

STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEAS

The Integrated Approach to
“Hazardous Chemicals and
Wastes Conventions”

Presentation Outline

- Overview of the Conventions
- Synergistic Approach
- Potential Benefits of Synergy Development
- Crosscutting issues from a Horizontal and Capacity Development Perspective
- Challenges and obstacles of implementing synergies at the national level
- Specific Areas for Developing synergies at national level
- International aspects of synergy development
- Key areas for INECE

Overview of the Conventions

- Three Conventions together provide an international framework governing the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals throughout their lifecycle
- These Conventions cover the key elements of cradle to grave management of hazardous chemicals

Basel

- Elaborates the controls on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes
- Development of criteria for environmental sound management of the wastes
- Minimization of hazardous waste generation

Rotterdam

- Deals with the Prior Informed procedure for the Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides

Stockholm

- Seek the elimination or restriction of production and use of all intentionally produced POPs(i.e industrial chemicals and pesticides)
- It also seeks the continuing minimization of and, where feasible, ultimate elimination of releases of unintentionally produced POPs such as dioxins and furans
- Requires that stockpiles must be managed and disposed of in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner

Synergies

- Synergies may be possible at different levels:
 - At the international levels (e.g Secretariats and COPs)
 - The national level (e.g. coordination between focal points) and
 - The local level (e.g. dealing with the problems addressed by conventions if not aware of the conventions themselves)
 - The regional level (e.g. national level synergies and integrated activities could be applied at the regional level whenever possible)

Crosscutting issues from a Capacity Development Perspective

- Generic legislation
- Import and export control legislation
- Enabling legislation for Chemicals Use, Restriction/Bans
- Emissions reporting
- National and International Information Exchange systems
- Capacity to respond to emergencies
- Customs and Inspection Control
- Institution Development
- Access to justice
- Effective Education Programmes

Crosscutting issues (cont)

- Access to Information
- Hazard/Risk Communication (e.g. labeling)
- Hazard Assessment
- Packaging Requirements
- Life Cycle Management
- Focal Points
- Resource Mobilization
- Enforcement of Regulation/Decisions
- Technology transfer
- Training/Skills Development

Potential Benefits of Synergy Development

- **Administrative benefits-** such as minimizing overlaps and inconsistencies in policies and programmes
- **Cost benefits-** minimizing needlessly duplicative efforts can result in cost savings for government and industry
- **Communication benefits-** improved information exchange within and among relevant parties, and raised awareness for the general public
- Broader benefits for chemical management beyond the specific obligations outlined in the three conventions

Potential Benefits of Synergy Development

- Ensuring that chemicals management occurs at all stages of the life cycle-so that chemicals related problems are not merely shifted from one medium to another, thereby increasing protection of human health and the environment
- Ensuring coherency, coordination, consistency, continuity and cost efficiency
- Joint national programming is likely to get more attention from international and bi-lateral donors

Challenges and obstacles of implementing synergies at the national level

- Lack of information/awareness
- Inter-ministerial cooperation
- Lack of skills among key personnel
- Financial impediments
- Multiple authorities for certain chemicals/waste related issues
- Lack of coherence among policies/laws/regulations
- Individual nature of some focal points
- Lack of framework policies on chemicals/wastes that can help to provide coherence
- Lack of political will and public pressure in some countries
- Failure to link chemical s management to sustainable development

Specific Areas for Developing synergies at national level

- Information exchange and dissemination
- Risk assessment
- Risk management-decision making
- Education and training programmes
- Chemicals analyses and monitoring
- Import and Export control

International aspects of synergy development

- Development of international capacity development projects to facilitate synergy development
- Improvement and opportunities for development of international guidance and training material
- Strengthening of collaboration at the global level
- Strengthening regional mechanisms and delivery
- Much greater use of regional mechanisms such as Basel Regional Centres, Regional Agreements and Conventions, Regional Economic Integration Organizations etc) in order to advance integration issues among countries in a given region

Key areas for INECE process

- Development of Compliance and Enforcement Indicators
- Development of Effective Regulatory System
- Capacity Building and Training
- Import and Control regulatory frameworks
- Information Regulation
- Model legislative or regulatory framework implementing the three conventions

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