

Report from 9th Regional Chemicals Management Forum



June 29-July 1, 2015
Vung Tau, Vietnam

I. Opening and Welcome

The 9th Regional Chemicals Management Forum was held at Grand Hotel in Vung Tau City, Ba Ria – Vung Tau province, Vietnam jointly organized by the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) and the Vietnam Chemicals Agency (Vinachemia).

The main objective of the 9th Regional Chemicals Management Forum was to continue the building of a regional meeting place for development cooperation, training and networking in chemicals management and to introduce participants to some specific chemicals management issues.

The meeting was presided by Mr. **Nguyen Van Thanh** – the Director General of Vietnam Chemicals Agency and Mr. **Ule Johansson**, KEMI's representative. The meeting was opened at 8.30 a.m on the 29th June with welcome remarks by Ms. Nguyen Thi Ha, Head of Division of Convention and International Cooperation of Vietnam Chemicals Agency and Mr. Ule Johansson, KEMI's representative.

On behalf of Vietnam Chemicals Agency, **Mrs. Nguyen Thi Ha** extended her warmest welcome to participants from Sweden, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and DPR Korea (North Korea) to Vung Tau City to attend the 9th Regional Chemicals Management Forum. She also highly appreciated the initiative to organize this Forum to pay significant attention to the chemical management issue, the environment, safety and health. She considered this occasion as a vehicle for the further strengthening of the cooperation between Asean countries towards the development of sound, advanced chemical management. She said that this Forum was an excellent venue for all of the countries to discuss and share experiences on efficient chemical management and practices in the Region.

II. Attendance

The regional forum was attended by 75 representatives of the following countries: Sweden, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and DPR Korea. The Forum also welcomed the experts from different international organisation such as UNEP, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Pesticides Action Network Asia & Pacific (PAN AP) and The Field Alliance (TFA). See detailed list of participants in Annex 2.

III. Presentations of country situations

1. **Vietnam situations** of chemicals management was presented by representatives coming from the line ministries. The Ministry of Industry and Trade focused on update of legal document, master plan, international activities and reform of administrative procedures in chemicals management. The Ministry of Health presented the management of Insecticides and Disinfectants in Vietnam. 640 insecticides and disinfectants have been approved for manufacturing and selling after being evaluated for their efficacy and safety for users. The Ministry of

Agriculture and Rural Development talked about their strategy to 2020 consisting of the following areas: Prevent pests for good production; enhance plant quarantine for international integration; promote administrative reform; Foster technological transfer and control pesticide residue. At the end, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment presented about environmental pollution caused by chemical related activities they focus on monitoring, inventory, assessment and treatment of hazardous waste and chemicals pollution.

2. **LaoPDR situations** on chemicals management focused on drafting a new Law on Chemicals with assistance of the Swedish and Vietnamese Governments. The new law intends to register all kinds of chemicals, import and export, control chemicals safety, chemicals wastes disposal and chemicals accident handling in transporting, storing, using, manufacturing and disposing. Continuing the activities done in 2014 and early of 2015, the MOIC of LaoPDR expected to submit final draft and related documents of the Chemicals Law to National Assembly for discussion in its annual meeting in late 2015.
3. **The Myanmar situation** presented the ratification and membership of International Agreement as Myanmar is the member of Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC); International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); Stockholm Convention; Codex alimentarius; WTO SPS; Convention on Biodiversity and Chemicals Weapon Convention. They also stressed the Challenges & Threats Facing with Chemical Related Substances consisting of Weak information exchange; Weak public awareness; Weak law enforcement; Incapacity to treat and dispose hazardous waste safely; Monitoring and controlling; Waste disposal of Hazardous chemicals; Storage and handling of hazardous chemicals; Needs for training, education and research for the management of toxic chemicals; Needs for laboratory facilities, technical support and monitoring programs for toxic and hazardous chemicals.
4. **The Cambodia situation** said that chemicals play important roles in Cambodian society and economic development, while Cambodia itself is not a chemicals producer. Major areas of chemicals uses in Cambodia are: agricultural, industrial and health sectors. In the context of chemicals related environmental protection, Cambodia participates and implements several regional /global programs or activities connected to: the Stockholm convention, Basel convention, Montreal protocol, Rotterdam Convention, SAICM, and Mercury, including KEMI particularly in the agriculture area. Cambodia does not have chemicals' law covering common chemicals or chemicals as the whole but the environmental law and relevant sub-decrees can be used for managing chemical wastes and hazardous substances. Mainstreaming the sound cycle management of chemicals and chemical wastes into

sectoral developments via the national strategic development plan and sectoral development plan is one of the Cambodia priorities.

5. **The Thailand situation** focused on the 4th National Strategic Plan on Chemical Management (2012 -2021) with the goal that within 2021 the social and environment is safe by effective management of chemicals in accordance with national development and participation from all sector. The 1st strategy is to develop a chemical database, mechanisms and tools for fully integrate system of chemical management. The 2nd is to develop capacity and role of all sectors on chemical management. The 3rd is to reduce risk of chemical dangers.
6. **The North Korea situation** presented the Pesticide Management in the country. Pesticide management is being done as National work with strict legislation and administration procedure with the main priority to protect human health and environment. The working system covering national agencies and other stakeholders concerning pesticide management has been established in order to decrease accidents caused by misuse of pesticide or use of hazardous pesticides and low quality pesticide products. It also promotes the development of new pesticide product and environmentally friendly formulations and the phase out of toxic or hazardous pesticides (ODSs, POPs etc).

IV. Waste management

7. **Waste management in Sweden, presenter Ms Catarina Östlund:** the overall aim is to hand over to the next generation a society where the major environmental problems have been solved, without increasing environmental and health problems outside Sweden's borders. Waste prevention measures have to be taken before a substance, material or product has become waste in order to reduce: the quantity of waste; the adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health; or the content of harmful substances in materials and products. Some examples of measures in Sweden are: Swedish National Food Administration can advice consumers how to reduce their food waste; Municipalities will offer reuse at recycling centres; Textile industry with Voluntary producer responsibility and Incineration facilities with continuously sample emissions of dioxins. The system works well coming from: a mix of policy tools; Local authorities have an important role; Good cooperation between central and local authorities is important, interest organisations and producers and Swedish waste culture with a great awareness of the environmental benefits of separate collection and recycling of waste.
8. **Collection of pesticide containers in Vietnam, presenter Dr Chien:** sharing experience of the Project "FARMER TOGETHER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL

PROTECTION” in Vietnam. As the results of this Project, from 2012 to 2015, 362,000 leaflet and 17,508 poster were delivered to raise awareness for more than 364,583 farmers in the South of Vietnam. And also about 10,400 kg of pesticide container were collected from the field for the environmental friendly treatment.

- 9. Regional Enforcement Network for chemicals and waste, presenter Mr Liu Ning:** With economic and population growth in Asia and other parts of the world, the amount of waste generation is increasing worldwide. The global waste generation is expected to more than double in 2050, compared to the 2000 level. Illegal shipments across borders become one popular way to get rid of increasingly growing wastes, in particular from developed countries to developing countries. To solve this problem, a Sida funded UNEP Project started 2002 – 2006 Project “Regional Co-operation for Monitoring and Control of ODS consumption and Preventing of illegal trade of ODS”; continued 2007 – 2011 as the “Multilateral Environment Agreements Regional Enforcement Network” and since 2012 as the “Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste”. The network can also be used to control the trade of suspected illegal chemical products under for example the Stockholm convention.

V. Good governance, transparency and anti-corruption

- 10. Good governance, transparency and anti-corruption, presenter Ms, Lien Thi Kim Nguyen:** “Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It can be classified as grand, petty and political, depending on the amounts of money lost and the sector where it occurs.” Corruption consequences can be, lower economic growth; distortion of government functions and policy; public interest is sacrificed for personal interest; Unfairness; Hurt those who could afford it least and loss of trust. In chemicals sector in Asia, 58% of chemicals companies are operating in markets with high levels of corruption risk; many are facing the risks head-on and 44% are changing how they pursue growth opportunities. General Anti-corruption Strategies are Preventive measures (Transparency, code of conduct, asset declaration, accountability, public administration reform, independence judiciary, anti-money laundering, etc); Punitive measures (Criminalise corruption offences, protection of whistleblowers/victim, freezing/seize/confiscation of assets,etc). Important stakeholders are, an Independent Anti-corruption Agency, free Media, CSO and business engagement. Group discussions revealed that unclear regulations that open up for interpretations are a major risk for corruption in the chemicals sector.

VI. Experience from local company

- 11. Experience on chemicals management from local company, presenter Mr. Vu Quang Trinh:** coming from TPC Vina Plastic & Chemical Corp., Ltd under

Vietnam National Chemical Group (**Vinachem**). This company was established in 1995 and located in Go Dau Industrial Zone, Dong Nai Province, Vietnam. The main product is Polyvinyl Chloride (**PVC**) with the capacity of 190,000 MT/Y. The total number of employees is 172. After 20 years operating, with the support from foreign experts and local authorities, especial from Vinachemia, TPC VINA collected a lot of experience on chemical management. The Company got ISO 9001:2000 in 2003 and re-certified in 2008, 2011 and 2015. In 2014 they received Certificate ISO14001 and early this year received OHSAS 18001 Certificate. Besides TPC Vina is recognized by local Authorities as an outstanding Company of Dong Nai Province in others activities such as Safety in Production, Environment and Fire fighting. Good management for chemicals contributed a lot to this achievement. They are also implementing the classification and labelling standard based on the globally harmonized system, GHS.

VII. Agricultural chemicals – activities within the regional programme

12. General introduction to pesticide management and challenges in the region, presenter Ms. Jenny Rönngren: Governments are facing many challenges regarding agricultural production such as: Increasing populations, Changing food patterns; Climate change; Demand for biofuel; Consumer demand for safe food and Development of export markets. There are several international instruments for the control of pesticides. One of them is International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management which provides standards for the marketing and use of pesticides, with an aim to protect human health and the environment. The Programme "Towards a Non-toxic Environment in South-East Asia" was initiated 2007 in response to challenges in the region with funding from SIDA. The aim of the programme is to contribute to: better management and more sustainable use of agricultural, industrial and consumer chemicals; reduced risks from chemicals to human health and the environment; and more sustainable intensification of agricultural production and improved resilienc to climate change.

13. FAO's Integrated Approach for Capacity Building on Pesticide Risk Reduction, presenter Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar: The main approaches are strengthening regulatory control of the importation, distribution and use of pesticides and promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to: eliminate pesticide overuse, reduce reliance on pesticides, end use of WHO Class I pesticides. By Dec 2014, 70,484 farmers (50% female) participated in Pesticide Risk Reduction training courses supported by the 229/SWE project. About 1,737 (18% female) IPM Trainers from Government and Farmer Trainers involved in conduct of IPM/PRR Training. Government investments allowed many more farmers to benefit from fortified IPM FFS and pesticide risk reduction training in

China (2011-2014), US\$130 million; Vietnam (2014) US\$380,000. Additional donor support for up-scaling IPM/PRR training Cambodia US\$14,000,000 (2013-2017, PADEE), Lao PDR (2014-15): FAO-TA for IFAD-SSSJ project in Oudomxay/Sayabouly – US\$182,000; new projects are in pipeline.

14. Pesticides Action Network Asia & Pacific, presenters Ms Sarojeni Rengam

and Ms Deeppa Ravindran: Representatives from PAN AP gave an introduction to some problematic and harmful pesticides, such as carcinogenic chemicals and endocrine disrupters and explained how these chemicals affect humans and the environment. PAN AP uses different methods to raise awareness about the risks with pesticides and to promote phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). They work with capacity building, campaigns and policy advocacy to achieve results. On global level they take part in meetings etc. connected to the chemicals conventions. PAN AP has local partners in all South-East Asian countries and a lot of the work in communities (such as monitoring and campaigning) is done in collaboration with these local partners.

15. Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD), presenter Mr. Dao Duc

Liem. PAN Vietnam consists of the Research Center and Rural Development (RCRD); Research Center for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED), the Center of Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) and more partners. Some of their common activities are research on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) of farmers on pesticides such as PARAQUAT and CHLORPYRIFOS. Their survey showed that the farmers normally mix 3-4 different pesticides (some even 4, 5) and even with the same active substance according to advice from retailer. Many farmers use more than the recommended dose and a majority of them had experienced chronic diseases after long-term use of pesticides. Farmers' behavior would be better if the farmers had higher age, higher education, more training on general knowledge and specific knowledge about Chlorpyrifos and Paraquat.

16. The Field Alliance (TFA), presenter Mr. Marut Jatiket: was formed in 2000 as

a network of Civil Societies/ NGOs who promote community education and development projects on ecological agriculture and reduction of impacts from chemicals to health and environment. The network partners come from: Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam. One of their main activities is The Rural Ecological Agriculture for Livelihood (REAL) which has the objective of developing learning process that create understanding and awareness on the importance of the Agrobiodiversity and encouraging communities to conserve important species for their livelihoods and reduce the uses of toxic pesticides through ecological agricultural practices. As the key results, over 5000 students, teachers and 4000

farmers from 52 schools and 75 communities have implemented the ecological agricultural practices.

17. The Vietnam National IPM Programme, presenter, Mr Ngo Tien Dung: has operated since 1992 with FAO assistance. Their purpose is to give support to the national programmes on food security, food safety and sustainable use of natural resources – IPM & PRR at the core. IPM/PRR is not only for reduction of pesticide risks but the promotion of alternative options to eliminate pesticide overuse and reduce reliance on pesticides. As the result, 1,287 students of secondary school and Continuing Learning Centers (608 female 47%) and 2,341 farmers (1,541 female 65%) received training on agro-biodiversity (ABD) and pesticide risk reduction (PRR) and carry out survey for pesticide impact assessment, and ADB. 219 farmers (156 woman 71%) in Bac Giang and Quang Binh applied “Sustainable rice intensification low emission”. "Green environment day" has attracted the participation of Farmers, Students, Teachers, Commune leader, and CSOs (Farmer Union, Woman Union, Youth Union). Over 5,000 trees were planted.

VIII. Closing

Mr. **Ule Johansson**, KEMI’s representative, appreciated Vietnam Chemicals Agency and organizing team for making this event happen. He also gave special thanks to participating delegations for spending their valuable time participating in this forum and sharing their valuable experiences in management of chemicals. He also noted that the forum provided very useful and fruitful results for future work in chemical management, adding that Kemi would continue supporting for this forum and he hoped that the next forum information would be circulated soon.

Speaking on behalf of Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam, **Dr. Luu Hoang Ngoc** – Deputy General Director of Vietnam Chemicals Agency, noted that the forum has provided important information and good experiences relating to chemical management, adding that forum also provided very useful and productive results for the future work. He also believed that participants will use all experiences learnt from this forum for the course of work of chemical management in their relatively country in order to protect public health and the environment at national and regional level. He urged that participants continue to strengthening and expanding networking from this forum in order to share information and good experiences between regional members. He expressed thanks to participants for their support and active participation in discussions, special thanks to KEMI for the continued support for and cooperation with Vietnam Chemicals Agency. He hoped that KEMI would continue and expand its support for and cooperation with the Government of Viet Nam in the field of chemical management and environment.

The 9th Regional Chemicals Management Forum ended in 15.00 of 1st July 2015.

Appendix 1: Agenda

Day 1 – Monday, June 29		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
Registration and opening of the Forum		
8.30–9.00	Registration	Vinachemia
9.00–9.15	Welcome remarks and opening speech by host country	Vinachemia
9.15–9.30	Welcome remarks by Sweden	Swedish Chemicals Agency
Part 1: Presentations of country situations		
9.30–9.50	Latest development in Vietnam	Vietnam
9.50–10.10	Latest development in Lao PDR	Lao PDR
10.10–10.30	Latest development in Myanmar	Myanmar
10.30–11.00	Photo session and coffee/tea break	
11.00–11.20	Present situation in Cambodia	Cambodia
11.20–11.40	Present situation in Thailand	Thailand
11.40–12.00	Chemicals management in DPR Korea	DPR Korea
12.00–13.00	Lunch	
Part 2: Waste management		
13.00–13.45	Waste management in Sweden	Catarina Östlund, Swedish EPA
13.45–14.20	Presentation of project on collection of pesticide containers in Vietnam	Dr Chien, Director of the Tieng Giang Regional Crop Protection Center, Vietnam
14.20–15.00	Presentation of the Regional Enforcement Network for chemicals and waste (REN)	Mr. Liu Ning, UNEP Regional Office in Bangkok
15.00–15.30	Coffee/tea break	
15.30–16.30	Country discussions	All
16.30–17.30	Country presentations	All
18.30	Workshop dinner	

Day 2 – Tuesday, 30 June		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
Part 3: Good governance, transparency and anti-corruption		
8.30–9.30	Presentation about good governance, transparency and anti-corruption	Ms. Lien Thi Kim Nguyen, Department for International Development (DFID), Vietnam
9.30–10.30	Country discussions	All
10.30–11.00	Coffee/tea break	
11.00–12.00	Country presentations (10 min/country)	All
12.00–13.00	Lunch	
Part 4: Study visit		
13.00–17.00	Study visit	Vinachemia

Day 3 – Wednesday, 1 July		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
Part 5: Agricultural chemicals – activities within the regional programme		
8.30 – 9.00	General introduction to pesticide management and challenges in the region	The Swedish Chemicals Agency
9.00 – 9.40	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Integrated Pest Management and development of legal framework on pesticides	Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, FAO Regional Office Asia and the Pacific
9.40 – 10.00	Pesticides Action Network Asia & Pacific (PAN AP)	Ms. Sarojeni V Rengam, Executive Director of PAN AP
10.00 – 10.20	Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)	Mr. Dao Duc Liem, SRD
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee/tea break	
11.00 – 11.30	The Field Alliance (TFA)	Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director of TFA
11.30 – 12.00	Centre for Initiatives on Community Empowerment and Rural Development (ICERD)	Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, ICERD
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	

13.00 – 14.30	Panel discussion about required actions in the region	Moderator: Ule Johansson
Closing session		
14.30 – 14.45	Evaluation of Forum 9	All
14.45 – 15.15	Coffee/tea break	
15.15 – 15.25	Closing remarks by host country	Vinachemia
15.25 – 15.35	Closing remarks by Sweden	Swedish Chemicals Agency
15.35	End of Forum 9	

Annex 2: List of participants

Can be obtained upon request. Please contact jenny.ronngren@kemi.se or ule.johansson@kemi.se