



Sub-regional workshop for Central Asia on Industrial Accident Prevention:

*Chemicals management,
identification and notification of hazardous activities
and
accidental water pollution*

Workshop conclusions





Conclusions on Identification and Classification of Hazardous Activities (Sessions 1 & 2)

- Countries have systems for identification of hazardous activities in place
- National systems are not fully in line with Annex I of the Convention; further work to ensure their alignment is necessary
- Countries do not have mechanisms for consultation with neighbouring countries on identification of hazardous activities
- Implementation of the GHS would support countries' economic activities in light of trade globalization and economic integration





Conclusions on Identification and classification of Hazardous Activities - Kyrgyzstan

- Kyrgyzstan has developed and implements a legislative framework for identification of hazardous activities which is under revision
- TMFs and their potential transboundary effects in case of an accident are of particular concern
- There is one competent authority for the development and implementation of the national legislation and one enforcement authority in the area of industrial safety
- Kyrgyzstan recently adopted national regulation on classification of hazardous substances
- While numerous steps have been taken that support the implementation of the Convention, there is still need for completing the legislative framework in order to ensure its full alignment with the Convention, incl. Annex I





Conclusions on Identification and Classification of Hazardous Activities - Turkmenistan

- Turkmenistan has been making continuous efforts in the area of disaster risk reduction, identified as a priority by the President
- Different transboundary agreements:
- With Uzbekistan on transboundary cooperation regarding emergency prevention, preparedness and response
- With Iran, Russian Federation and Kazakhstan on emergency preparedness and response in the Caspian Sea
- With Belarus on emergency prevention, preparedness and response
- Legal base comprises law on industrial safety, law on chemical safety, Presidential decree on chemicals management and transit of hazardous chemicals
- Competent authorities: Ministry of Transport, Department of civil protection under the Ministry of Defence, Standardization Agency of Turkmenistan
- Regulations for import, use and storage of chemical substances
- Criteria for hazardous activities in the law on industrial safety
- Turkmenistan reported that the country is implementing the GHS





Kazakhstan – Identification and Classification of Hazardous Activities

- Recent administrative reforms (Aug. 2014) have dissolved the previous Ministries of Environment and Emergency Situations and integrated those functions into the Ministry of Energy, Internal Affairs and the new Ministry of Investment and Development
- Currently, Kazakhstan has 3 authorities responsible for accident prevention, preparedness and response:
 - Committee for Industrial Safety in the Ministry of Investment and Development
 - Committee for Emergency Situations in the Ministry of Internal Affairs
 - Committee for Environment Protection in the Ministry of Energy
- Law on civil protection comprises 6 laws incl. on accident prevention and industrial safety; amendments are being introduced, also to more clearly delineate functions between authorities
- Kazakhstan is considering the implementation of the GHS in the future, within the Eurasian Union
- In line with implementing the Convention and its amended Annex I, Kazakhstan should take steps to identify the hazardous activities under the scope of the amended Annex I having a potential transboundary effect
- Kazakhstan is recommended to consider improving its inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation regarding the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention, e.g. at the meetings of the National policy dialogue Steering Committee





Conclusions on Identification and Classification of Hazardous Activities (Session 3)

- Countries need to further improve their legal and administrative framework for identification of hazardous activities
- There is a need for improved coordination and cooperation between countries regarding identification of hazardous activities and classification of hazardous substances
- UNECE in cooperation with partner organizations can provide targeted support
- Additional training and support to national efforts can be requested through national or regional project proposals according to the Strategic Approach under the Convention, based on a self assessment and action plan





Identification of hazardous activities with a potential transboundary effect (Session 3)

- Location criteria provide a framework for identifying transboundary effects under the Convention:
 - Industrial hazardous activities within 15 km of the border (air path)
 - Industrial hazardous activities along a river or catchment which could reach another country within 2 days flowing period (water path)
- In line with the implementation of the Convention, countries in Central Asia should proceed with identifying hazardous activities with a potential transboundary effect





Notification to neighbouring countries (Session 4)

- In line with the Convention's implementation, countries should consider further steps to notify neighbouring and other countries in the region of hazardous activities under the Convention with a potential transboundary effect
- This would facilitate joint efforts to prevent and prepare for possible accidents and can lead to increased level of protection of people and the environment
- Transboundary cooperation is established amongst Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan through bilateral agreement on prevention, preparedness and response and mutual assistance; a joint centre of emergency response is being planned in Almaty
- Turkmenstan envisages the development of plans for interactions with neighbouring countries and joint exercises in the future
- Building on these efforts, countries could enhance efforts to exchange information on potential transboundary effects arising from their hazardous activities





Identification and notification - Consultation with neighbouring countries

- In line with the implementation of the Convention (Art. 4), countries should consider to engage in consultations on the identification of those hazardous activities that are, reasonably, capable of causing transboundary effects
- Important that both national and regional authorities are taking part in consultations, as the regional level is responsible for first response planning
- It is recommended that consultations are held regularly
- Countries concerned could consider, at the initiative of any of them, taking into account other sources of accidental transboundary effects





Accidental water pollution – Prevention, preparedness and response: Checklist (Session 5)

- Checklist on contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters can support countries in establishing bi- or multilateral contingency plans and agreements along transboundary water course
- Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (under the UNECE Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions) could support such efforts, upon request





Preventing accidental water pollution - Kyrgyzstan

- Water Code on regulation and use of water resources includes regulation of hazardous activities
- Numerous challenges:
 - Drying up of ecosystem
 - Pollution (of 1/3 of rivers) due to uranium and other toxic substances, dumping of industrial waste incl. Pesticides
 - Water use incl. for irrigation
- Hazardous activity operators along transboundary rivers could cause transboundary accidental water pollution
- Inter-state agreement with Kazakhstan
- Plan for interaction with respective neighbouring regions of Uzbekistan





Preventing accidental water pollution - Kazakhstan

- Legal framework: Water Code and Environmental Code, Law about Ministerial Resources and Health care system
- Law on water supply and use is being drafted
- Institutional framework for water resources, protection, etc: Committee on Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy, Consumer Right Protection of the Ministry of National Economy, Committee for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Committee for Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Investments and Development
- Inter-Ministerial consultations through Council of Sustainable Development chaired by Prime Minister





Preventing accidental water pollution - Kazakhstan

- Respective basin councils with neighbouring councils established
- Agreements on environment protection with neighbouring countries incl. on protection and use of water resources:
 - Agreement between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on civil defense and emergency response (2011) incl. mutual notification about potentially hazardous facilities, response measures, regular exchange of information and monitoring, risk assessment, national disasters
 - Agreement between Kazakhstan and China includes mutual notification about hazardous facilities, risk assessment on potential pollution related to possible emergencies, exchange of information on status of transboundary rivers
 - Cooperation between Kazakhstan and Russian Federation on protection and use of water resources (1992, 2010 extended): Russian-Kazakhstan Committee established and meets annually, 5 sub-Committee on river basins incl. Joint analysis and tests of water resources
 - Joint agreement on water samples between Hydromeds with Kyrgyzstan, China and Russian Federation





Preventing accidental water pollution - Turkmenistan

- Water code regulates state management in the area of use and protection of water resources
- Law on waste management under development
- Institutional framework comprises Cabinet of Minister; Ministry of Environment Protection, Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Health, Industry, Housing, Geology, Emergency, other public incl. regional bodies for protection and use of water bodies
- National policy dialogues provide a forum for national coordination
- Water resources supply agricultural irrigation and other needs
- Pollution of water resources poses a challenges, mainly due to irrigation
- Most rivers are transboundary, cooperation with neighbouring countries
- Cooperation agreement with Uzbekistan on use of water resources

