



# Strengthening Regional and National Capacities for Implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)



*Activities of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme*

# 1. Introduction

- UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Training and Capacity Building Pilot Programme initiated in 2001
- WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS (UNITAR/ILO/OECD), 2002
- Take place at national, regional and sub-regional levels, involving country-driven, multi-stakeholder cooperation
- Developed through the joint collaboration of UNITAR and ILO, working with Participating Organizations (POs) of the IOMC and other interested parties



## 2. Background and Justification

- IFCS 2000: “guidance and other tools necessary for GHS implementation GHS should be made available to interested parties prior to Forum IV” (2003)
- WSSD confirmed IFCS 2008 goal to encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system
- Documented need for GHS capacity building activities: more than 65 countries expressed interest to UNITAR to participate in GHS capacity development projects
- UNITAR/ILO designated focal point for capacity building in UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (SCEGHS)



# 3. Framework for Capacity Building Activities (I)

- *Programme Area 1: GHS Capacity Development at the Regional Level*
  - Regional GHS Awareness Raising Workshops
  - Regional Capacity Needs Assessments
  - Regional GHS Implementation Strategies
- *Programme Area 2: GHS Capacity Development at the Country Level*
  - National GHS Awareness Raising Workshops
  - National Situation / Gap Analysis
  - National GHS Implementation Strategies

# 3. Framework for Capacity Building Activities (II)

- *Programme Area 3: Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Guidance and Training Materials*
  - GHS Awareness-Raising Materials
  - Guidance Documents to Support National GHS Action Plan Projects
  - Guidance and Training for Comprehensibility Testing and Training
- *Programme Area 4: Supporting Activities and Services for GHS Capacity Development*
  - CD-Rom with GHS Guidance, Training and Resource Documents
  - GHS Partnership and Capacity Building Website
  - Roster of GHS experts
  - Global Thematic Workshop on Capacity Building for GHS Implementation (2005)

# 4. UNITAR/ILO Programme (I)

- assists developing and transition countries to develop and implement chemical hazard communication systems which contribute to the development of legal and institutional measures needed for GHS implementation;
- catalyzes a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder process;
- includes comprehensive situation / gap analysis and comprehensibility testing;
- promotes effective use of chemical labels, SDS and other hazard communication tools in all relevant sectors; and
- provides feedback to international level discussions.

# 4. UNITAR/ILO Programme (II)

A typical national GHS pilot project includes the following nationally executed activities over a period of 18-24 months:

- preparation of a GHS situation/gap analysis;
- study on the comprehensibility of chemical hazard symbols and labels;
- organisation of a National GHS Training Workshop;
- drafting of GHS-implementing legislation/regulations for all four sector affected by the GHS;
- targeted awareness raising and capacity building for industry and civil society; and
- organization of a National GHS Implementation Workshop to endorse a Strategic Plan/Road Map for GHS implementation by 2008.

# 4. UNITAR/ILO Programme (III)

- Previous regional activities (workshops in SADC and for South America) and country-based pilot projects (Zambia, South Africa, Senegal and Sri Lanka)
- New phase of national and regional activities beginning early in 2005
- Supported by contributions to a global trust fund by multiple donors (including the Government of Switzerland, European Commission and Government of the Netherlands)
- Pilot tested guidance materials and national action plan methodologies
- guidance and oversight provided by Programme Advisory Group (PAG) of interested organizations and individuals
- updates to UN SCEGHS and other relevant bodies (e.g. IFCS)

## 5. WSSD Global GHS Partnership (I)

- GHS Partnership Goal:

*To mobilize support and catalyze partnerships for concrete activities at the global, regional and national levels to strengthen capacities in developing countries and countries in transition towards effective implementation of the GHS for industrial chemicals, agricultural chemicals, chemicals in transport and consumer chemicals*

# 5. WSSD Global GHS Partnership (II)

- make concrete and value added contributions to the outcomes of the WSSD -- more than 200 in existence
- formal launch in Johannesburg, 30 August 2002, with initial financial support from Government of Switzerland and ICCA
- First Meeting of Partners, 10 July 2003 (meeting report available)
- Forum IV Side-Event 2003, support of several organizations
- Forum IV GHS “Action Plan” based on workplan of Partnership
- Interactive Partnership website
- Second Meeting of Partners (planned for 2005)

# 6. Available Resource Materials

- Programme brochures
- GHS Capacity Building Library – online and CD ROM (UNITAR/ILO)
- Action Plan development and Situation Analysis draft guidance materials (UNITAR/ILO)
- Regional workshop reports
- Annual Reports of WSSD Global GHS Partnership

# 7. Websites

- UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme:

[www.unitar.org/cwm/b/hc/index.htm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm/b/hc/index.htm)

- WSSD GHS Partnership:

[www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs\\_partnership/index.htm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/index.htm)

# 8. Contact Information

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