



# Global Implementation of the GHS



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**ACTION AND REACTION**

*Developing a sustainable approach to emerging chemical issues*

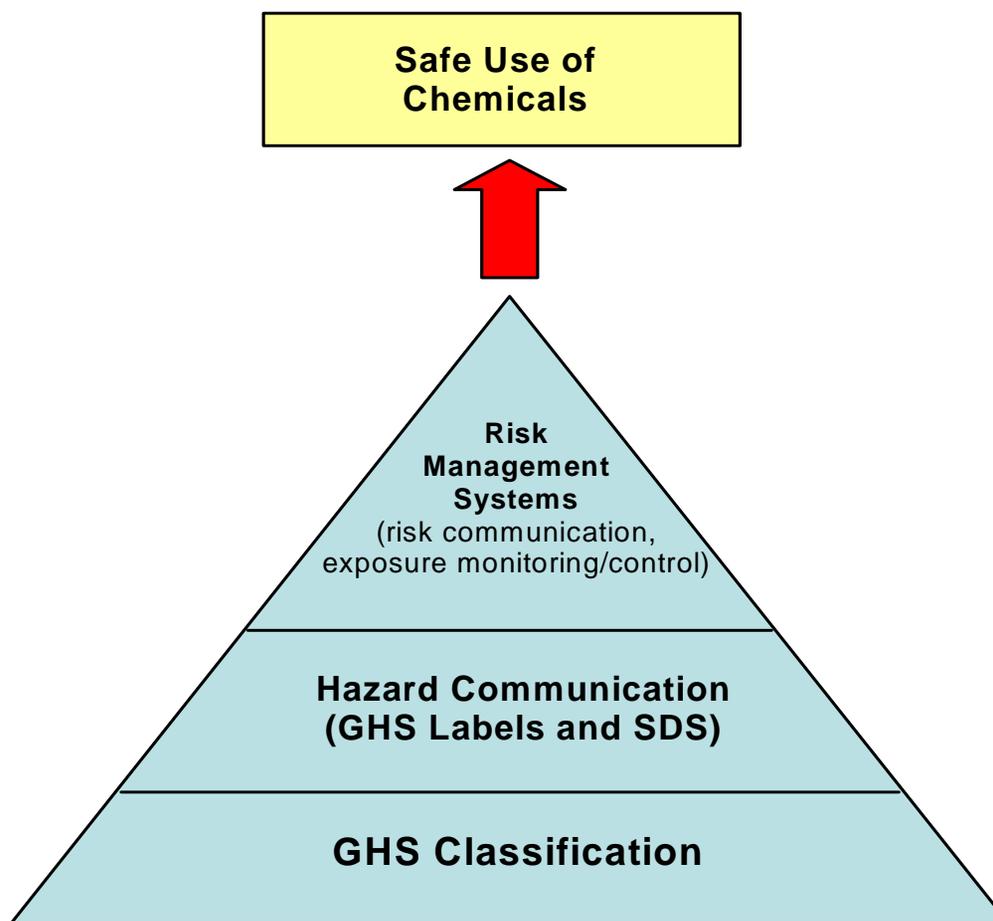
August 9-10, 2007



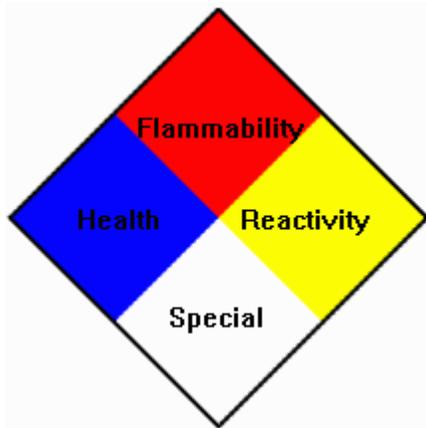
# United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR)

- ❑ Established in 1965 to enhance the effectiveness of UN programs through training and research.
- ❑ Supported by voluntary contributions from governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations, and other non-government sources.
- ❑ Program in Chemicals, Waste and Environmental Governance includes capacity building for:
  - Globally Harmonized System (GHS)
  - Strategic Approach to Implementation of Chemical Management (SAICM)

# Role of the GHS in Chemical Management



# Why is the GHS Important?



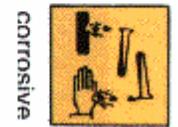
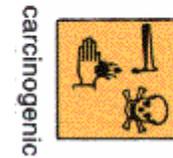
**⚠ DANGER**

**TOXIC CHEMICAL HAZARD**

WEAR RUBBER GLOVES    DON'T BREATHE VAPOR    DON'T INGEST CHEMICAL

EXPOSURE TO CHEMICAL CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH

FAIRSHA



# Benefits of Harmonization

- Countries, international organizations, chemical producers and users of chemicals all benefit.
  - Enhance protection of humans and environment.
  - Facilitate international trade in chemicals.
  - Reduce need for duplicate testing and evaluation.
  - Assist countries and international organizations in the sound management of chemicals—key to successful implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management.

# Status of the GHS

- ❑ United Nations adopted the GHS in 2003, and made it available for countries to implement.
- ❑ 2008 is the international goal for implementation.
- ❑ Countries are adopting the system through their own legal or regulatory processes.
- ❑ It is a non-binding recommendation.

# UNITAR/ILO Capacity Building Programme

- ❑ Joint collaboration of UNITAR and the International Labor Organization (ILO)
- ❑ Guided by a Programme Advisory Group (PAG) of Stakeholders
- ❑ Appointed a focal point for implementation by the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (SCEGHS)
- ❑ Established a Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS (UNITAR/ILO/OECD)

# World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Global GHS Partnership

- ❑ Launched by UNITAR, ILO, and OECD in 2002
  - (1) Support of GHS Capacity Development at the Regional and Sub-regional Levels
  - (2) Support of GHS Capacity Development at the National Level
  - (3) Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Guidance and Training Materials
  - (4) Supporting Activities and Services for GHS Capacity Development
  
- ❑ Meeting of the Partners (2003, 2007)
  
- ❑ Opportunity for stakeholder collaborations

# GHS Activities

## ❑ Global Activities

- Global workshop on GHS, Side Events, Survey, Roster of Experts

## ❑ Regional Activities

- SADC (2003), Latin America (2004), ASEAN (ongoing), CEE (2006) and Arab Countries (2006)

## ❑ National Activities

- Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovenia, Thailand, The Gambia and The Philippines in 2005-2007

## ❑ Some 83 countries interested in GHS capacity building

## ❑ Guidance, resource and training materials developed



# Implications for Countries

- ❑ In order to harmonize with the GHS, countries will have to adopt new, or modify existing, requirements for classification and labeling of chemicals, and safety data sheets.
- ❑ This should involve all relevant sectors, i.e., workplace (industry), consumers, pesticides (agriculture), and transport.

## Countries (continued)

- Method to achieve harmonization depends on current systems in countries.
  - May involve new legislation; new regulation; or changes to existing instruments.
  - Different countries have various requirements for accomplishing this, and may have to do analyses to support the changes such as economic analyses.
  - Where changes to existing systems are required, a sufficient time for modifying current labels and safety data sheets will have to be established.

# Implications for Companies

- ❑ Changes will have to be made to existing programs to reflect the harmonized approach.
- ❑ This may involve modifying computer programs and other approaches.
- ❑ Training of employees will be required to accomplish these changes.

# Resources for GHS Capacity Building

- ❑ UNITAR/ILO Guidance Document “Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy” (2005)
  
- ❑ Other resources
  - Guidance Manual for Comprehensibility Testing
  - GHS Capacity Building Library (online and CD ROM)
  - Regional Workshop Reports
  - WSSD GHS Partnership Annual Reports
  - Other Guidance currently under development

# Web resources

- 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)

- UNSCEGHS Homepage

[www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs\\_welcome\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html)