

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 July to December 2014.

UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

Country-based activities and training

2. The SAICM QSPTF-supported GHS projects in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guatemala, Mexico, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan continue during 2014. UNITAR is serving as the international executing agency for these projects.

3. GHS Training Workshops took place in Mexico in September/October 2014 and in Guatemala in October 2014. Similar workshops are planned in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in early 2015.

4. Chile held its final project workshop on 2 December 2014. The key outcomes of the project are a National GHS Implementation Strategy, national GHS website, and agreement on next steps for GHS implementation.

5. In addition, UNITAR is currently serving as the international executing agency for six broader QSPTF-supported projects with a GHS-related component (preparation of national GHS situation and gap analyses and support for GHS capacity building) in Benin, Haiti, Kiribati, Togo, Mali, and Tunisia. Projects in Cameroon and Madagascar were finalised during 2014.

Guidance, training, and resource materials

6. The third edition of the GHS e-learning course, “Classifying and Labelling Chemicals According to the UN GHS”, took place from 15 September to 23 November 2014. Through this course, UNITAR/ILO provided capacity-building to 40 participants from Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America. Participants represented government, industry, and civil society. The next course is planned for spring 2015.

7. As part of an EU-supported project to further develop, promote, and train on the *IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management* (IOMC Toolbox), UNITAR, in collaboration with ILO, is developing a management scheme for implementing a classification and labelling system for chemicals (GHS). The IOMC Toolbox is an internet-based tool that enables countries to identify the most relevant and efficient tools to address specific national problems in chemicals management (<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org>). A draft GHS management scheme is available for comment (see paragraph 8).

Other matters

8. The Programme Advisory Group (PAG) held its 20th meeting on 9 December 2014. Discussions centred on the peer-review of the draft GHS management scheme of the IOMC Toolbox. National capacity development activities and development of GHS guidance, training, and resource materials were also addressed. Meeting documents, including the draft GHS management scheme, are available online (<https://www.unitar.org/cwm/twentieth-meeting-unitarilo-ghs-capacity-building-programme-advisory-group>).

9. UNITAR/ILO continue to greatly appreciate the efforts of the 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

10. UNITAR/ILO would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland 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, Health Canada, KemI, ECHA, EPA New Zealand, and UNECE are also kindly acknowledged.

11. GHS capacity building activities organised by UNITAR/ILO continue to be funded by extra-budgetary resources. UNITAR/ILO welcome suggestions and proposals from the SCEGHS regarding how to ensure sustainable funding to meet the continued demand for GHS capacity building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

12. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of the next months.
