

Minutes of the Steering Committee 1st meeting

Risk assessment in 10th of Ramadan factories and companies dealing with Chemicals, of the project of Hazardous Substances Information and Management System (Component 3)

- Date : 11/9/2005
- Place : EEAA

1. Attendance

No.	Name	Post (Authority)
1.	Dr. Moussa Ibrahim Moussa	General Supervisor of project .
2.	Dr. Eng. Tarek Eid	National Coordinator of the Convention on POPs - Environmental Management sector.
3.	Dr. Ghada Hammouda	Technical Bureau Ministry of Transportation.
4.	Mrs.Saideya Ibrahim Saad	Head of the central Dept. of Care & Health of Manpower and Safety of work places
5.	Chemist Ahmed Abdel Moula	Manager of Environmental Dept. 10 th Ramadan Branch .
6.	Chemist Ahmed Farouk Taha	Junior Researcher at Environmental Dept. Mansoura Branch
7.	Brigadier General: Osama Ramzy	Head of the Civil Defence Dept. 10 th of Ramadan city.
8.	Mrs. Somaya M. Kamel	General organization for Industrialization – Ministry of foreign Trade & Industry.
9.	Eng. Abdel Galil M. Eleiwa	EEAA .

No.	Name	Post (Authority)
10.	Dr. Seham M. Hussein	Ministry of Health and Population .
11.	Eng. Mohammed Sheshtawy	Manager of the Project .

* No. representatives of the investors Association attended , and both Dr. Saad M. Hassan and Dr. Jihad Abul Atta apologized for not being able to attend .

2 Procedures

2/1 Dr. Eng. Tarek Eid presented the results of the previous stage of the Hazardous Substances Information and Management System and how a database on this stage was established . He also referred to the categorization of the UN and the EU in addition to the GHS , that is due to be applied on 1/7/2007 . Mr. Eid also mentioned international conventions and agreements related to chemicals and Egypt's obligation to issue the National Hazards Profile . Moreover, he also referred to the international convention no. (4) related to the prevention of major accidents in work places , as Article (4) of the Convention stresses on the importance of defining the establishments considered hazardous , taking into account the increase in the rate of various accidents in 10th Ramadan City.

2/2 Mrs. Sa'adeya Ibrahim Sa'ad – Ministry of Manpower and immigration – mentioned that work Law no, 12/2003 requires the establishment and its branches to have an assessment and analysis procedure of risks and expected industrial and natural catastrophes , and to prepare an emergency plan for the protection of the establishment and to respond according to this plan when the catastrophe occurs.

2/3 According to the executive regulations of Environmental Law no.4/94 , preparing an emergency plan to take the necessary procedures when an accident occurs was required for the

establishment of any project . However , this requirement is being amended currently , and what is needed instead is an assessment procedure of risks for every new project or for any expansions of a present one . This assessment is made according to the nature and available quantities of the hazardous substances used and dealt with . Moreover , the safe limits that determine the procedures to be taken before , during and after the incident takes place are to be defined in addition to what is required from workers on-site and off-site if needed .

2/4 Dr. Eng. Tarek explained the difference between the word " hazard " , which refers to hazards lying in the substance itself because of its nature , and the word " risk " which refers to the risk resulting from losing control of the substance . He also referred to the main obstacles facing risk assessment stage that include lack of information and awareness of workers in different factories. He gave an example saying that the length of the fire hose at one of the factories in 10th of Ramaden city is about 10 meters only , while the distance between the hose and the places to be secured is no less than 30 metres . He also added that the purpose of the risk assessment study in 10th of Ramadan City is to generalize it later to cover all the cities of Egypt .

2/5 Dr. Eng. Tarek Eid also referred to the fact that risk assessment study for any factory or company costs a lot , and that the EEAA in a previous stage of the project had made a risk assessment procedure for 12 factories in Amreya region , and this is a little number in Comparison with the 10th of Ramaden City that includes more than 1300 factories . He also mentioned the results of the study in Amreya region complied with previous studies made by a Japanese company at the time of establishing these factories .

2/6 The study results of the risk assessment for any project should include recommendations of the safe limits to secure workers in the company and in adjacent companies for the purpose of preserving national economy as the least damages would occur in cases of emergency . According to projects under construction , a risk assessment study should be applied first before preparing an emergency plan .

2/7 By the end of the study it is required to determine a set of criteria to define the nature of risks (an accident – a major accident – a catastrophe) according to the following :

- Number of deaths .
- Number of the injured .
- Resulting pollution of surface water .
- Resulting pollution of underground water .
- Resulting pollution of the air .
- Resulting pollution of the soil .
- Destruction of properties (houses – roads)

2/8 Dr. Ghada Hammouda – of the technical Bureau of the Ministry of Transportation , and a specialist in hazardous substances transport and risk assessment during transport (with a Ph.D from Canada in this field) – wondered about the possibility of achieving co-operation between the Ministry of transport and the EEAA , communicating between them through a database in the Hazardous Substances Information and Management System , as the Ministry was never included before .

2/9 Dr. Moussa Ibrahim Moussa mentioned that EEAA welcomes the Ministry of Transportation to join the referred database as it is the case with the Ministries of health , Agriculture and the customs Authority .

2/10 Dr. Ghada Hammouda also inquired about the authority responsible for making the risk assessment studies presently and in the future . Dr. Eng. Tarek Eid informed that he is doing this task presently through six mathematical models for Quantitative Risk Analysis, and welcomed cooperation with the Ministry of Transportation in this respect as work is expected to be huge here .

2/11 Dr. Ghada Hammouda informed the attendees that a unified law for the transportation of hazardous substances is about to be issued , and that a committee for the management of crises was selected and it includes a secondary committee for hazardous substances transportation .