

A few examples of successful joint activities

- √ **Establishing and implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)**, in the area of health and environmental hazards (and associated training and capacity building programmes for its implementation).
www.oecd.org/env/classify & www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs
- √ **Addressing the problems of obsolete/unwanted pesticides in Africa (“Africa Stockpiles Programme”)**, by building capacity in the countries for prevention, management and disposal of obsolete pesticides.
www.africastockpiles.org
- √ **Supporting countries to implement the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade**, through the Secretariat provided jointly by FAO and UNEP.
www.pic.int
- √ **Assessing Existing Chemicals**, through sharing the burden of information gathering, testing and assessment of Existing Chemicals among OECD countries and identifying the needs for further work on such chemicals.
www.oecd.org/env/hazard/data
- √ **Developing guidance on, and promotion of, Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) and Release Estimation Techniques (RETs)**
www.oecd.org/env/prtr & www.unitar.org/cwm/prtr
- √ **Supporting countries to implement the Stockholm Convention on POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) and to develop their National Implementation Plans (NIPs)**
www.pops.int/documents/implementation/nips
- √ **Assisting countries in developing and undertaking SAICM projects under the SAICM Quick Start Programme, through the Trust Fund Implementation Committee**
www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=27&pageid=302
- √ **Supporting countries to integrate Sound Management of Chemicals into development plans and processes**, through a Partnership Initiative between UNEP and UNDP.
www.chem.unep.ch & www.undp.org/chemicals/

SAICM Implementation

The IOMC has actively contributed to the development of SAICM (www.iomc.info/saicm). IOMC was a co-convenor of the first ICCM held in Dubai in 2006 and actively contributed to preparations for ICCM2 and ICCM3. IOMC plays a key role in the implementation of government-mandated priorities agreed for SAICM.

The IOMC’s support for SAICM includes: forming a committee to review and approve projects submitted for funding by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund; helping countries to implement the projects; participating in SAICM regional meetings and co-organizing back-to-back workshops; developing guidance for SAICM implementation and for capacity building in chemicals management; and contributing to the implementation of SAICM activities on emerging issues.

Coordination with other international bodies

The IOMC coordinates its activities with international bodies such as UNECE and Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

IOMC Products

- National Implementation of SAICM: A Guide to Resource, Guidance, and Training Materials of IOMC Participating Organisations
- IOMC Strategy for Strengthening National Chemicals Management Capacities
- IOMC: Assisting Countries with the Transition Phase for GHS Implementation
- IOMC Toolbox for Decision-Making in Chemicals Management (under development)

These are available on the IOMC website in several languages.



INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

IOMC

What is the IOMC?

The IOMC (Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals) brings together nine intergovernmental organizations actively involved in chemical safety.

What is the objective of the IOMC?

The objective of the IOMC is to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals and to increase the effectiveness of the organisations’ international chemicals programmes. It promotes coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

The IOMC Vision Statement

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) is the pre-eminent mechanism for initiating, facilitating and coordinating international action to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal for sound management of chemicals.

WSSD: 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development

Who is involved in the IOMC?

The members of the IOMC consist of the following nine “Participating Organizations”:

- **FAO**, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (based in Rome)
www.fao.org
- **ILO**, the International Labour Organization (based in Geneva)
www.ilo.org/safework
- **UNDP**, the United Nations Development Programme (based in New York)
www.undp.org/chemicals
- **UNEP**, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP Chemicals is based in Geneva)
www.chem.unep.ch
- **UNIDO**, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (based in Vienna)
www.unido.org
- **UNITAR**, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (based in Geneva)
www.unitar.org/cwm
- **WHO**, the World Health Organization (based in Geneva)
www.who.int/pcs
- **World Bank** (based in Washington DC)
www.worldbank.org
- **OECD**, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (based in Paris)
www.oecd.org/ehs

Why the IOMC?

The IOMC was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (also known as the Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro and in particular those in Chapter 19 of the conference report (Agenda 21) about toxic chemicals. FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, WHO and OECD initially signed a Memorandum of Understanding; UNITAR joined the IOMC in 1997, the World Bank in 2010, and UNDP in 2012. In 2006, the ICCM (International Conference on Chemicals Management) reasserted the coordination function of the IOMC.

What subjects does the IOMC address?

The IOMC works on subjects related to chemical safety, notably those elaborated in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and now covered by the SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) Global Plan of Action:

1. **Risk Reduction**
2. **Knowledge and Information**
3. **Governance**
4. **Capacity building and technical cooperation**
5. **Illegal traffic**

IOMC Activities in Countries

The IOMC organizations implement a large number of activities at country level to improve chemicals management. A directory of current country activities can be found at www.iomc.info.

How does the IOMC operate?

The IOMC organizations coordinate their activities on chemicals management through the IOCC (Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee). The IOCC is composed of representatives of the Participating Organizations who meet twice a year. Observers may also be invited to the meetings. The Chair of the IOCC normally serves for one year on a rotational basis.

The WHO is the administering organization for the IOMC and provides secretariat services to the IOCC.

The IOCC fosters information exchange and joint planning with the aim of ensuring effective implementation without duplication. In full consultation among all those involved, it helps identify gaps or overlaps in international activities, and makes recommendations on common policies. Because intergovernmental organisations are mandated by their respective governing bodies and funded by governments, the latter will benefit directly from the IOMC through efficiencies which can be obtained through optimal co-ordination of the work of the IOMC participants.

More about the IOMC

Please visit the website www.iomc.info

For further information, please contact:
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May 2012