

National and Regional Experiences on Promoting Chemical Safety through Life Cycle

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April 2010

Origins IPEN – Life-cycle & POPs

- ▶ POPs – Persistent Organic Pollutants
- ▶ IPEN – International POPs Elimination Network, 700+ NGO members & over 100 countries
- ▶ POPs Treaty– a Chemical Safety Treaty, which focuses on reducing with the aim to eliminate POPs.
- ▶ New POPs – two classes of Brominated Flame Retardants (e-products & furniture)

Introduction: Definitions

- ▶ Chemical safety: applying a system that ensures levels of chemical compounds in the environment do not pose threat to human health and environment.

Bans & Phase-outs: In some specific cases, such as POPs, chemical safety requires ban or the elimination of production of the substance due to unmanageable human and environmental health risks.

Definitions

- ▶ Life-cycle: extraction, production, transport, manufacturing, use and disposal.



Life-cycle of POPs in Africa

- ▶ Legacy Issue:
Africa Stockpiles Project
- ▶ Trade Issue:
End of life product/waste



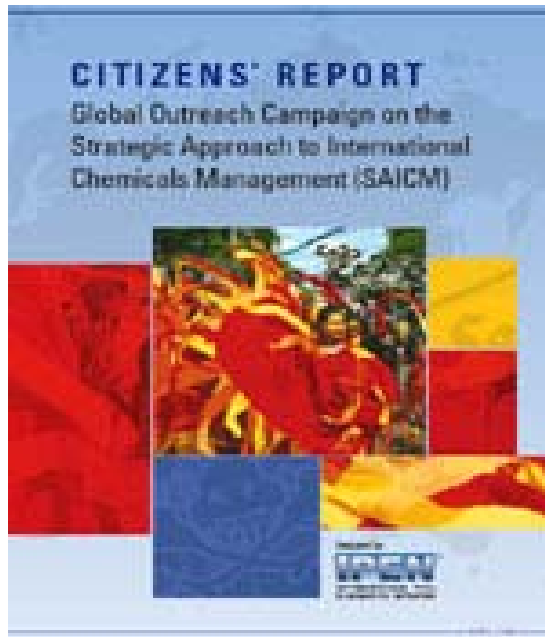
Life-cycle & Poverty

- ▶ Always the poorest and the least educated who do the most dangerous jobs, day labourers who have no choice but to take any work, women and children who live from hand to mouth are more vulnerable



Gaps in life-cycle chemicals management at National / Regional Levels

► 2009 Global and Regional Assessment of SAICM implementation: East Africa results



- 1) Lack of information on industrial releases
- 2) Lack of regulation to monitor waste disposal (i.e. E-waste)
- 3) Limited engagement and understanding of chemical safety regulations
- 4) Poor or nonexistent monitoring of production & economic activities
- 5) Inadequate financial resources to manage chemicals
- 6) Insufficient national and public capacity to implement & monitor regulations
- 7) Insufficient and unavailable information on chemical safety issues

Gaps in life-cycle chemicals management at National / Regional and International Levels

- ▶ Efforts to manage chemicals (in general terms) are not internalized into a wider range of development and investment mechanisms/programmes within countries
- ▶ Polluter Pays Principle and internalization of costs is broadly supported but hardly implemented
- ▶ A global cost recovery scheme from the industry could yield significant financial resources for sound chemicals management

Gaps in life-cycle chemicals management at National / Regional and International Levels

- ▶ Overall: Capacity for the sound management of chemicals in developing nations is limited across the life-cycle management spectrum

Opportunity: SAICM

- ▶ SAICM provides an opportunity for implementing chemicals safety across the life cycle of chemicals as it addresses all issues from policies to disposal of chemicals waste

Life-cycle & SAICM

- ▶ SAICM integrates chemicals management into the international sustainable development agenda

SAICM Text:

II. Scope

3. The Strategic Approach has a scope that includes:

(a) Environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemical safety,

(b) Agricultural and industrial chemicals, with a view to promoting sustainable development and covering chemicals at all stages of their life-cycle, including in products.

Life-cycle & SAICM

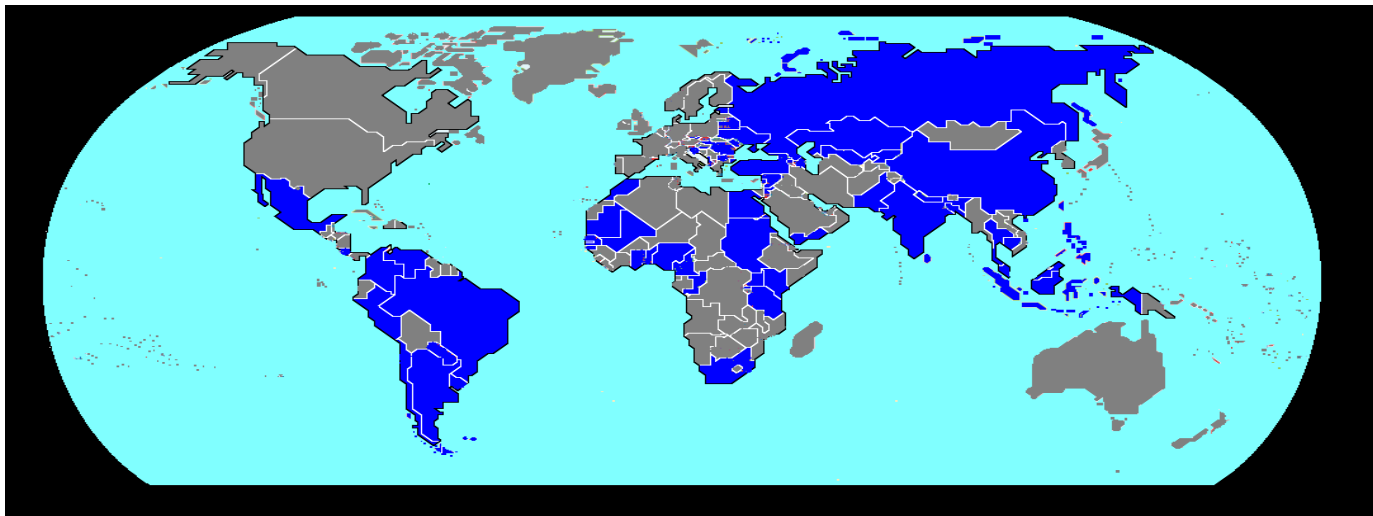
- ▶ However, lack of international commitment /goodwill may also affect the implementation of SAICM

Opportunity: Electrical products

- ▶ A case example is toxic chemicals in electrical and electronic products
- ▶ More than 160 countries at SAICM regional meetings have agreed on substantial items to address upstream, midstream, and downstream issues related to electronic products
- ▶ In May 2009, ICCM2 recognized that e-waste is an emerging issue that need special attention and thus it decided that a special workshop was needed to address the issue
- ▶ So far, no donor wants to fund this workshop

Promoting NGO capacity building and elevating chemical safety awareness: POPs

► IPEP – International POPs Elimination Project



IPEP from 2004–06, 350 NGOs in 65 developing and transitional countries completed 290 IPEP activities

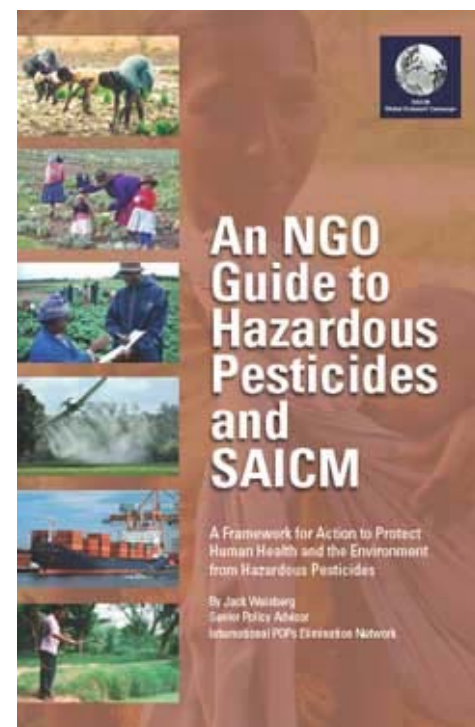
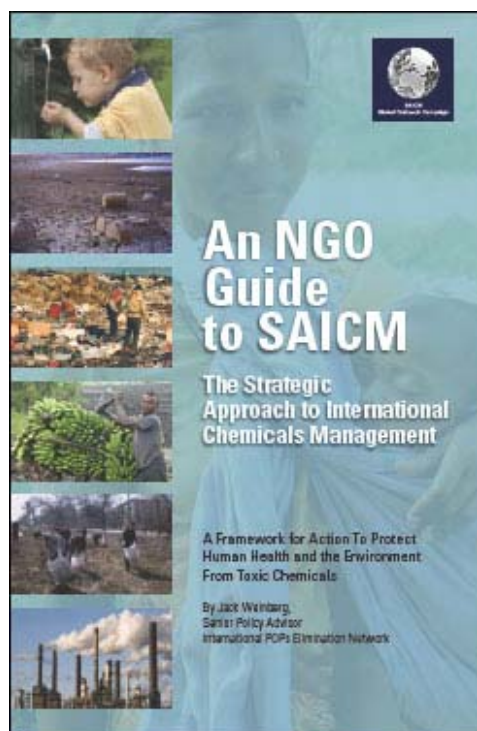
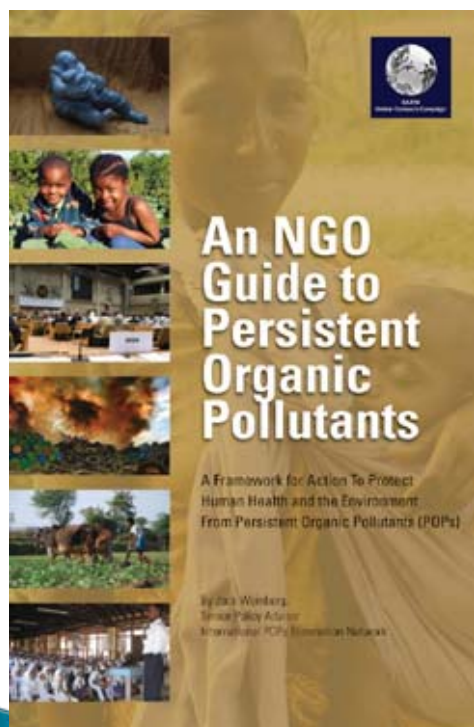
Promoting NGO capacity building & elevating chemical safety awareness: SAICM

- ▶ Global Outreach Campaign: Reach-out educate, orient and engage over 1,000 NGOs to endorse Common Statement and support SAICM



Promoting NGO capacity building & elevating chemical safety awareness: SAICM

- ▶ Global Outreach Campaign:
Education Material: POPs, SAICM & Pesticides




Promoting NGO capacity building and elevating chemical safety awareness: Heavy Metals

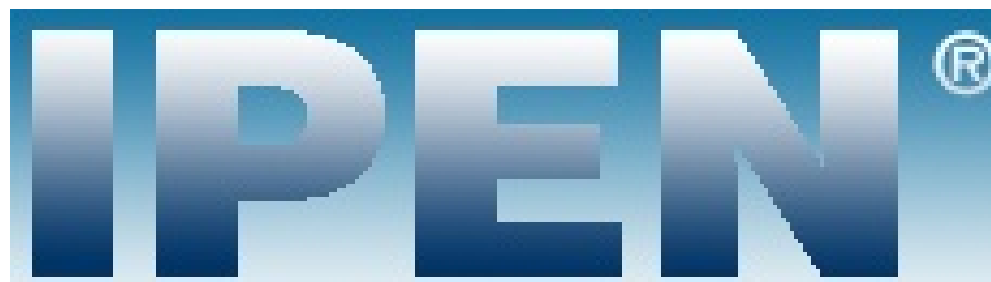


IPEN International Heavy Metals Program

- ▶ **Lead**
 - 2008 proposed Lead in Paint SAICM emerging issue.
 - 2009 Launch Global Campaign to Eliminate Lead in Paint
- ▶ **Mercury**
 - 2009 Global NGO Mercury Platform
 - 2010 Global Mercury Free Campaign

Closing

- ▶ Chemical Safety requires access to information, political will to design a sound chemical management system, capacity and resources to implement, monitor and adjust the system to protect human health and the environment.
 - ▶ E-waste is an iconic chemical safety issue that cuts across many chemical conventions, and provides an opportunity for the SAICM process to achieve change in this mounting global toxic threat
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Working Together for a
Toxics-Free Future

Learn more at: www.ipen.org