

## **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**

27 June 2011

**Twenty-first session**

Geneva, 27–29 June 2011

**Items 6 of the provisional agenda**

**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 January-June 2011.

#### **UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities**

##### **Country-based activities**

2. Jamaica has already completed two-thirds of their national GHS Capacity Building project. The country will complete the preparation of the “road map” for GHS implementation before the end of this year.

3. Under the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPTF), Barbados has initiated a 2-year capacity building project to implement the GHS on February 2011. The country held the Project inception meeting on 13 April 2011, followed back-to-back by a 2.5 days awareness raising workshop and is working now on the preparation of the situation and gap analysis.

4. On 26-27 April, Gambia held a train-the-trainers session, which is a component of their 2-years GHS capacity building project initiated in April 2010. The next step is to conduct local training sessions on GHS based on this core training. Zambia continues the implementation of the GHS Capacity Building project activities, funded by the QSPTF. During the first half of 2011, Zambia has participated in the SADC GHS Pretoria meeting whose main aim was to harmonise the Text of SADC GHS regional Standard and to formulate a legal framework for implementation of the Standard in the region. In addition, national training sessions were carried out for the transport and agriculture sectors and public awareness materials, covering the four sectors, were developed. Zambia is now working on the updating of national standard on transport of Dangerous Goods and the completion of the elaboration of the National Implementation Strategy.

5. UNITAR and the Republic of Congo have signed the Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of a 2-year National GHS Capacity Building project funded by the QSPTF. Project activities will start early next month.

6. In April 2011, new country projects, under the SAICM QSPTF, were also approved for Democratic Republic of Congo, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

7. China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand continue to undertake the activities of the project “Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Implement the GHS in ASEAN” funded by the European Union. Technical training is expected to take place in all countries during the period September/October 2011.

#### **Regional activities**

8. The project “Evaluating and Strengthening National and Regional Capacities for Implementing the GHS and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Central and Eastern Europe” will start in the upcoming weeks. It is expected that Moldova will hold the Regional GHS Conference for CEE countries during the first quarter of 2012.

9. During Round 10 of the QSPTF (April 2011) a project for a subregional conference for the Caribbean (to be hosted by Jamaica) was also approved. The project will support the development of a sub-regional GHS capacity assessment to enable the Caribbean to identify capacity needs for sound chemicals management and implementation.

#### **Guidance, training and resource materials**

10. UNITAR is now working on the finalization of a guidance document on “Linkages between the GHS and the other International Chemicals Conventions”. The final draft will be available in the next few months and distributed to the UNSCEGHS for comments.

11. UNITAR continues to work on development of two GHS training courses. The **Basic Training Course** is being finalized for distribution. After being pilot tested in several venues around the world, revisions have been made based on the feedback received. The package includes the text form of the training, as well as a slide presentation with notes. The Basic Training will serve as an awareness raising tool, providing a general overview of the process of developing the GHS and its major provisions.

12. The **Advanced Training Course** is being prepared for distribution to the training group, and then pilot testing in Asia. A different approach is being taken than what was originally planned. The design had been to have a detailed text (similar to the Basic Training in concept), but addressing specifically the hazard classification criteria and hazard communication provisions. In essence, this text was developing into a document that was very similar to the GHS itself. This was going to be the basis for an e-learning course, which is why this approach was suggested. But following this approach caused some difficulties in preparation and review of a document that basically repeated the GHS. As a result, UNITAR is now preparing an Advanced Training Course package to include an introductory text, detailed slide presentation, exercises and notes for instructors. The GHS itself will be the reference document, rather than preparing a separate text. A draft will be available this summer, with pilot testing beginning in September.

#### **Supporting activities**

13. Qatar hosted a 2-day Regional GHS workshop for the member states of the Gulf Coordination Council, GCC (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) on 23-24 February 2011. This workshop was supported by the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia and UNITAR/ILO.

14. On 10-11 March 2011, a training entitled “Practical Training and Capacity Building Workshop on the GHS: assisting the public and private sectors in southern African countries with implementation of the GHS” was held in Durban, South Africa. The training

was held back-to-back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Environment (organized by RPMASA). The training was conducted by the Orange House Partnership (OHP), in collaboration with UNITAR/ILO.

15. On 17 March 2011, UNITAR was invited to give an update of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Programme during the “Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures” meeting held in Brussels.

16. In April 2011, UNITAR and the Association of International Chemical Manufacturers (AICM) established a framework agreement to allow the two organizations to develop and implement projects and activities and pursue other forms of cooperation. As a first event held under the auspices of the agreement, AICM and UNITAR/ILO co-organized an “International Workshop on GHS Implementation” in Beijing, China, on 19-20 April 2011. The workshop centered around the themes of "GHS Implementation Status and Future in China", “GHS Implementation around the world”, "Best Practices Sharing of Chemical Industry", and provided a platform for communication between national regulatory agencies and the chemical industry in China.

17. On the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (COP-5) in Geneva, Switzerland, 20 – 24 June 2011, UNITAR/ILO and the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention held a side event to brief delegates about the linkages between the international chemicals Conventions (such as the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions) and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). Panelists representing governments, industry and IGOs shared practical experience of GHS implementation and discuss how the Conventions can make use of the GHS as a tool to increase chemical safety and assist Convention implementation.

#### **Other matters**

18. UNITAR/ILO continue to greatly appreciate the efforts of the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) and the GHS Training Course Review Group for their time and expert inputs to our projects and activities.

#### **WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS**

19. UNITAR would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland, the European Union and the SAICM QSPTF for financial support to UNITAR/ILO implemented Partnership activities, including the Partnership Secretariat, national GHS implementation projects, and regional and global workshops. Other in-kind contributions, such as that from US OSHA, are also kindly acknowledged.

20. 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.

21. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of this year.

---