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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

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CAPACITY BUILDING

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 WSSD GHS Partnership for the period December 2007-July 2008.

UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

Country-based Activities

2. Cambodia and Lao PDR have continued the development of GHS implementing legislation and other activities for stakeholder engagement. Cambodia completed awareness raising workshops for business and industry and for public interest and labour organisations.
3. Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, Thailand and The Gambia have completed their pilot projects to develop a national GHS implementation strategy and are expected to continue with related activities at the national level.
4. UNITAR is in the process of carrying out a project with Uruguay for an enabling GHS capacity building project which will include a capacity assessment and National GHS Workshop.
5. With the support of the Government of Switzerland, UNITAR will initiate two year National GHS Capacity Building projects with Jamaica and, with additional support from GTZ, with Vietnam.

Regional Activities

6. The “Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation for Countries of ECOWAS”, took place in Abuja, Nigeria from 13-15 May 2008. The workshop resulted in a communiqué which outlines the importance of the GHS in the region and recommends concrete measures related to GHS implementation. The workshop was organized through the collaboration of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing & Urban Development of Nigeria, ECOWAS Commission, UNITAR, ILO, and WHO, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland, the Government of Germany, and the OPCW. Further information can be found at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/ghs15.html>.
7. The two-year project to strengthen capacities in countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for implementing GHS was concluded in the last half year. The project was funded from the European Commission and the Government of Switzerland and involved regional capacity building activities for all ten ASEAN member countries; country-based pilot projects; supporting activities for civil society; among others. UNITAR currently is seeking support for further activities related to the GHS in the region.
8. UNITAR is currently communicating with various partners about the possibility to develop project proposals for GHS enabling activities in the context of the SAICM Quick Start Program Trust Fund (QSPTF).

Guidance, Training and Resource Materials

9. Based on the comments provided by the UNSCEGHS, UNITAR is in the process of revising Course 1: An Introduction to the GHS. Further progress on Course 2: Classifying Chemicals according to the GHS, and GHS Labels and SDSs was reviewed at a special technical working group meeting on 8 July 2008 and will continue to be developed.
10. Based on feedback from country experiences, UNITAR is updating the guidance document “Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy”.

WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS

11. The participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), also in collaboration with UNECE, have developed a draft guide regarding “IOMC: Assisting countries with the transition phase for GHS implementation”. This draft is currently under review and will be finalised over the course of the next months.
 12. UNITAR would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland, GTZ, the European Union, and the OPCW for financial support to UNITAR/ILO implemented Partnership activities, including the Partnership Secretariat, national GHS implementation projects, and regional and global workshops.
 13. 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.
 14. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of the next year.
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