



Division of Technology, Industry and Economics 

An Evaluation of Environmental Health Risks and Risk Management Strategies among Children in Developing Countries

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United Nations Environment Programme

6 Thematic areas or Priorities:

- **Climate change**
- **Disasters and conflict**
- **Ecosystems management**
- **Environmental governance**
- **Resource efficiency –sustainable consumption and production**
- **Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste (HSHW)**



Chemicals Trends and Facts

Chemical industry prediction

- continued growth in the sector in the next 2 decades that will mirror GDP growth

Developing nations

- expected to lead in the production and consumption of high volume industrial chemicals; 31% by 2020

Associated costs to worker productivity and health care costs:

- WB estimates: health costs in Asian cities associated with mismanagement of chemicals and the environment represent 15 to 18 % of urban income

Sound Management of Chemicals

... is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including **the eradication of poverty and disease**, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development”

Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, 2006

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

-a policy framework adopted in February 2006 by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM)



Mainstreaming Activities into National Development Agenda



- Health ↔ Environment ↔ Economic Development
- **Health and Environment Linkage (HELI)**-supports valuation of ecosystem services to human health and well-being; integral to economic development
- **Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA)**-country driven initiative; activities integral to national country development



Children's Environmental Health (CEH)



- **G 8 Environment Ministers Meeting** (Siracusa, Italy, April 2009)- called to reinvigorate efforts and gave impetus for strengthened work on CEH
- **Global Conference on CEH** (Busan, Korea, June 2009) organized by WHO addressed current and emerging trends, new scientific research findings into policy
- **CEH Global Plan of Action** (WHO, 2009)
5 key strategies: Data and measurement, *collaborative research*, advocacy, capacity development and clinical services.



“ An Evaluation of Environmental Health Risks and Risk Management Strategies among Children in Developing Countries”



- Collaborative research and outreach: MOEJ and USEPA are partnering with UNEP and WHO on a CEH project
- Components:
 1. An evaluation of chemical environmental risks to children in developing countries and compilation of existing regional efforts to address these risks;
 2. Proposed concrete actions that nations can take to reduce selected chemical environmental risks; and
 3. Examples of concrete and effective approaches already demonstrated in developing countries to address chemical environmental health risks



Project Expected Output



- In 3 regions: **Asia Pacific**
Latin America and Caribbean
Africa
1. **Annotated bibliography** of CEH chemical environmental risks and risk management strategies in the region for at least the past 10 years.
 2. **Criteria set** and participating countries identified; CEH **experts and international partners** from developing countries identified.



Project Expected Output



3. **Detailed table showing analysis** of individual studies on chemical environmental health risk and management in developing countries, listing strengths, weaknesses, and gaps
4. **Technical report** analyzing the studies done since 2000, review of gaps, conclusions and recommendations
5. Based on the findings in the technical report, **policy statement on concrete actions** that nations can take to reduce chemical risk in developing countries



Other Project Activities



21 or 28 March 2011, venue to be decided

- Consolidation of technical report and discussion at a meeting of 3 regional experts
- Presentation and discussion of policy statement
- Planning of next steps: Possible presentation of policy statement at the 20th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, May 2011)



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