

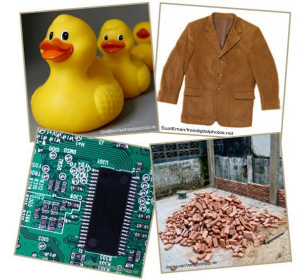
Chemicals in Products Project

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Aarhus Convention – Task Force on Access to Information
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UNEP and chemicals

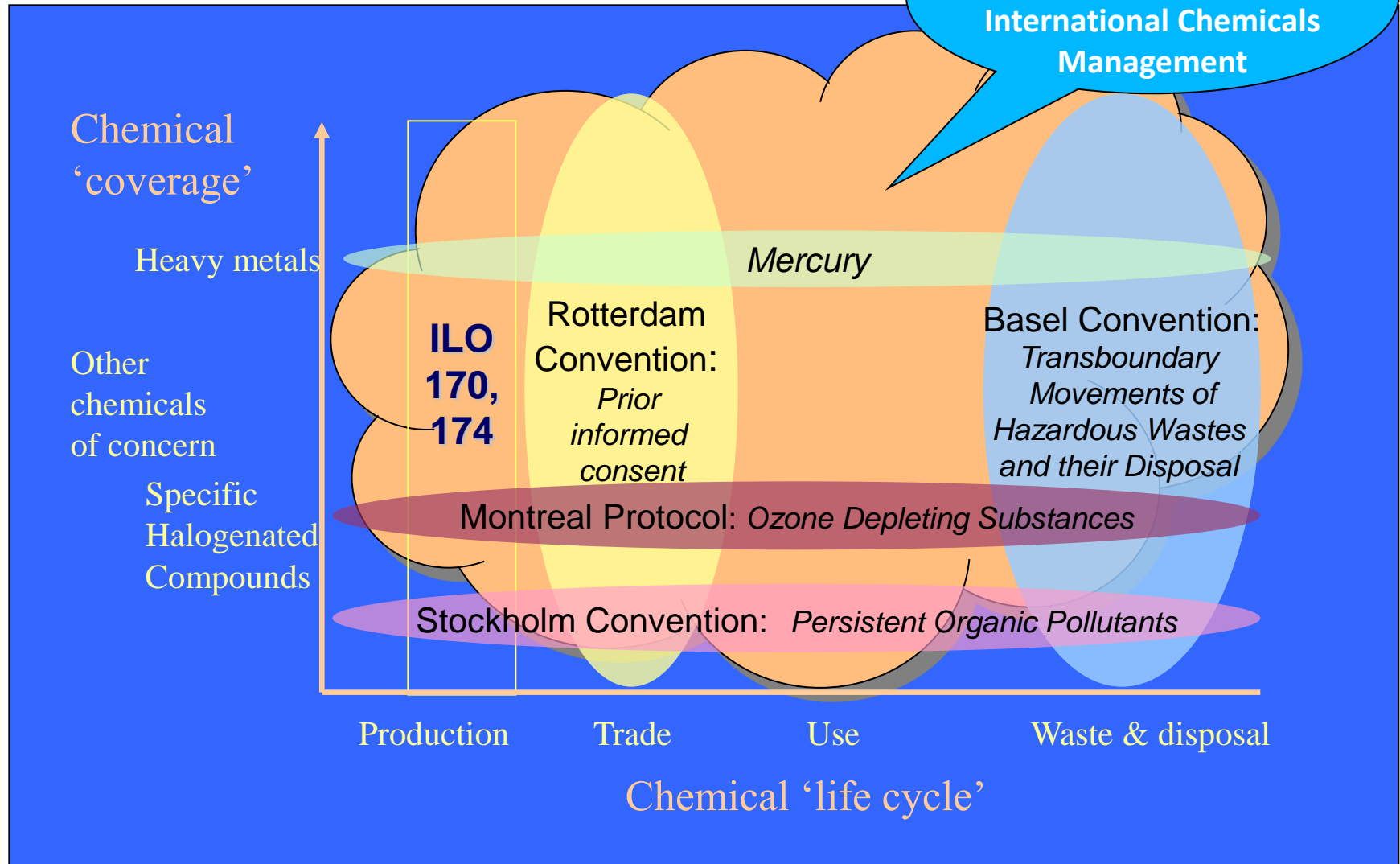


- Chemicals and UNEP: the multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM
- Chemicals in products (CiP) activities under SAICM
 - Needs and gaps analysis (2009-2012)
 - CiP programme development and demonstration phase (2013-2015)

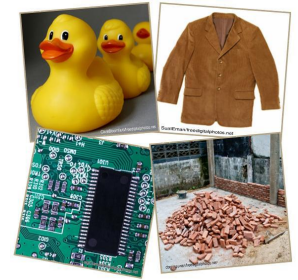
International chemicals governance: chemical characteristics and life cycle



SAICM:
Strategic Approach to
International Chemicals
Management



SAICM

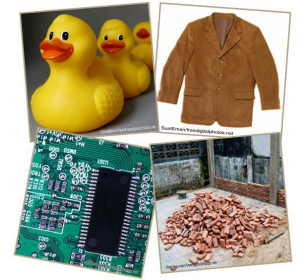


Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

- A policy framework for international action on chemicals
- Overall objective: “by 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health”
(2002 World Summit goal)
- Established in 2006 at the first International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM)
 - ICCM is SAICM’s Governing body (meets ~ every 3 years)
- Voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach (governments, business and industry, civil society, labour)
- SAICM text: political declaration, policy strategy with specific objectives, plan of action

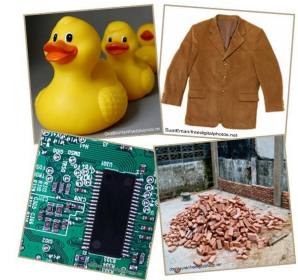
(<http://www.saicm.org>)

Chemicals in Products project

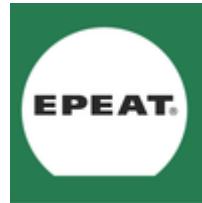


- ICCM2 (2009) identified chemicals in products (CiP) as an emerging policy issues for global cooperative action (others: nanotechnology, electronics, lead in paint, and perfluorinated chemicals)
 - CiP project basis in SAICM objective on Knowledge and Information (Para 15b) - to ensure that “information on chemicals throughout their life cycle, including, where appropriate, chemicals in products, is available, accessible, user friendly and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders”
- Invited UNEP to lead the CiP project to:
 - Investigate existing systems of CiP information exchange
 - Identify stakeholder needs for CiP information and gaps
 - Recommend to ICCM3 (Sept. 2012) actions to address the issue

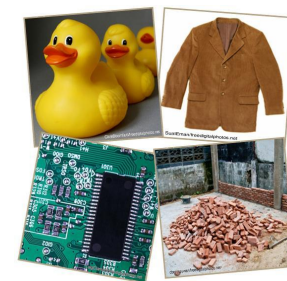
Why a chemicals in products project?



- Efforts already underway: REACH SVHC, GHS/SDS, sector / company specific; developing countries → needs are largely unmet



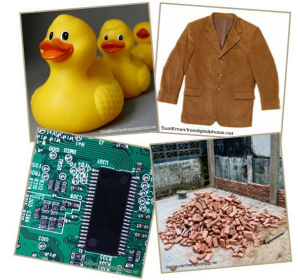
Potential benefits of a CiP system



Harmonized approaches would:

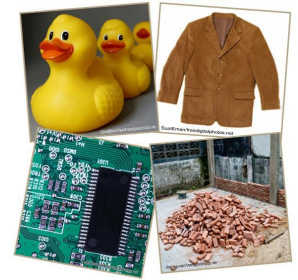
- Create greater efficiency and reduce costs
- Define roles and responsibilities so stakeholders will know what information to provide and what to expect from others
- Build on the GHS system / Safety Data Sheets
- Improve preparedness to respond to regulatory restrictions regarding individual chemicals (no detective work needed as information should be available)
- Provide a firm basis for informed choices
- Contribute to more sustainable use of resources through improved information about quality of materials aimed at recycling

CiP project – Major activities, 2009 - 2012



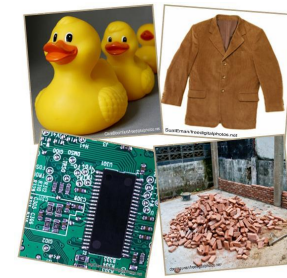
- Comprehensive report of drivers and major global trends in chemicals in products information exchange, as well as global system descriptions and needs analysis
- Initial project scope defined (priority product sectors: electronics, children's articles (toys), textiles, building products)
- In-depth priority sector case studies of existing information exchange activities and experience, stakeholder needs and gaps
- Extensive multi-stakeholder consultation to monitor activities and results, build awareness, gather input and draft proposal for next steps

Findings - Common drivers for chemicals information exchange

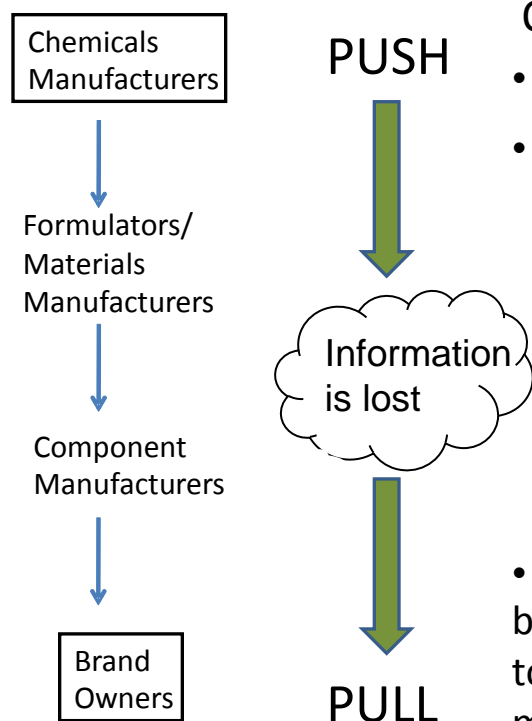


- Need to meet legislative requirements (a major driver for most current chemicals in products information systems)
- Concerns among consumers and public interest groups regarding safety of products;
- Industry concern for product liability and brand and corporate image;
- Corporate policies regarding safety, health and environmental performance (and overall sustainability);
- These drivers are present in all countries. However, in developed countries they result in a more active level of CiP information exchange.

Findings - Gaps in information exchange



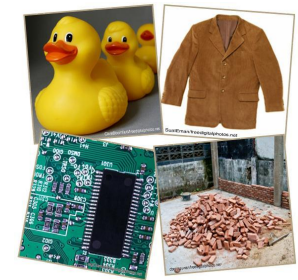
Production chain “pull” and “push” of information access and provision



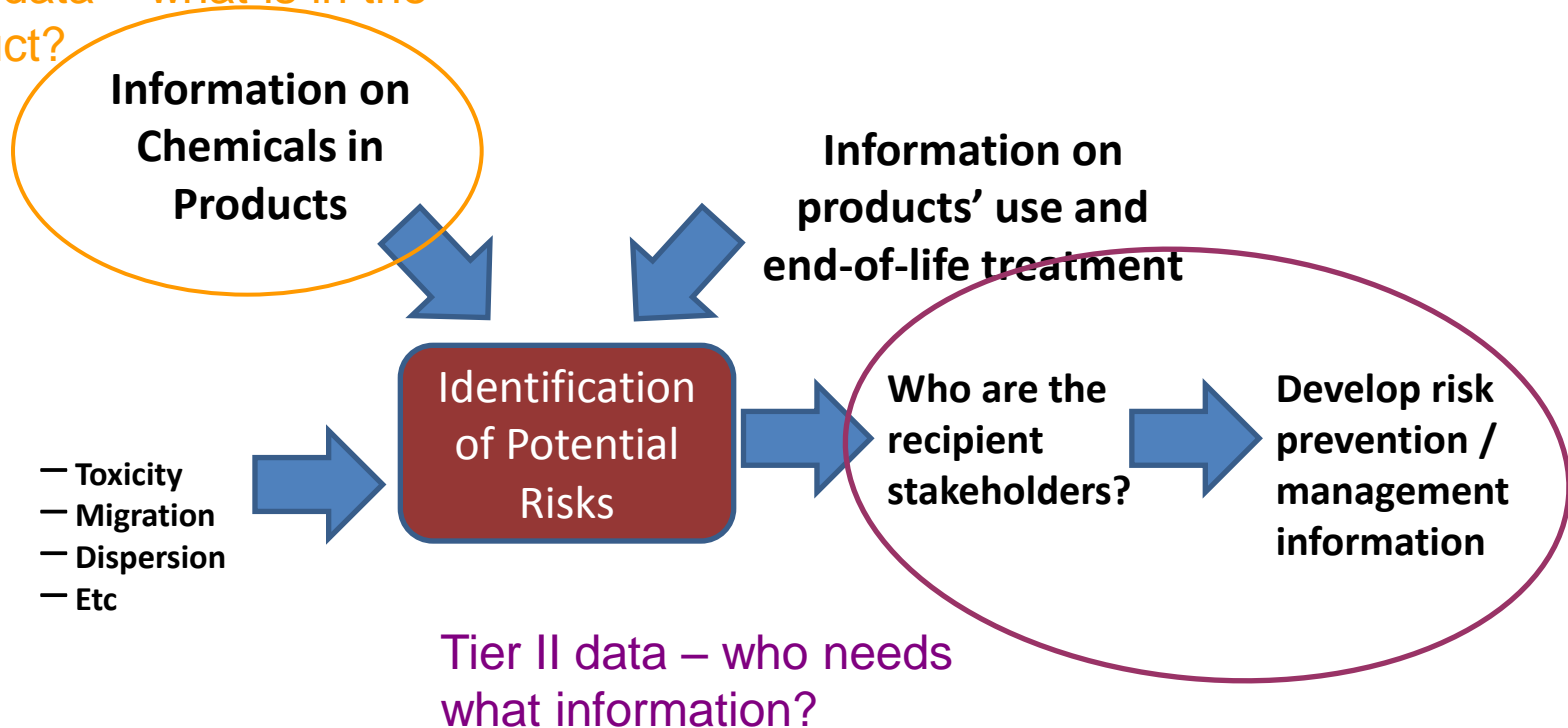
Obstacles:

- Long supply chains with many tiers
- Complex networks with
 - a large number of materials/substances in each product
 - numerous applications for each chemical
 - many actors involved
- Chemicals manufacturers and brand owners feel the need to respond to consumer demand and regulatory drivers; mid-chain actors often do not

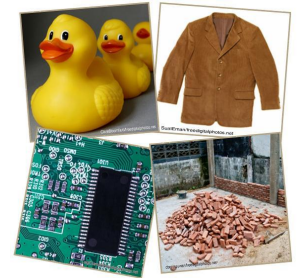
Findings – a possible stepwise approach



Tier I data – what is in the product?



ICCM3 mandate



Develop a proposal of a voluntary **CiP programme**: to facilitate the exchange of information on chemicals in products.

The CiP programme should:

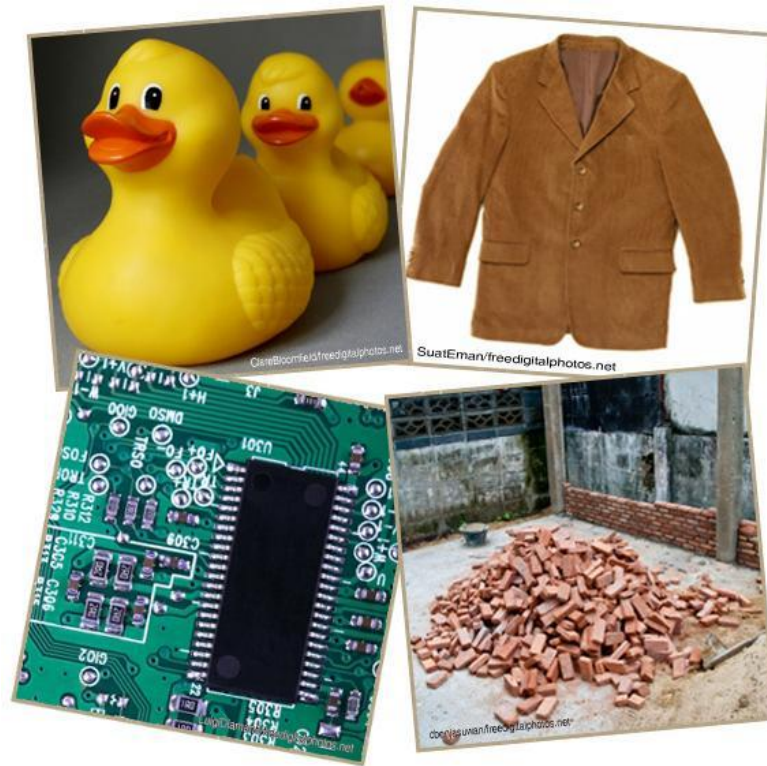
- (a) Identify the roles and suggest responsibilities of the major stakeholder groups
- (b) Develop guidance on what information could be transferred to different stakeholders and how that transfer could take place, taking into account CBI
- (c) Build on existing experiences and best practices

Development of guidance should build on the CiP project findings / meetings / discussions to date and on other existing knowledge

Demonstrate the CiP programme: in one or more product sectors

Proposal for the CiP programme to be submitted to ICCM4 (2015)

Undertake activities to raise consumer awareness on CiP information and gain broader support from business, industry and other stakeholders



THANK YOU

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