

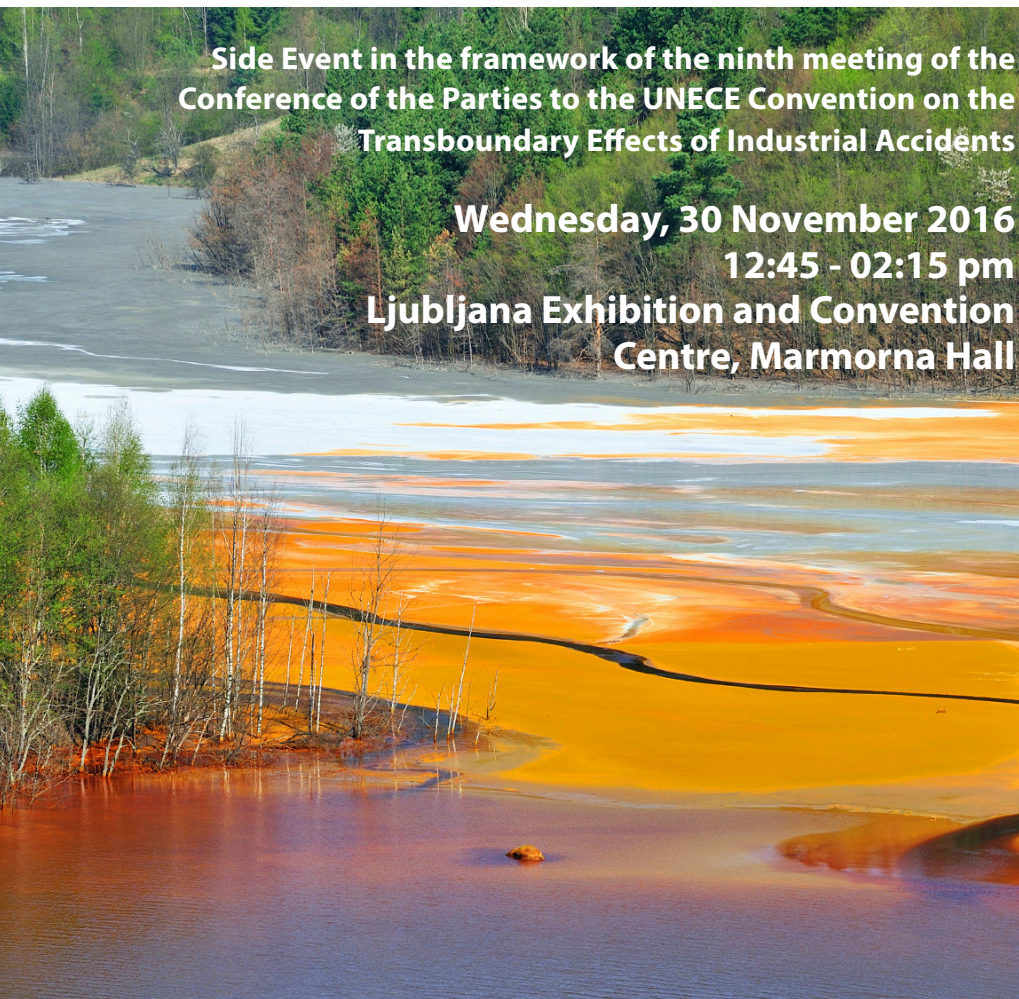
UNECE Tools and Approaches for Preventing Accidental Water Pollution and its Transboundary Consequences

Side Event in the framework of the ninth meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Wednesday, 30 November 2016

12:45 - 02:15 pm

Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention
Centre, Marmorna Hall



Side Event on UNECE Tools and Approaches for Preventing Accidental Water Pollution and its Transboundary Consequences

Relevance

Industrial accidents may cause far-reaching cross-border effects, in particular along transboundary watercourses.

The devastating effects on humans and the environment of such incidents as well as their far-reaching and severe transboundary consequences have been demonstrated by major past accidents in the UNECE region, such as the:

- (i) Fire at the Sandoz chemical plant at Schweizerhalle, near Basel, Switzerland (1986);
- (ii) Dam break of a tailings pond at a mining facility in Baia Mare, Romania (2000);
- (iii) Accident at the Talvivaara Mining Company in Finland (2012)
- (iv) Mining accident in Ridder, Kazakhstan (2016).

Against this background, the UNECE Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions decided to cooperate on issues related to the prevention of acci-

dental water pollution and established in 1998 a Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG).

Among others, JEG elaborated safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines (2006) and tailings management facilities (2008) as well as a checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters (2015).

These tools were endorsed by the meetings of the Parties of both Conventions and recommended for application in UNECE countries.

At the occasion of the 30th commemoration of the Sandoz accident and the recent mining accident in Kazakhstan, the side event aims at raising awareness about the danger of industrial accidents, in particular along transboundary watercourses, and their far-reaching cross-border effects.

The side event also aims at presenting tools, elaborated by JEG, to support UNECE countries in preventing accidental water pollution.



Objectives of the Side Event

- Raise awareness of potential trans-boundary implications of industrial accidents and ways to prevent them.
- Support Parties to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the Water Convention and beneficiary countries to the Industrial Accidents Convention's Assistance Programme to implement the provisions of the Conventions.
- Present the tools and practical guidance materials developed by the UNECE Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) to avoid accidental water pollution.
- Offer an opportunity for the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention as well as other relevant stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the UNECE Water Convention.

Side Event Programme

Opening – *Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Deputy Director, Environment Division, UNECE*

UNECE Joint Expert Group – Strategy for risk reduction to prevent accidental water pollution – *Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei, Germany, JEG co-Chair from the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention*

Preventing water pollution based on the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailings Management Facilities – *Mr. Dmytro Rudakov, National Mining University of Ukraine, Head of Department of Hydrogeology & Engineering Geology*

Preventing water pollution based on the UNECE Checklist for Contingency Planning for Accidents Affecting Transboundary Waters – *Mr. Claes-Hakan Carlsson, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency*

Fighting Accidental Pollution in the Danube Basin – *Mr. Adam Kovacs, Secretariat to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River*

30 years after the Sandoz accident – Lessons learned for preventing transboundary water pollution – *Mr. Martin Merkofer, Switzerland, Federal Office for the Environment*

General discussion and conclusions

The event will be moderated by Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak,
Deputy Director of the Environment Division, United
Nations Economic Commission for Europe.



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Side Event: UNECE Tools and Approaches for Preventing Accidental Water Pollution and its Transboundary Consequences

Registration

In order to attend the Side Event, participants must register online by 9 November 2016 for the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties through the following meeting website:

<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/cop9.html>

Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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