

Thematic Workshop on Governance, Civil Society Participation and Strengthening Partnerships for Chemicals and Waste Management and SAICM Implementation

Workshop Paper

Topic: Designing and Implementing Effective Chemical Management Partnership Projects through Collaboration of government, Industry and Public, Interest and Labor Organizations.

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Background

The importance of proper chemicals management has been viewed as one of the tools to foster development. In Liberia, chemical issues have been approached using the partnership and collaborative mechanism to address the management of chemicals. We suffer from weak import controls, lack of training on appropriate chemical use, a lack of safe destructive technologies, poor storage management etc.

Hence, this calls for an integrated chemical management program. Liberia acknowledges the threat posed by chemicals and is committed to goals of the 2002 world summit on Sustainable Development that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment

Implementation Strategy

We have started a unique partnership program between government, the private sector and environmental organizations to tackle the problems of chemicals. Firstly Liberia is a party to some major chemical related conventions: Rotterdam convention, Basel convention, Stockholm convention and have also fully participated in the SAICM process.

At the national level partnership mechanism have been put in place to coordinate and manage chemical activities such as:

- ◆ The formation of the National Chemical Task Force whose members are drawn from the government, industries, non governmental organizations and chemical related private institutions.
- ◆ Expert task team on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- ◆ Expert task team on Mercury
- ◆ A national solid waste management task force will soon be established to oversee problems of waste nationwide
- ◆ A new chemical management reform committee will also be organized
- ◆ All of this arrangements will be pursued through diagnostic and analytic work, knowledge sharing and capacity building programs