

REVIEW OF THE INTERACTIVE INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS TOOLKIT UNDER ROTTERDAM, BASEL AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTION SEMINAR.

Barcelona, February 25-26, 2015

1. Participants:

- Expert lecturers:
 - Roland Weber, POPs Environmental Consulting
 - Nelson Manda, UNITAR
 - Valérie Frison, OCDE
 - Frederic Gallo, SCP/RAC
 - Ruth Jimenez Saavedra, INSHT
 - Dolores Romano, Chemical Risk Prevention Consultant
 - Sara Pérez, ISTAS
 - Purificación Morán, ISTAS
 - Jesús Pérez, ISTAS

- Participant experts:
 - Muthukuda Arachchi, Director General Central Environment Authority (Sri Lanka)
 - Nguyen Thi Hong Ha, Head of Representative Viet Nam Chemicals Agency (Viet Nam)
 - David Kapindula, Principal Inspector Environmental Management Agency (Zambia)
 - Rogathe Dunstan Kisanga, Principal Chemist Division of Environment (United Republic of Tanzania)
 - Tatiana Tugui, SAICM Project Coordinator, POPs Management Office Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (Republic of Moldova)
 - Alex Mangwiro, Programme Officer Technical Assistance Branch, BRS Secretariat (Switzerland)
 - Albert Avellaneda, Head of the Section of Best Available Practices, Department of Planning and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia (Spain)

2. Objective

The main objective of the seminar is to present and validate the improvements and modifications to the interactive toolkit designed to assist parties in the environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The toolkit is aimed at strengthening the capacity of countries to manage industrial chemicals through all the stages of their life cycle leading to environmental and human health protection from their adverse effects. The knowledge acquired through this

toolkit will support the countries in the compliance with their obligations under these Conventions.

3. Structure, Methodology and Tools

- Structure

The seminar was designed as a mixture between experts' presentations and interactive workshops where participants are questioned about their suggestions and opinions on the improvement of the toolkit. Two participants presented their direct experience in their respective countries.

- Theoretical presentations

Experts made specific presentations related to the contents of each part of the toolkit prior to validation.

External experts made four presentations:

- Setting the context: State of the art of Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Convention
- Global Harmonized System (GHS)
- How to implement an Industrial Chemicals Management Plan by country
- The importance of substitution of hazardous substances. Governments' roles in the reinforcement of substitution

- Validation methodology:

The toolkit was presented to participants during the seminar. An initial overall description was made to familiarize participants with its structure.

Subsequently, a detailed presentation for each part of the toolkit was made and all participants received a validation questionnaire (see Annex 2) in which they were asked a series of questions on the organization of contents, comprehensiveness and usefulness of the text. Participants were also asked to provide their feedback for the improvement of each section.

Four workshops were held for the detailed validation of contents.

- Workshop on part I: “Conventions’ Obligations and implementation at national level”
- Workshop on part II: “Industrial Chemicals”
- Workshop on part III “Management of Industrial Chemicals”
- Workshop on part IV “Substitution of Hazardous Chemicals”

All workshops were developed according to the same structure:

- An initial description of contents
- Revision of contents, completion of the validation questionnaire and debates in small groups about the questionnaire
- Conclusions drawn by each were presented in a plenary session

Sharing of best practices and case studies

Participants presented the best practices implemented in their respective countries in the section: Experiences on the implementation of a Chemicals Management Plan: Challenges and lessons learned.

Experiences were presented by: K.H. Muthukuda Arachchi, Director General, Central Environmental Authority of Sri Lanka, and Tatiana Tugui, SAICM Project Coordinator, Moldovan Ministry of Ecology.

4. Proposed modifications

As a result of the validation process participants submitted the following improvement proposals:

- Overall proposals:

Improving the website’s visual appeal (images)

Off-line version

Making examples and practical cases posted on the website more visible

Participants often suggested merging this tool with the one developed by the OECD to avoid duplicity

- National obligations:

Stockholm Convention page too extended. It was suggested to introduce more scroll-down menus to simplify it

Links to Conventions articles (full text)

Adding “capacity building tool for developing countries”

Capacity building activities for developing countries

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/GlobalMonitoringPlan/CapacityBuilding/tabid/271/Default.aspx>

Stockholm Convention Training Tool on the Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) wastes

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/WasteStockpiles/TrainingTool/TrainingToolEnglish/tabid/387/Default.aspx>

- Synergy process:

Add information on Clearing-House Mechanism:

<http://synergies.pops.int/Implementation/KnowledgeManagementandOutreach/ClearingHouseMechanism/tabid/2623/language/es-CO/Default.aspx>

- GHS

Participants provided a series of remarks on this section. They included:

Adding scroll-down menus

Adding a link to the tool on the website of the Spanish Occupational Health and Safety Agency (INSHT)

Adding a link to the “Guidance for implementation Plan” (by SAICM)

- Industrial Chemicals

For this section participants suggested:

Adding links to Guidance Documents of Rotterdam Convention in each substance’s sheet:

<http://www.pic.int/ElConvenio/ProductosQu%C3%ADmicos/DocumentosdeOrientaci%C3%B3ndeDecisiones/tabid/2415/language/es-CO/Default.aspx>

- Management of Industrial Chemicals

Remarks by participants included:

Moderate resources. Step 3: Hazard Identification. Adding EU pesticides Database:

http://ec.europa.eu/sanco_pesticides/public/?event=homepage&language=EN

An item that exists in limited resources, step 2. Adding the same item to moderated resources.

Including Road Map to Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals:

<http://www.roadmaptozero.com/>

- Including case studies

Case study: Kenya: Assess the Chemical Management:

www2.unitar.org/cwm/publications/.../Kenya_National_Profile_final.pdf

Sri-Lanka destruction of PCBs

- Substitution model

For this section most noteworthy remarks included:

Adding the website on alternatives to POPs (Roland): <http://poppub.bcrc.cn/>

Adding the website Organic Africa

Adding: PAN (Pesticides Action Network, North America) Pesticides Database -

Alternatives to Pesticides <http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Alternatives.html>

- Economics measures

It was suggested by participants to:

Include OECD recommendations

Change the colour/ format on the “support measures” diagram

Add “search for alternatives” GDO documents (Rotterdam)

- Technical support

It was suggested by participants to add the link to KEMI <http://www.kemi.se/en/>

- Changes to introduce in the future if possible:

Adding “summary pages” to make relevant information printable

Developing a version for mobile devices (iphones and tablets)

Including Minamata Convention

5. Overall seminar assessment

The questionnaires provided participants’ feedback on the toolkit: their opinion about contents (clarity, adequacy, usefulness) and proposals for items that can be added.

- Relevant information:

Participants remarked the importance of coordination and suggested merging this tool with IOMC’s toolbox, to avoid duplicity.

- Obligations under conventions and implementation at national level

The basic remarks made by participants were:

“Using scroll-down menus will help to browse through the website”

“Relevant reference to Minamata and the heavy metal contamination may be included”

“All information and materials are very helpful but full or partial use depends on the context in each country. Now Vietnam is at the beginning of Chemical Risk Assessment so the all materials and the toolkit will be helpful”

“Needed additional developments for implementation requirements (action plans)”

“Case study of relevant references to the countries: how obligations are met, lesson learned and bad experiences”

- GHS and Industrial Chemicals

The most significant remarks made by participants on this section include:

“Add link to Stockholm and Rotterdam Materials”

Items to add “Sample regulations from selected countries”

“Add link to the Guidance for implementation Plan (developed by SAICM)”

“We just started with GHS implementations and face with some difficulties. The information in the toolkit is well and adequately arranged so can meet our expectation”

“Very useful and helpful, we can use the necessary link and information for GHS implementation in our country.”

“We can follow the guidance as well as experiences of the developed countries to improve our chemical management on GHS”

“Different level of information due to differences between the 3 Conventions”

- Management of Industrial Chemicals

One significant remark was made:

“As there are only 2 resource levels, I would merge them”

- Substitution of Hazardous Chemicals

Participants introduced several remarks for this section. The most relevant were:

“Add this electronic publication on POPs in Articles and Phasing-Out Opportunities:
<http://poppub.bcrc.cn/>”

Technical support: adding link to KEMI <http://www.kemi.se/en/>

“It is really necessary to address substitution of hazardous substances”

CONCLUSIONS

We may conclude that the validation process was successfully completed. The toolkit was presented to a group of participants that may represent different stakeholders and users. The assessment of the toolkit was very positive.

The goals of presenting the tool and validating the contents, included obtaining feedback that might be the basis of improvement have been achieved.

We thank all participants for their valuable and enthusiastic collaboration.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. AGENDA

Review of the Interactive Industrial Chemicals Toolkit under Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Convention Seminar.

Barcelone, February 2015

Wednesday 25th, February		
8:45	Arrival and welcome of participants	
9:00	Introduction and seminar presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Josep M^a Tost i Borràs Director Agencia de Residuos de Cataluña - Enrique de Villamore Director SCP/RAC - Frederic Gallo, senior expert SCP/RAC
9:30	Setting the context: State of the art of Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Convention	Roland Weber POPs Environmental Consulting
10:20	Interactive Industrial Chemicals Toolkit presentation	Sara Pérez Díaz ISTAS
11:00	COFFE BREAK	
11:15	IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management	Valèrie Frison OCDE
11:45	Workshop, part I: Obligations under Conventions and implementation at national level Introduction to this section of the toolkit	Jesús Pérez. ISTAS

	Small groups discussion Report-back and conclusions in plenary session	
13:00	LUNCH	
14:00	Global Harmonized System (GHS) Presentation	Ruth Jimenez Saavedra INSHT
14:45	Workshop, part II: Industrial Chemicals Introduction to this section of the toolkit Small groups discussion Report-back and conclusions in plenary session	Purificación Morán. ISTAS
16:00	End of the day	

Thursday 26th February		
9:00	How to implement an Industrial Chemicals Management Plan	Nelson Manda UNITAR
10:00	The importance of substitution of hazardous substances. Governments' role in strengthening substitution.	Dolores Romano Chemical Risk Prevention Consultant
10:45	COFFE BREAK	
11:00	Experiences on the implementation of a Chemicals Management Plan: Challenges and lessons learnt	-K.H. Muthukuda Arachchi, Sri Lanka - Tatiana Tugui, Moldova
11:30	Workshop part III "Management of Industrial Chemicals" Introduction to this section of the toolkit Small groups discussion Report-back and conclusions in plenary session	Purificación Morán ISTAS
12:30	LUNCH	
13:30	Workshop part IV "Substitution of Hazardous Chemicals" Introduction to this section of the toolkit Small groups discussion Report-back and conclusions in plenary session	Sara Pérez ISTAS
14:30	End of the day	



ANNEX 2

Validation questionnaire

Please, answer the following questions. Your information will be valuable to improve the toolkit and render it more useful.

Is the language clear and comprehensible to the target audience?

- Totally clear Fairly clear Acceptable Unclear

Observations

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.....

Is information conveyed in a clear and comprehensible way?

- Very clear Fairly clear Acceptable Unclear

Observations

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Is information adequately arranged?

- Yes, very well arranged Fairly well arranged Acceptable
 Disorganized

Observations

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4. Is the extent of the contents adequate?

- Totally adequate Fairly adequate Acceptable Inadequate

Observations

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.....

5. Would you add any items (contents) to this material?

Which?



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.....

6 . Would you delete any items (contents) from this material?
Which one?

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.....

7. Do you consider this information useful for the implementation of a chemical risk programme in your country?
How would this information help implementation?

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8. Could this material be useful for chemical risk management programme in your country?
How?

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.....

9. Please add any relevant comments or observations

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to improve this toolkit