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UNEP Chemicals is a unit of UNEP's Technology, Industry and Economics Division.

A list of publications is available from UNEP Chemicals and on the Web (www.chem.unep.ch). Documents are free of charge.

UNEP promotes sustainable development by catalysing vital global actions and building national capacity for the sound management of chemicals through information exchange, training, and capacity building.

VISIT CIEN WWW.EPA.GOV/CIEN;
WEBSITE ON WWW.ESTIS.NET/COMMUNITIES.ESTIS.NET

HOW DOES CIEN HELP WITH MEAs?

CIEN AND MEAs requirements:

Under the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, Parties are required to exchange information with the Convention Secretariat, the Conference of Parties and other stakeholders. CIEN can help that is a signatory or Party to these Conventions to:

- Exchange information with the Convention's Secretariat, the Conference of Parties and other stakeholders,
- Facilitate public awareness and research activities.
- Provide coordination of national activities and ensure a more effective use of resources.

Stockholm Convention Article 10:

Through the use of ESTIS it is possible for countries to meet requirements for "Public information, awareness and education".

Reporting Obligations to the Secretariat:

Under the Stockholm and other conventions, parties have reporting requirements to the Secretariat. The use of ESTIS to build a common platform among countries would facilitate the task of the Secretariat to act as a clearinghouse.

CIEN and the Clearinghouse Mechanism:

The CIEN project provides training in actual use of information management tools to achieve many of the objectives outlined in various international environmental agreements such as the compilation and dissemination of national data and the use of networks to strengthen collaboration at national sub-regional and regional levels.



Chemical Information Exchange Network project (CIEN)

COMING SOON

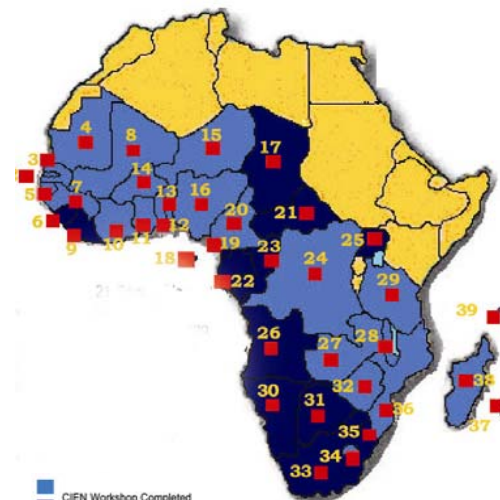


- CIEN has been implemented in 41 countries: 33 in Africa and 8 in Central America.
- 1,141 officials have been involved through national stakeholder meetings.
- 686 officials have received training on access to information using the Internet.
- 95 computers have been provided to countries.

CIEN AND ITS EXPANSION TO OTHERS COUNTRIES

During the first Regional Workshop on Capacity Building for Stockholm Convention Focal Points held in Marrakech, Morocco (February 2005), participants:

- Recommended that the CIEN project be strengthened and its implementation extended to all African countries; and
- Invited the Secretariat of the Convention to seek the funds necessary for the implementation and extension of CIEN.



May 2005

Chemical Information Exchange Network project (CIEN-REIC)

WHAT IS CIEN?

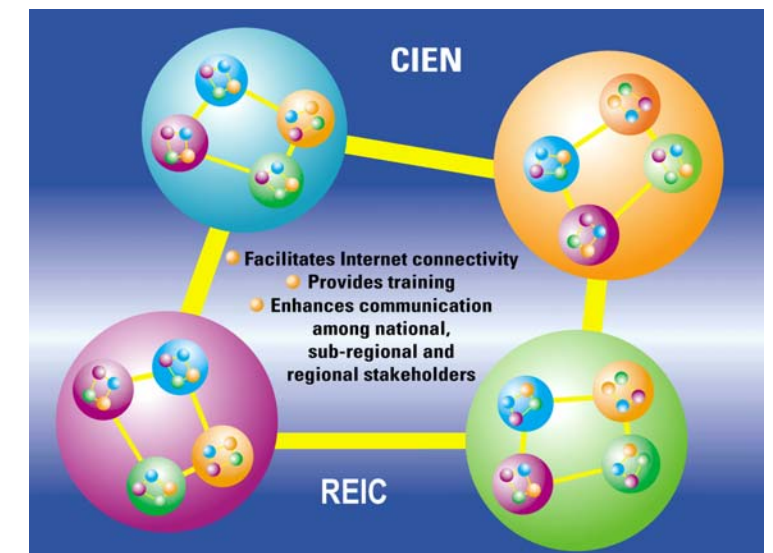
The Chemical Information Exchange Network (CIEN) is a project that has been launched jointly by UNEP and USEPA. It creates a framework for access to, and exchange of vital chemical information to support national decision-making. By providing the knowledge base, it promotes successful implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

BEYOND NATIONAL CIEN

- The project promotes the development of regional and sub-regional networks for which the Environmentally Sound Technology Information System (ESTIS) provides an opportunity to create common platform.
- The USEPA and UNEP developed a Web site where information about CIEN and links to project partners and information sources on chemicals can be found (www.epa.gov/cien; <http://www.estis.net/communities/CIEN/>).

WHY WAS CIEN STARTED?

- Accessibility to reliable information is essential for sound chemical management. Massive information exists in a variety of sources, which are not always readily available to those who need it. Much of this information is now internationally available via the Internet. However



many countries still lack the capacity to access the Internet. Countries are in need of such tools to support their national work.

- In its "Priorities for Action Beyond 2000" (Bahia Declaration), the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) noted the importance of eliminating barriers to information exchange for the sound

management of chemicals in order to enhance communication among national, sub-regional, regional and international stakeholders.

Internet access is an important tool for strengthening the capacity of countries to access and manage such information.

Les membres du Réseau togolais d'échange d'information chimique via Internet formés

L'atelier de formation à l'Internet dans le cadre du Réseau d'Echange d'Information Chimique (REIC) organisé à la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Togo par le ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources forestières s'est achevé jeudi après quatre jours de travaux. A l'issue de la rencontre les délégués ont reçu chacun un certificat de participation. Un lot comprenant des ordinateurs, des imprimantes et du matériel informatique d'un coût de 12 millions de FCFA a été remis au ministère de l'Environnement par l'Agence Américaine pour la Protection de l'Environnement.

Les participants ont adressé des motions dans lesquelles ils remercient vivement le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE) et l'Agence Américaine pour la Protection de l'Environnement (EPA) de leur appui technique et financier qui a permis au Togo de bénéficier de ce réseau d'échange d'information chimique via Internet. Ils remercient le gouvernement togolais pour avoir organisé cet atelier qui permettra au Réseau REIC de remplir sa mission avec succès.

cadreurs, Mme Jude Adeasen de l'EPA et M. Cyrille Lazare Siewe du PNUE pour leur disponibilité, leur attention et leur dévouement manifestés tout au long de l'atelier. Les participants ont également adressé des remerciements. A l'endroit des partenaires en développement PNUE et EPA, ils recommandent :

- que toutes les dispositions soient prises pour que les acquis du présent projet soient pérennisés ;
- que les ressources matérielles, humaines et financières soient maintenues.



A l'issue de la cérémonie de clôture des travaux, les officiels ont posé avec les participants. L'on reconnaît (au centre 1^{er} plan) l'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

PARTNERSHIPS



- Working together, UNEP Chemicals and the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) have promoted the use of the

Environmentally Sound Technology Information System (ESTIS). The ESTIS software is a Web-based tool developed by the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre to facilitate the

creation of Web sites and databases, as well as the exchange of information. ESTIS provides users with a simple on-line Web site builder. It enables users to develop their own Web sites for their area in their own language without the need of specialized Web design skills. It also allows the Web site owners to link their site to others that share the same language or that form a regional grouping.

- The Centro de Gestion Tecnología e Informática Industrial has supported the implementation of CIEN in Central America
- UNEP Chemicals and INFOCAP are collaborating on awareness raising and training activities to promote and strengthen involvement in CIEN and INFOCAP. This collaborative activity will help avoid duplication and ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

HOW DOES CIEN RESOLVE THE PROBLEM?

- CIEN provides a framework for closing the information gap and strengthening capacity through:
- Dynamic, hands-on workshop with a multi-disciplinary group of local scientists, technicians, policy makers and regulators,
- Networking: CIEN supports national, regional and international activities for the sound management of chemicals through the creation of a framework for access and exchange of information for decision-making.

- CIEN workshop provides, in some cases, a first opportunity of meeting for different organizations working on chemical management issues and provides a forum for team approach to problem-solving.
- CIEN provides direct Internet access with free, powerful tools that can be used by the team for future collaboration for decision making and problem solving.

HOW COST EFFECTIVE IS CIEN?



- CIEN has the potential to future expand in support of other types of information related to many environmental concerns and can

therefore, help resource saving in environmental management.

- The project relies on ownership by the country and reliance on national human resources with international counterparts mainly acting as catalyst.

- By providing training at the local level, CIEN reaches a large number of national stakeholders and significantly increases and advances national capacity for integration of training the trainers which multiplies the benefit of such training.
- Use of Internet technology capabilities for access to and dissemination of chemical management information that is freely available facilitates information access to the decision makers at low cost .
- ESTIS software is provided free of charge to the end-user. No license is needed for its use and the software is available to promote Environmentally Sound Technologies for the safe management of the Environment.
- By using the strength of different national partners, CIEN creates synergies.

OUTCOME

- Without exception, participants in CIEN have expressed feelings of empowerment and have been enthusiastic and inspired to increase their knowledge and establish partnerships.
- The CIEN project was successful in increasing the awareness of the Internet as a tool to obtain specialized authoritative information.
- It has shown how it is possible to easily access regulatory and safety data that can support decision-making and even assist in trade issues; for example, to verify that a national commodity meets the requirements of the importing country's chemical residue limits.
- It has provided a basis for national activities and training geared to decision-making.
- CIEN demonstrated that improved access could easily help countries reduce the information gap and facilitate the promotion of sustainable development, including the sound management of chemicals.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The CIEN training course provides an overview of to the sound management of chemicals and provides developing countries with skills and knowledge in using Internet to:

- Access technical and legal information on chemicals for their sound management, download international negotiations, access specialized databases and access information sources from specialized institutions.
- The programme also includes discussions on a multi-stakeholder approach to resolving issues of chemical management, harmonization and dissemination, and role of the Internet as a tool for improving the environmentally sound management of chemicals.



Seychelles newspaper "Nation"

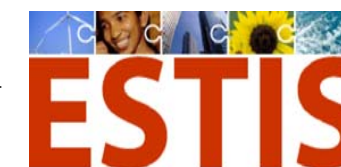
A UNEP SERVER FOR AFRICA



As part of its efforts to improve access to information on the sound management of chemicals and Environmentally

Sound Technologies (EST) in African countries, UNEP will install an ESTIS server for Africa. UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre, in collaboration with the UNEP Chemicals, is

funding the server. Based on the review of results of the survey sent to countries that implemented the first phase of the CIEN project, Benin has been selected to host the ESTIS server. Countries that have benefited from the implementation of the first phase of CIEN will be the first users of the ESTIS server. This server will enhance the capacity of countries to build their own Web page, create their Websites and facilitate creation of national and sub-regional networks to promote ESTs and to access and exchange information on the sound management of chemicals.



THE CIEN SPONSORS

The CIEN project has received funding from various donor countries. This allowed implementation of the project in some SADC countries, the ECOWAS, and EMCCA countries and Central American countries, the holding of sub-regional workshops.

Specially, CIEN has benefited from the support of:

- The U.S. State Department
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- The U.S. Agency for International Development: Leland Initiative and Central America Program
- The Canadian International Development Agency through the Canada POPs Fund
- The Government of Switzerland (SAFEL)
- The United Nations Environment Programme

