

Report from 8th Regional Chemicals Management Forum



October 28-30, 2014
Yangon, Myanmar

Report of 8th Regional Forum on Chemical Management
28th-30th October 2014, Chartrium Hotel Royal Lake,
Yangon Region, Myanmar.

Introduction

The 8th regional forum on chemical management was hosted by Ministry of Industry, Myanmar in cooperation with the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) on 28th-30th October 2014, at Chartrium Hotel Royal Lake, Yangon Region, Myanmar. Seventy two delegates with diverse backgrounds from Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Kingdom of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Kingdom of Thailand, Kingdom of Sweden, Japan, People Republic of China, UNEP, representing government and non-governmental organization participated in the three day regional forum.

The main objective of the 8th regional forum is to continue the building of a regional meeting place for development cooperation, training and networking in chemical management and to introduce some specific chemicals management issues.

Opening Session

The 8th regional forum opened at 9:00 am with welcome remarks by Mr. Yee Mon, managing director, Ministry of Industry and Mr. Ule Johansson, programme manager, KemI. .

Mr. Yee Mon said in his welcome remarks that Myanmar is very happy to host the regional forum on chemical management. Two years ago, Mr. Ule and Ms. Jenny visited the Ministry of Industry, Nay Pyi Taw. Myanmar participants participated in 6th and 7th regional forum on chemical management in Lao PDR and Cambodia in 2013. We grasped the great opportunity to know the chemicals management of ASEAN countries. Now, we can know the knowledge on chemical managements from Japan, P.R China, Thailand, UNEP, EU and Sweden. According to one objective of today forum, to introduce some specific chemical management issue to participants, we invited to local persons with diverse chemical background from Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology, and Myanmar Chemical Industry Association. In Myanmar, there is no very Large Chemical factory and most are local -owned small and medium industry (SMI). Moreover, no multinational enterprise is operating in the nation. The large-scale chemical industries will be established potentially. Petrochemical industry is one of the expected industries to develop in Myanmar. For the development of petrochemical industry, mutual cooperation, investment, exchange of technology, standardization procedure, chemical management policy, and etc., are required. Currently, Japan is interested in the development of Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Myanmar is practicing the GHS with training and capacity building in the industry. In addition, Myanmar has been successfully implementing the RC (Responsible Care) activities in the chemical industry by effort of Myanmar Responsible Care Council with Japan assistance. To foster the chemicals management, Prevention of Hazard from Chemical and Related Substances Law was

legislated on 26th August 2013 and its rule is approved by Cabinet. Moreover, the notification on hazardous chemicals will be issued.

Myanmar, advocates the International Convention strongly, and will ratify to Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC) which has been signed since 1993. Two ministries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Science and Technology, hosted the workshops on Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) including Mock Inspection Exercises. So, Myanmar has got a lot of knowledge such as the overview of Convention, the role of National Authority, Verification Regime, the provisions of convention regarding the declarations, the details of national and OPCW inspections. Moreover, Myanmar, established the Myanmar National Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear (CBRN) team and initiates to implement the task force, will sign to Minamata Convention and follow up the procedure to phase out Mercury.

Mr. Ule Johansson said that "Thanks to Managing Director U Yee Mon, Ministry of Industry, Myanmar for hosting the 8th Regional Chemical Management Forum in here". We are working together the chemical management with regional countries so we have done a lot of activity in this field. We worked with Vietnam for many years. Vietnam had issued the chemical law and is now working with its implementation and further development. Cambodia's Law process is developing the new chemical law and to issue the more regulations. Thanks to Lao PDR for the development of chemical law. Thailand will share all their experience and advanced revising and organizing the chemical management. All countries are in the process of the development for chemical management legislation. At the same time, as the countries in region develop the industrial sector quickly, strong chemical managements is highly needed. So, we support the requirement of chemical management. Textile industries use a lot of chemical. We must produce the product in a safe way and save the chemicals. We also need the good knowledge on how to produce good wears. Information on knowledge about chemicals and safe use of them needs to change. We all know the benefit and challenge of using chemicals. We must have the preventive actions in order to prevent chemical hazards later. A lot of presentation will be shown during three days and this will help to build the knowledge storing. This forum will provide the excellent opportunity for exchanging the knowledge and experience not only between the countries but also within the countries.

MYANMAR

Several ministries and a private association are participating in the activity of chemical safety management in Myanmar. Myanmar has already enacted the prevention of hazard from chemical and related substances law in 2013. Now, she is taking the approval on relevant rule. Moreover, she will issue such notifications related to prohibited and restricted chemicals. Chemical lists concerning with precursor chemical, imported pesticides, insecticide and fungicide chemical, industrial chemicals are collected. Myanmar has uploaded some chemical related laws in website. She is participating in activities related to Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

(OPCW) to be easy doing the process for ratification of Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC). Plant protection division, carries out its duties, gives the certified pesticide applicator training on safe and effective use of pesticide to users, farmers and dealers. Myanmar Responsible Care Council (MRCC) conducts the responsible care activities.

LAO PDR

Lao PDR has developed several chemical related laws including environmental protection law, manufacturing industry law, agriculture law, law on drugs medical products, medicine and physical production law, decision of the Ministry of Health on account of materials used drugs and psychotropic substances, decision of the Ministry of Health on the management of substance used psychotropic substances and chemical plants, ministerial decision on the industrial substance and chemical management, and ministerial decision on the industrial hazardous waste management. Now, she is drafting such legislations as instruction on hazardous waste management, chemical law, objectives of chemical law, main elements in chemical law, and agreement on the chemical category. Several ministries and organization are responsible for performing the chemical management in the country. About 296 chemical substances, including chrysotile fiber which are used in 22 numbers of industrial factories, are registered as case study. The use of fiberglass and chrysotile fiber which is imported from Russia, Kazakhstan and China increases gradually from 2009-2010 to 2012-2013. Developing for drafting the chemical law has been conducted seven steps of internal process. Moreover, the waste and hazardous chemical management regulation is drafted by concerned ministries. Lao PDR proposed to attain the overseas development assistance for developing and improvement of law and regulation on chemical management, capacity building, and training regional networking in chemical management.

VIETNAM

Vietnam has issued new regulations on chemicals management such as prohibition to the development, production, stockpiling, use and destruction of chemical weapons, specifying and guiding to fertilizer, managing and controlling to precursor used in industry, organizing and operating the agency assigned to perform the function of specialized inspection. Now, she is performing the activities related to the management of chemicals in Chemical Weapon Convention and specifying the safety distance for such gas and acid. Vietnam, signed the Minamata convention in 2013, and, is preparing for ratification in 2015. Several master plans concerning with development for chemical industry, pharmaceutical industry, petrochemical industry, and ink and paint industry, and manufacturing and distribution of fertilizer have been adopted. Master plans for apatite and rubber industry will be approved. The chemicals law which has been in force since 2008 is still revised to meet the requirements of State Management in current situation. Vietnam is collecting and preparing the national chemical database and chemical list. Amfibol asbestos fibers are strictly forbidden to produce roofing in Vietnam. Master plan on development for building materials is needed to approve.

Law on product quality, especially household product and law on chemical especially insecticides and disinfectants, were legislated in Vietnam. She has approved 640 insecticides and disinfectants for manufacturing and selling. Moreover, She has also issued several circulars concerning with list of insecticides and disinfectants, management of them, list of products and goods, and transportation of insecticides and disinfectants. Insecticides management activities are performed in fields, provinces, and hospitals. Vietnam still has the requirements to manage the insecticides and disinfectants. Many national environmental standards that relate to industrial wastewater, co-processing of hazardous waste in cement kiln, industrial waste incinerator, solid healthcare waste incinerator, sediment quality, national technical regulation on waste oil recycling, remediation targets value, off-shore water quality, air emission from steel industry, and hazardous thresholds for sludge from water treatment process, etc., are specified as legal frame work.

POPs Management in Cambodia by Ministry of Environment

Cambodia is a party member of the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships. She has been accessed for ratification of Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal since 2001. She has collected the first POPs inventory since 2003. Moreover, she has collected the updated POPs inventory and new POPs inventory in 2013 and issued the complete report in 2014. Some legal development including law, procedure, standard, and list has been issued for taking action on management pesticides including POPs pesticides. But, some legal instruments are under developing process. 155 number of pesticides is registered and 1744 numbers of pesticides shops and stalls participate in trading of pesticides. The amount of pesticides is increasingly imported from 14927 ton in 2013 to 22047 ton in 2014 by 25 companies. Several hundreds of retailers and wholesalers are trained on pesticides. Moreover, the law enforcement on pesticides has been done as taking action. Cambodia strengthen the institutional capacity and raise the public awareness on obsolete pesticides including POPs pesticides. She also implements the projects related to POP and PCB which are supported by World Bank and UNIDO. The overall objective of national implementation program focus on the reduction of the risk for the human health and the environment from the harmful effect of POPs.

Introduction to chemicals management in Japan

Japan has issued many Laws related to environmental conservation. Among them, she highlights the Chemical Substances Control Law (CSCL), Law concerning Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR Law), Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), and Cooperative Enterprise with respect to Chemicals Management in Asian countries. Persistence, bioaccumulation, and toxicity of chemical substances are monitored as primary measures due to CSCL. Japan adopted the PRTR system to practice with the aim of promoting the voluntary improvement of the management of chemical substances by business operators and preventing

any impediments to the preservation of the environment. Moreover, she is participating in domestic and international activities related to SAICM. Japan cooperates the chemical management activities with Asian countries.

Development and Implementation of the EU REACH Regulation-Some Experiences

by Ms. Eva Sandberg, KEMI

EU legislates the acts and regulations related to chemicals as general legislations and product legislations. REACH, CLP, and product safety are included in general legislations, in other side, detergents, cosmetics, VOC, ROHS, toys, plant protection products, and biocidal products are included in products legislations. Knowledge about possible negative effect on human and environment by chemicals is still limited. Three directives and one regulation has issued as legislative instruments before REACH. Main objective of REACH is to ensure a high level of protection of the human health and environment while competitiveness and innovation are being enhanced. REACH adopts five principles related to shift of responsibilities, duty of care, data and market, European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), and SMEs. REACH practices a single coherent system for new and existing substances as main feature. EU regulates the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures. Making registration contributes to increased knowledge about substances manufactured, used, and marketed in EU. To avoid unnecessary testing, ensure that industry meets its obligations, and gather further information for substances that may present a risk for human health or environment, making evaluation plays a vital role. Free public access will be provided to disseminate the information on registered substances.

The UNEP LIRA Guidance by Mr. Ule Johansson

Mr. Ule Johansson highlights the objectives of the UNEP LIRA guidance. The LIRA-guidance aims to provide to policymakers with information on how to strengthen national legislation and establish institution to achieve sound management of chemicals. In detail, the LIRA-guidance, supports the review of legal infrastructures, establishing sustainable legal and institutional framework for the sound management of chemicals, proposes the options to organize the legal and institutional infrastructures, identifies the governed developing or strengthening legislation, and, provides the tools for ensuring sustainable financing. The documents of risk assessment, risk reduction, registration, enforcement, and, etc; will be added to the LIRA-guidance in future.

UNEP Activities Related to Chemicals and Waste in Asia and the Pacific

By Iyngararasan Mylvakanam

UNEP opens the Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific in Bangkok, UNEP China Office in Beijing, UNEP Pacific Office in Apia, International Technology Center in Osaka, and REDD Vietnam Office in Hanoi to perform the activities related to chemicals and waste in Asia and the Pacific. The volumes of the released wastes, production and use of chemical are increasing in the region. UNEP points out that the developing countries are lack of adequate capacity and governance system to

deal with complex challenges caused by growing chemical production and use. In order to minimize the impact on the environment and human, the sound management of chemicals and waste in countries must be promoted. Mr. Mylvakanam mainly explained the aims and provisions on Basel Convention, the objectives on Rotterdam Convention and Stockholm Convention, and the highlights on Minamata Convention. UNEP supports for the ratification to Minamata Convention and for the implementation of national and regional projects to develop inventories and action plans on mercury. Mercury, should be reduced the usage in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, chlor-alkali, products and cement industry, as well as, should be controlled the such manners as coal combustion, air transport and fate research, waste management, and supply and storage. Mr. Mylvakanam also highlighted to the objectives on Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM). He gave the information on the upcoming third meeting of the global alliance to eliminate lead paint and the associated workshop focusing on the development of national legislation to phase out lead in paint.

The Story of Asbestos in Sweden by Mr. Ule Johansson

Asbestos has been known and used for making material stronger and more heat resistant for 6000 years. Many tons of the substance is used in building and machines, etc. Now, asbestos is banned for all practical purposes in Sweden. The restrict regulations are needed to be enforced when the buildings and machines are rebuilt or demolished. Mesotheliom (cancer) happens due to the use of asbestos. The precautionary principle must be followed if the asbestos is used. The less dangerous chemicals or no hazardous chemical should be substituted in place of the most dangerous chemicals. Preventive approach can be highly costly. Long-term effects of using the asbestos are very hard to predict. In future, making the stricter enforcement, continuing to grow EU bans and restrictions, and continuing to grow global restrictions and ban should be developed.

Chemicals legislation and Waste legislation. How do they connect? by Mr. Ule Johansson

Pipe, which is emitted the smoke must be higher up, which is discharged the liquid waste must be longer away. The liquid waste must be diluted before discharging. Some solid waste can be buried or burnt. Waste which cannot be treated with the described techniques must be stored. Waste must be recycled, reused, and separated. The use of dangerous substances must be limited. For cleaning the waste stream, reducing the use of dangerous substances, improving the labelling of goods/ products and the waste separation, and introducing the economic pressure/ incentives should be performed. In the future, there will be more sector legislation, higher requirements on certain groups of chemicals, more economic instruments, and consumer pressure. Government must have stability, knowledge, common rules and long term planning. Chemical legislation must be connected with waste legislation. Private sector must adjust to the producing of goods and services in a sustainable way. Consumers demand more information. Innovation is necessary, and must be promoted.

Examples of e-waste handling in The Kingdom of Cambodia by Dr.Chrin Sokha

Cambodia imports the brand new electronic and electrical equipment (EEE) and used electronic and electrical equipment(UEEE) for domestic consumption. Some UEEEs have low quality and improper function. Awareness and capacity on UEEE and e-waste management are commonly limited. There is no specific national legal statute for controlling the imported hazardous materials and wastes in Cambodia. E-waste is being generated by retailers, repairing/dismantling/refurbishing shop, junkshop, household and public building. Some impacts on human health can occur by involving the process of UEEE repairing/dismantling without using safety facilities. Moreover, the unsound disposal causes the harmful impacts to the environment and human health. "Sub-decree on E-waste Management" is being formulated. Lack of technology, capability, specific capacity and policy causes to the improper disposing. Some educational and awareness raising programmes were delivered to line agencies through several projects/activities.

Stockholm and Basel Convention Regional Centre in Beijing, by Mr. Dong Quinjin

China presentation (soft copy) is the Chinese language. So we can not translate to English version. We cannot submit to Keml about Stockholm and Basel Convention.

International Training Program (ITP) on Chemicals Management by Ms. Eva Sandberg

Ms. Eva Sandberg explained the Strategies for Chemicals Management-Asia 2015 including phases: preparatory phase, training course in Sweden, interim period, and regional seminar. ITP targets persons employed in ministries or authorities with a mandate to initiate and run change processes according to the programme's objectives. The knowledge and experience of the key elements needed for building up an efficient chemicals control system as well as preventive measure will be provided by ITP. She also explained the contents of programmes with modules. In details, general information, country reports and project work, the need for chemicals management, principles and key elements of chemical management, occurrence and use of chemicals, hazard assessment and risk assessment, risk management, enforcement, and chemical management in practice-roles, responsibilities and national development are highlighted as the contents of the training Programmes.

Discussions

Day-1

1. How does the EU legislation affect your country and how can you use the EU experience in the development of your legislation?

Cambodia

- **Positive:**
 - Experience legislation format
 - Scientific information/Data (Chemical substances, labeling...)
 - Lesson learned on development process
- **Negative:**
 - Some provisions can not apply in Cambodia
 - Producers and Exporters
 - Cambodia= User and Importer
 - Different: Geography, Culture Economy, Capacity and Awareness
 - Apply to EU legislation (Market, Standard...)
 - Extracted some provisions from EU legislation on chemical management for Cambodia
 - Apply to EU legislation (Market, Standard...)
 - Extracted some provisions from EU legislation on chemical management for Cambodia

Lao PDR

- **Negative affects**
 - Need more awareness, equipments
 - Rising cost for business
 - More procedures, cost and times of checking
- **Positive affects**
 - Cooperation and reduce gaps
 - Safety health and environmental
 - Improve management mechanism
 - Experience in chemical classification, labeling

Myanmar

- We have enacted Prevention of Hazard from Chemical and Related Substances Law on 26 Aug-2013.
- We trying to enact rules of that Law.
- We are attempting to enforcement of that Law.
- We do not apply the EU Legislation yet.
- We can not mention that EU Legislation how much effect on our Country.
- We can use the EU experience as reference in the development of our Legislation.

Vietnam

- REACH, RoHS more or less effected to Vietnam's company who export to EU market: EEE, garment, textile, wood furniture => challenges for Vietnam's enterprise => upgrade there technology for better product
- REACH also main source information for Vietnam in develop Chemical law: registration, declaration, GHS

Thailand

- As Thailand trade with countries in EU, at first the EU legislation negatively affected chemical industries in Thailand. But later on it turned into positive impact as industries have adapted themselves into the system which gear toward risk reduction to health and environment.
- The EU regulation become the lesson learned for Thai regulation bodies as well as become the structure of legal instrument on chemical control that the Thai related agencies can adapt it to its own situation.

2. What area can benefit from cooperation between the countries in the region?

Cambodia

- Sharing information
- Chemical management Experience
- Legislations
- Transboundary monitoring
- Capacity building
- Regional funding mechanism
- Occupational safety and environment

Lao PDR

- International legal framework
- Information sharing
- Technical cooperation mechanism and networking
- Training need

Myanmar

- We can get Knowledge and information
- We can get learning, comparing ,and referring from other countries.
- We can also learn Chemical Data Base.

Vietnam

Information exchange and experiences sharing:

- Orientation on chemical development management (National master plan, National strategy plan);
- Chemical safety management (registration, GHS...);

- Chemicals accident response;
- Chemicals inspection.

Thailand

- Chemical safety and management
- Harmonization of chemical safety and management in ASEAN is need as we are approaching AEC. Minimum requirement on chemical safety and legal control should be discussed and agreed in the region in order to avoid problems related to transportation/trans-boundary issues of illegal trade, illegal dumping of waste, narcotic trade and etc.

3. What additional areas/activities do you think could benefit from further regional programmes' support?

Cambodia

- Chemical management data base
- Comprehensive chemical Inventory
- Improvement of human resource capacity (Decision makers, Government officers, public awareness...)
- Continue supporting pilot project on chemical management (National and regional)
- Set up regional chemical management secretariat forum

Lao PDR

- Regional enforcement network
- Sound management
- Dispatching regional/international expert
- Labeling harmonization

Myanmar

- If we apply the EU Legislation from regional program, we could get some benefits to promote the Health, Environment & Social areas based on Industrial Sectors.
- Especially in detergent, cosmetics , plant protection products etc.

Vietnam

Additional areas proposal by Vietnam's delegation:

- Capacity building
- More activities on pilot project (country and regional level)

Thailand

- Activities on networking and sharing of experiences on chemical safety and management (same as 2).

4. **UNEP as well as Kemi plan to develop a number of guidance documents in areas necessary for a sound chemicals management. Please list the most important areas for you.**

Cambodia

- Chemical in products
- Voluntary guideline for good governance of chemicals
- Guideline on chemical import export, transport, stockpiles and handling
- Guideline on Hazardous waste management
- Guideline for responsible care association
- Lao PDRLegislation development
- Technical assistance
- Funding and equipment support
- Technology and know-how transfer
- Risk assessment
- National strategy and action plan

Myanmar

List of the most important areas are-

- Health & Environment
- Food & Drugs
- Agriculture & Industry
- Mining & Energy
- Trading

Vietnam

The most important areas for sound chemicals management:

- Chemicals database, PRTR;
- Detergent, disinfectant management;
- Mercury management
- Household chemicals, chemicals in food product
- Asbestos Chrysotile management

Thailand

- Guidance documents on risk assessment – 1st priority
- Guidance documents on dossier preparation/review for training of the trainers (this could help to build capacity of third parties in helping industries to prepare dossiers as well as to help regulators to review dossiers.)
- Guidance on how to prepare the country for ratification of Minamata Convention (Hg)

Discussion

Day-2

1. Which are the main challenges for implementing the Minamata Convention in your country?

Cambodia

- Lacking of data/information related to mercury issues
- The capacity building of staffs is still limited
- Public awareness and dissemination to the mercury context is limited
- Public participation and the stakeholder's involvement are still inadequate
- National budget to support national monitoring and researching activities on mercury is very limited

Lao PDR

- Not yet signature on Minamata Convention.
- Under consideration.

Myanmar

- Still we do not ratify to Minamata convention, we can not express the main challenges for implementation exactly.

Vietnam

- Charcoal combustion for: fertilizer, cement, power plant => air filter use electrostatic filter
- Gold purification in gold mining => illegal, at isolated highland area => change technology (Borate technology)
- Mercury in health (Amalgam, thermometer...)
- Lighting => change technology

General:

- Fund
- Raising awareness
- Waste storage in health sector/Treatment

Thailand

Small scale mines

- Controlling of small scale mines at local level which are under local authorities. Local authorities do not have enough capacity to manage. (The mines are located only within the four provinces in the northern part of Thailand).
- Awareness raising among small scale owners and workers of the mines as well as officers at the local level.
- Finding new jobs for workers if the mines are to be closed after implementing Minamata Convention

Use of amalgam in dental activities

- Health coverage do not encourage the use of alternative dental materials as they are more expensive than amalgam, strong effort is needed to convince the government to increase health coverage on alternative items.

Use of Hg in medical equipments (thermometers, pressure meters and etc.)

- Standardization of digital equipments are needed to ensure precision before phasing out of Hg containing thermometers and pressure meters.

2. Please, also state where your country is in the ratification process.

Cambodia

- Signed Minamata convention on 10 October 2013
- Internal discussion for preparation of the ratification document at the Ministry of Environment

Lao PDR

- Under consider by GOL.

Myanmar

- MOECAAF undertakes as focal point for that convention. Now MOECAAF is conducting internal process. It is still submitted to parliament to take the approval.
- After parliament approves it, MOECAAF will ratify to convention sooner.

Vietnam

- Discussion among relevant ministries
- Authorities and industry
- Ratify on 2015

Thailand

- Pollution Control Department (focal point) is studying the readiness of the country and prepare for ratification of Minamata Convention.
 - The study covers legal involvement, impact and benefit assessment of the ratification
 - Public hearing among concerned stakeholders was organized.
 - The study will be completed by this year (2014).
- Thailand will participate in the project - the ratification and early implementation of Minamata Convention by UNITAR which will be 1 year project and the MOU will be signed next month.

3. Has the implementation of the Chemicals Conventions helped you in developing chemicals management in general in your country?

Cambodia

- Yes,
 - Creation of chemical management profile

- Chemical inventory
- Chemical risk assessment
- Identification problem and priorities setting
- Set National objective
- Preparation and updating National Implementation Plan
- Harmonized NIP into the National Plan

Lao PDR

- Global harmonization networking and implementation;
- International, Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation;
- Develop National Legislations;
- Capacity building;
- Programs funding support;
- Technical assistance support for institutional strengthening;
- Information sharing.

Myanmar

- Myanmar has already ratified to the Stockholm Convention since 2004.
- Myanmar has not ratified to Rotterdam, Basel and Minamata Convention related chemical management yet.
- But Myanmar follows up the procedure of Rotterdam convention. And MOAI bans 39 numbers of agricultural chemicals such as pesticide, insecticide, herbicide and fungicide.
- Mercury free health services are initiated by MOH last year 2013 in Yangon region.

Vietnam

- Yes,
 - Chemicals transportation management
 - Chemicals safety management
 - Chemicals weapon management
 - Chemicals waste treatment management

Thailand

- Yes, it has.
 - Implementation of Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions have added value and practical action in chemical management as the national action plan of each convention have to be prepared and implemented. These action plans have been put under the national chemical management plan.
 - Thus, implementation of the conventions have linked our chemical management at the national level to the international and global level.

4. Is the information you receive through the Rotterdam Convention useful for you?

Cambodia

- Yes,
 - Law on ratification for accession of Cambodia
 - Reference for pesticide management
 - Preparation for National Action Plan

Lao PDR

- Useful for Lao PDR;
- Clear procedure of import and export of chemicals;
- Classification of chemical in groups.

Myanmar

- It is useful to prevent on human health and environmental hazard.
- Moreover, we can make the decision not to allow of certain hazardous chemical and pesticide for trading.

Vietnam

Useful:

- Pesticide
- Industrial chemical not so good

Need support:

- Capacity building
- Inventory (new chosen for national focal point)

Thailand

- Yes, it is.
- The commodity codes were added to custom numbers when PICs and POPs substances are imported to the country making the inventory of PICs and POPs substances in place leading to suitable control and tracking of these substances once they have entered into the country.
- In the future, this information will be linked/collected into the national chemical inventory.

Annex 1: Agenda

Day 1 – Tuesday, October 28		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
Registration and opening of the Forum		
8.30–9.00	Registration	Mol, Myanmar
9.00–9.15	Welcome remarks and opening speech by Host country	Mol, Myanmar
9.15–9.30	Welcome remarks by Sweden	Ule Johansson, Swedish Chemicals Agency
Part 1: Presentations of country situations		
9.30–9.50	Latest development in Myanmar	Myanmar
9.50–10.10	Latest development in Lao PDR	Lao PDR
10.10–10.30	Latest development in Vietnam	Vietnam
10.30–10.50	Photo session and coffee/tea break	
10.50–11.10	Present situation in Cambodia	Cambodia
11.10–11.30	Introduction to activities on chemicals management in Ministry of the Environment of Japan	Japan
Part 2: Legislation – Development in EU, Vietnam and Thailand		
11.30–12.30	Experience from the development and implementation of the REACH regulation in EU	Ms. Eva Sandberg Swedish Chemicals Agency
12.30–13.30	Lunch	
13.30–14.10	Presentation of Vietnam's positive and negative experiences of its chemicals law (focus on Chemical management based on lists and Plan for response to chemicals incidents)	Vinachemia
14.10–14.50	Overview of Thailand's chemicals management and it's challenges for future development	Ms. Amornrat Leenanithikul, Food and Drug Administration, Thailand and Ms. Yuwaree Inna, independent consultant from Thailand
14.50–15.30	Presentation of the LIRA guidance developed by UNEP	Mr. Ule Johansson, Swedish Chemicals Agency
15.30–17.00	Country discussions (including coffee/tea break)	All
17.00–17.30	Reflections	All
18.30	Workshop dinner	

Day 2 – Wednesday, 29 October 2014		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
Part 3: Follow up on Minamata and other chemicals conventions		
8.30–9.15	UNEP regional office in Bangkok, presentation of plans for activities in the region (special focus on activities connected to mercury).	Mr. Iyngararasan Mylvakanam, UNEP
9.15–10.00	Substitution of Asbestos chrysotile, practical examples	Mr. Ule Johansson, Swedish Chemicals Agency
10.00–10.30	Coffee/tea break	
10.30–12.30	Country discussions and presentations	All
12.30–13.30	Lunch	
Part 4: Study visit		
13.30–16.30	Study visit	Mol, Myanmar

Day 3 – Thursday, 30 October 2014		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
8.30 – 8.45	Introductory remarks	Mr. Göran Haag, Embassy of Sweden in Thailand, Development Cooperation Section
Part 5: E-waste and other chemical related waste problems		
8.45 – 9.15	Chemicals legislation and waste legislation. How do they connect?	Ule Johansson Swedish Chemicals Agency
9.15 – 9.45	Examples of e-waste handling in Cambodia	Mr. Laska Sophal, MoE Cambodia
9.45 – 10.30	Presentation of the Stockholm and Basel Convention Regional Centre in Beijing, special focus on activities connected to e-waste	Mr. Qingyin Dong, Stockholm and Basel Convention Regional Centre
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee/tea break	
11.00 – 12.15	Country discussions	All
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch	
13.15 – 14.30	Presentations	All
14.30 – 14.45	Presentation of the International Training Program (ITP) on Chemicals Management	Eva Sandberg Swedish Chemicals Agency
Closing session		
14.45 – 15.15	Evaluation of Forum 8 (including coffee/tea)	All
15.15 – 15.45	Closing remarks by host country Myanmar and the Swedish Chemicals Agency. End of Forum 8	Mol, Myanmar Mr. Ule Johansson, Swedish Chemicals Agency

Annex 2: List of participants

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