



Seminar of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents:

*Seminar on emerging risks in accidental water pollution:
focus on natural hazard-triggered accidents*

Budapest, Hungary and online (WebEx), 5 October 2022

Opening

Moderator: Mr. Péter Kovács, Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, Ministry of Interior, Hungary and Co-chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

09:30–09:35	Welcome	Opening of the meeting by the Co-chairs of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, <i>Mr. Péter Kovács, Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, Ministry of Interior, Hungary and Mr. Bojan Srdić, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Republic of Serbia</i>
09:35–09:45	Opening remarks	Emerging risks in preventing accidental water pollution: climate-related weather events, Natech and accidental water pollution <i>Mr. Szilárd Szabó, colonel, Head of the International Department of the National Disaster Management Directorate of Hungary, Hungary</i>
09:45–10:00	Opening remarks	The role of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents in addressing Natech and climate change: current instruments and future action <i>Joint Secretariats of the Water Convention and the Industrial Accidents Convention</i>

Challenge 1 – Understanding and preventing accidental water pollution as a result of natural hazards (Natech): lessons learned

Moderator: Mr. Pavel Danihelka, Head of the Department of Risk Research and Management, Occupational Safety Research Institute, Czech Republic, and member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

10:00–10:15	Presentation	Ghana: Natech, tailings management facilities (TMFs) safety and past events <i>Ms. Esi Biney, Chief Ecologist of the Water Resources Commission, Ghana, and member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents</i>
10:15–10:30	Presentation	Republic of Moldova: Floods and accidental water pollution in a transboundary context <i>Mr. Vitalii Mutaf, Head of Internal Security and Prevention Service, Republic of Moldova, and member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents</i>
10:30–10:45	Presentation	Romania: Lessons learned from past Natech accidents to be ready for future circumstances <i>Mr. Zoltán Török, Associate Professor, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania, and member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents</i>
10:45–11:15	Discussion	Q&A from the audience, followed by a moderated discussion with the panel on the role of the Water Convention and Industrial Accident Convention, as well as the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents in supporting countries to address Natech risks of water pollution <i>Moderated by the moderator of Challenge 1</i>
11:15–11:30	Coffee break	

Challenge 2 – Prevention by design: safe industrial installations in a changing climate

Moderator: Ms. Lendita Dika, State Counsellor for Industrial Pollution and Risk Management, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Republic of North Macedonia, and member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

11:30–11:45	Presentation	Adaptation of critical infrastructure to the effects of climate change, focus on technological risks <i>Ms. Dinara Ziganshina, Director, Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia (SIC ICWC)</i>
11:45–12:00	Presentation	International Commission of Large Dams: an updated bulletin on tailings dam design principles <i>Mr. David Brett, Senior Technical Director, Mine Waste and Water Management, GHD Tasmania</i> <i>Ms. Annika Bjelkevik, Tailings Dam Consultant, Tailings Consultants Scandinavia AB</i>
12:00–12:10	Discussion	Q&A with the audience
12:10–12:50	Discussion	Breakout groups on (i) the design principles for accidental water pollution prevention from industrial installations under changing boundary conditions, (ii) risk assessment: how to include natural hazards for technological safety, and (iii) land-use planning for prevention and mitigation measures <i>All seminar participants</i>
12:50–13:00	Presentation	Findings from the discussion in the breakout groups <i>Rapporteurs from the breakout groups</i>
13:00–14:15	Lunch break	

Challenge 3 – Innovative approaches to limit the consequences of accidental water pollution events

Moderator: Mr. Zoltán Török, Associate Professor, Manager of Research Institute for Sustainability and Disaster Management, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania, and member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

14:15–14:30	Presentation	Warning- and Alert System of the Scheldt and recent pollutions <i>Mr. Leon Dhaene, Secretary-General, International Scheldt Commission</i>
14:30–14:45	Presentation	Nature-based solutions for TMF safety in Kazakhstan <i>Mr. Brendan Duprey, Director, Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute</i>
14:45–15:00	Presentation	Ore-sand: A circular economy solution to the mine tailings and sand sustainability crises <i>Mr. Arnaud Vander Velpen, Senior Research Associate, University of Geneva, and Sand Industry and Data Analytics Officer, United Nations Environment Programme's Global Resource Information Database Geneva (UNEP GRID-Geneva)</i>
15:00–15:15	Discussion	How can we ensure that natural hazards potentially triggering accidental pollution can be mitigated with nature-based solutions, and what role does life-cycle thinking play? <i>Moderated discussion between the panelists and audience</i>

Conclusions

Moderator: Mr. Bojan Srdić, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia and co-chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

15:15–15:30	Concluding remarks	Outcomes of the seminar by <i>Mr. Bojan Srdić, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia and co-chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents</i> Closing of the seminar by <i>Mr. Péter Kovács, Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, Ministry of Interior, Hungary</i>
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