

National Chemicals Management Profile Review and SAICM Capacity Assessment Workshop



NATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT PROFILE REVIEW
AND
NATIONAL SAICM CAPACITY ASSESSMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP
26 and 29 SEPTEMBER 2008
OTINTAAI HOTEL, TARAWA, KIRIBATI



Prepared by Danfung Binoka



unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

INTRODUCTION

The National Chemicals Management workshop was enabled through the financial support of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. The workshop held at the Otintaai Hotel on 26 and 29 September 2008, had the following objectives:

- (i) To review the draft national profile for chemicals management infrastructure report,
- (ii) Planning of the national SAICM capacity assessment for chemicals management

The workshop was opened by welcoming remarks by ECD's Deputy Director, Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu, on behalf of SAICM National Focal Point. A keynote introduction was conveyed by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research's (UNITAR) Representative, Mr. Brandon Turner, followed by brief introductions of participants (Annex 2).

The National SAICM Project Coordinator, Mr. Farran Redfern provided an overview of the workshop programme (Annex 1) and overall objectives. The UNITAR's Representative gave introductory presentations on the Kiribati SAICM project, and on the SAICM Quick Start Program Trust Fund project, that provided for the enabling phase for SAICM implementation which included updating of the national chemical profile and identification of capacity needs for chemical management.

REVIEW of NATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT PROFILE

The methodology for updating the national chemicals management profile was introduced by UNITAR's Representative, followed by the presentation of the draft national chemicals management profile report by the SAICM Local Consultant, Mrs Danfung Binoka.

The rest of the day was dedicated to group work and discussions by participants. Three groups of about 7-10 individuals were assigned to review about four chapters each.

The following lists the main findings/comments presented from all groups for consideration into the national chemicals management profile report:

- Support for the protection of the fresh groundwater resource from chemical contamination sources including from petroleum and used petroleum products and bitumen at Bonriki
- Concerns on the limited chemical storage spaces, and the need to provide resolutions for the disposal of pharmaceutical wastes, and other obsolete chemicals
- Concerns on toxic chemicals still used in schools and the need for revision of school curriculums to replace chemicals of concern to safer alternatives
- The need to involve drama and more school activities as non-regulatory mechanisms for the management of chemicals
- Emphasis on the importance of public awareness on chemicals and their management, and the use of multiple mechanisms
- To include other relevant legislations that impact on chemical management including the Education law
- The lack of data for different stages of chemicals life cycle, and the need for easy access to data from different sectors
- Inclusion of laboratory infrastructure existing in other parts of the country
- The importance and the need for enforcement of occupational, health and safety guidelines to all workers dealing with chemicals
- Local expertise was lacking for chemicals management including for storage, handling, use, and disposal; and the need to address this human resources development gap across sectors.

NATIONAL SAICM CAPACITY ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT

Day two focused on planning and preparation activities for the SAICM capacity assessment. Participants were introduced to the concept of mainstreaming i.e. the integration of chemicals issues into the national development planning process, presented by UNITAR's Representative.

The methodology for the capacity assessment was also presented, and followed by group exercises. Participants were again divided into three groups of about 7-10 individuals and each assigned to work on each structured worksheet of the national SAICM assessment. The worksheets were designed by the SAICM international project to assist countries at the national level with the identification and organisation of SAICM-related priorities and activities.

Participants managed to complete worksheet 1 (Identification of key actors for work areas listed in Table A of the SAICM global plan of action), worksheet 2 (Governance assessment), and attempted worksheet 3 (Identification of important and urgent chemicals management issues). Participants then presented on results of their group work on the corresponding allocated worksheets.

Because of time constraints, participants were encouraged to complete worksheet 3 and also attempt worksheet 4 after the workshop, and to submit these to the SAICM National Project Coordinator at ECD. Worksheet 3 would serve as a prerequisite for worksheet 4 (Capacity Assessment of important and urgent chemicals management issues) that would become a focus on the next workshop. All completed worksheets for the SAICM assessment were kept with ECD, and to be used in the next SAICM capacity assessment follow up workshop.

Final discussions were on the suggested steps for coordinating of the participants/stakeholders' work and timelines for completing the SAICM assessment.

CONCLUSIONS

The two day workshop was wrapped up by UNITAR's Representative, and the national chemical profile and capacity assessment were highlighted as important in providing the framework for areas that need to be fulfilled for the sound management of chemicals in Kiribati. The next steps for the SAICM assessment were explained in the form of a second workshop that would focus on the setting of capacity assessment priorities. All participants were thanked for their dedicated efforts in the two day workshop. Concluding remarks for participants were presented by Mr. Karawe Teroroko from KANGO. The workshop was officially closed with final remarks by the National SAICM Project Coordinator on behalf of ECD and MELAD, and the closing was later followed by refreshments.

ANNEX 1:

PROGRAMME

NATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT PROFILE REVIEW AND NATIONAL SAICM CAPACITY ASSESSMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP

National Chemicals Management Profile Review and National SAICM Capacity Assessment Planning Meeting

KIRIBATI
26 and 29 September, 2008

Day One: 26 September

08.30 – 09.00 Registration of Participants

09.00 – 09.30 Opening Remarks

- SAICM National Focal Point, *[OIC, MELAD]*
- UNITAR Representative, *[Brandon Turner, UNITAR]*
- Introduction of Participants

09.30 – 10.00 **Coffee Break**

10.10 – 10.15 Brief Introduction of the Project and Meeting Objectives
[ECD]

10.15 – 10.40 Introduction of SAICM, *[Brandon Turner, UNITAR]*

Review and Finalize the National Chemicals Management Profile

11.40 – 11.00 Presentation of Methodology for Updating National Chemicals Management Profiles, *[Brandon Turner, UNITAR]*

11.00 – 11.30 Presentation of the Revised Draft of the National Profile and Updating Process, *[Danfung Binoka, SAICM Local Consultant]*

National Chemicals Management Profile Review and SAICM Capacity Assessment Workshop

11.30 – 12.30	National Profile: Review and Discussion
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.30	National Profile: Review and Discussion cont'd
14.30 – 15.30	Presentation of Group Discussion Results
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break
16.00 – 16.15	Plenary Discussion and Endorsement of National Profile with amendments

END of DAY 1

Day Two: 29 September

National SAICM Capacity Assessment Development

09.00 – 09.20	Presentation of Methodology for Preparing National Capacity Assessments for SAICM Implementation [<i>Brandon Turner, UNITAR</i>]
09.20 – 10.00	Working Groups: Worksheet 1 “Identifying Key Actors for the Work Areas Listed in Table A of the SAICM Global Plan of Action” (see Revised Worksheets)
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee Break
11.00 – 11.45	Presentation of Working Groups (Worksheet 1) and Discussion in Plenary
11.45 – 12.30	Working Groups: Worksheet 3 “Identification of Important and Urgent Chemicals Management Issues” (see Revised Worksheets)
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.30	Working Groups: Worksheet 3 cont'd

National Chemicals Management Profile Review and SAICM Capacity Assessment Workshop

15.30 – 16.45	Presentation of Working Groups (Worksheet 3) and Discussion in Plenary
16.45 – 17.00	<p>Plenary Discussion on Coordination, Responsibilities, and Timelines for Preparing the National SAICM Capacity Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Suggested Steps for Work Coordination (see Document “<i>Suggestions for Organising the National SAICM Capacity Assessment</i>”) • Identification of the Roles and Responsibilities of Participating Stakeholders, and Timelines for Completing the Assessment
17.00 – 17.20	Final Conclusions and Next Steps
17.20 – 17.30	Closing Remarks

END of DAY 2

ANNEX 2:

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

National Chemicals Management Profile Review and SAICM Capacity Assessment Workshop

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National Chemicals Management Profile Review and SAICM Capacity Assessment Workshop

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