined as toxic chemicals under the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act. He further stated that each Ministry has their own legislation to deal with specific chemicals, giving the example that once the PTCI of the MoH have registered the specific chemical being imported and ensured that there are proper storage facilities for the chemical, the responsibility for managing the chemical through the other life cycle stages is then passed on to another Ministry. Mr. Glasgow (PTCI) suggested that the formation of a Chemicals Authority may be the best way forward to manage chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Dhaniram (BCRC-Caribbean) agreed but also stated that Trinidad and Tobago currently has no legislation in place to enforce the formation of a Chemicals Authority in country.
- Ms. Granger (MEEA) suggested that a cabinet appointed committee be set up with the three major Ministries involved in chemicals management. These would include the MoH, Ministry of Finance and MEEA.
- Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) explained that if the pesticides component was removed from the chemicals manufactured, imported and exported for Trinidad and Tobago, the majority of chemicals would fall under the energy sector, hence it is recommended that the MEEA be the lead for the NCC. Ms. Granger (MEEA) then explained that a formal request together with reasons for recommending the MEEA as the lead for the NCC be sent to the Permanent Secretary of the MEEA. She also mentioned that the chemicals generated by the manufacturing sector falls outside the scope of the Petroleum Act which is used to regulate chemicals within the energy sector.

- Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) spoke of the importance of getting the EMA as well as the other trade associations involved the NNC. He then asked the EMA if there is an existing definition for industrial chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago and whether the draft Hazardous Waste Rules includes industrial chemicals and chemical waste in terms of haulage, treatment and disposal. Mr. de Souza (EMA) stated that there is no definition for industrial chemicals and the draft rules only distinguishes between hazardous and non-hazardous waste. Mr. Glasgow (PTCI) confirmed that the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals regulations contain a definition for toxic chemicals but this relates to health effects such as carcinogenetic chemicals. He agreed that legislation is hinged on definitions and once the proper definitions are not included it is difficult to do work in terms of management.
- Mr. Glasgow (PTCI) asked about meeting the country's commitments under international conventions, given that local legislation is antiquated. He questioned whether the Conventions supersede the local legislation with respect to meeting the obligations under the conventions. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) stated that this presents a challenge under the Basel Convention as materials are moving out of Trinidad and Tobago, not defined in local legislation but defined under the Convention. He stated that the only mechanism to include definitions is through the Rules under the Environmental Management Act.
- Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) asked the EMA whether any consideration was given to chemicals listed in the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions in drafting the Hazardous Waste Rules. Ms. Beejai (EMA) indicated that the draft rules list schedules that are modelled under the annex of the Basel Convention only.
- Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) questioned whether the participants are in agreement with moving forward with the proposed National Chemical Committee for Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Peter Ng (TTEMAS), Ms. Jaaney Herrera (ODPM) as well as the representatives from Petrotrin agreed that the proposed committee is a positive step forward for managing chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago. Both Mr. Travis Gayah (AMCHAM) and Mr. Gerard Rajkumar (Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce) stated that they are unable to comment immediately as they will have a get a formal response from their respective associations.
- Mr. Ramnarase Singh (Petrotrin) mentioned his surprise that Petrotrin did not provide data for the National Chemical Profile update for Trinidad and Tobago and asked what approach was used to collect the data. Dr. Dhaniram (BCRC-Caribbean) explained that a formal letter of request for data was sent to the president of Petrotrin as well as e-mails and follow-up telephone calls. Mr. Singh (Petrotrin) suggested that we redo the entire process for data collection as Petrotrin recognizes its role in these types of initiatives.
- Ms. Malinda Jagessar (PLIPDECO) committed to providing data available to PLIPDECO from the companies on the industrial estate.
- Ms. Keisha Barcellos (PLIPDECO) asked if the study encompassed radioactive chemicals. Dr. Dhaniram (BCRC-Caribbean) stated that radioactive chemicals were out of the scope of the study.
- Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) then questioned the Ministries in terms of taking the cabinet note forward for approval, whether it would be the MEEA or MEWR. Ms. Shinel Granger (MEEA)

indicated that formal correspondence needs to be done from the BCRC-Caribbean to the Permanent Secretary of the MEEA, giving reasons for this recommendation before a decision can be made for the MEEA to put the cabinet note forward. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) then explained that the BCRC-Caribbean is a regional centre formed under the UNEP and the correspondence will have to go to the Permanent Secretary of the MEWR (focal point for the Rotterdam Convention) then to the Permanent Secretary of the MEEA before the request can be dealt with at a national level.

- Ms. Keima Gardiner (MEWR) asked if there are any functional poison centres in Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) responded that there is an informal centre at the Faculty of Medical Science at the University of the West Indies but there is no system in place as a call centre. . Mr. Peter Ng (TTEMAS) stated that there is a burn centre at the Augustus Long Hospital.
- Ms. Keima Gardiner (MEWR) inquired about the chemicals which fall into the category of consumer waste. Dr. Dhaniram (BCRC-Caribbean) explained that these are the industrial chemicals used in detergents and bleaches for household uses.
- Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) stated that there is a challenge for acquiring data as in some cases the data are hidden within different project documents and a task of the National Chemical Committee would be to develop a system whereby chemical data can be compiled using an existing database. He suggested that the chemical database can be built of the database already in existence by the EMA. Mr. Gregory de Souza (EMA) stated that the EMA already have a national register and a national information centre.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Khan (BCRC-Caribbean) thanked the participants for attending the National Follow-up Seminar and emphasised the need for the sound management of industrial chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago.

Next Step Forward

In accordance with the small scale funding agreement, upon completion of the national follow-up seminar, the next steps forward include:

- the designation of responsibilities to personnel within each country in order to continue the activities initiated by the project and to develop ideas for future tools and mechanisms for the improvement of industrial chemicals management infrastructure and activities;
- the development of strategies to raise awareness on risks and issues associated with industrial chemicals;
- the design and implementation of adequate legal and administrative frameworks and institutions for the improvement of industrial chemicals management within each country so as to satisfy the obligations of the Rotterdam Convention and other MEAs;

- the networking among peers in the region to facilitate the sustainability of discussion post workshop; and
- the submission of progress, financial and final reports on the workshop and the follow-up seminar based on the activities of the Programme for each of the pilot countries as indicated in clause no. 7 of the Agreement.

ANNEX I

NATIONAL FOLLOW-UP SEMINAR

FINAL AGENDA



National Follow-Up Seminar on Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention for the Caribbean Sub-Region

22nd July 2015

Scarlet Ibis Room

The Hilton Trinidad Hotel and Conference Centre

Port-of-Spain

Trinidad and Tobago

FINAL AGENDA

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8:30 – 9:00	Registration of Participants	
9:00 – 9:05	Welcome and Call to Order	Dr. Ahmad A. Khan, Director, BCRC-Caribbean
9:05 – 9:10	Safety Briefing	Hilton Trinidad Hotel and Conference Centre
9:10 – 9:15	Opening Remarks	Dr. Ahmad A. Khan, Director, BCRC-Caribbean
9:15 – 9:30	Opening Remarks	Mr. Alexander Mangwiro, Programme Officer, BRS Secretariat
9:30 – 9:45	Introduction of Participants	Participants
9:45-10:00	Sound Management of Industrial Chemicals Programme Overview	Dr. Ahmad A. Khan, Director, BCRC-Caribbean
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee Break & Group Photo</i>	
10:30 – 11:10	National Chemical Profile Update Trinidad and Tobago - Findings	Dr. Danelle Dhaniram, Research Analyst, BCRC-Caribbean
11:10 – 11:30	National Framework Development for the Management of Industrial Chemicals	
11:30 – 12:15	<i>Open Forum Discussion</i>	
12:15 – 13:00	<i>Brunch</i>	

ANNEX II

NATIONAL FOLLOW-UP SEMINAR

OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT LIST



**National Follow-up Seminar on Industrial Chemicals under the
 Rotterdam Convention
 Wednesday 22nd July 2015
 Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre
 Port-of-Spain
 OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT LIST**

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