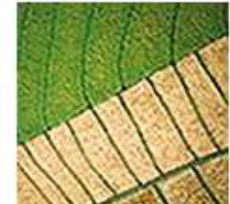


Chemicals in Products Project

Kevin Munn
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BizNGO Annual Meeting
Framingham, Mass. - 1 December 2011



UNEP and chemicals



- Brief background on UNEP
 - UNEP's 6 subprogramme areas
- Multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM
- Chemicals in products activities under SAICM

UNEP



United Nations Environment Program



- 1972 – UN General Assembly directed UNEP to serve as the coordinator of environmental issues and catalyst for environmental action and awareness within the United Nations System.

UNEP's programme areas







- Climate change
- Resource efficiency
- Environmental governance
- Disasters and conflicts
- Ecosystem management
- Harmful substances and hazardous waste

(<http://www.unep.org>)

Chemicals at UNEP



- A high priority at UNEP since its inception
- Recognizes the differentiated needs and capacities of countries to manage chemicals
- Legal instruments: e.g. Multilateral environmental agreements
 -  Montreal Protocol - 1987 (ozone-depleting substances)
 -  Basel Convention – 1992 (transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes)
 -  Rotterdam Convention – 2004 (certain pesticides and industrial chemicals)
 -  Stockholm Convention – 2006 (persistent organic pollutants – POPs)
 - Mercury (under negotiation) – scheduled for 2013

Chemicals at UNEP - 2



Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

- Established in 2006 at the first International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM)
- Overall objective: to achieve sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that “by 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health” (2002 World Summit goal)
- Voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach (governments, business and industry, civil society, labour)
- SAICM text: political declaration, policy strategy with specific objectives, plan of action
- ICCM (SAICM’s Governing body) meets ~ every 3 years

(<http://www.saicm.org>)

Chemicals in Products project



- ICCM2 (2009) identified chemicals in products (CiP) as one of 4 emerging global policy issues for cooperative action (others: nanotechnology, electronics, lead in paint and, as a separate issue, perfluorinated chemicals)
 - CiP responds to SAICM objective on Knowledge and Information (Para 15b) - to ensure that “information on chemicals throughout their life cycle, including, where appropriate, chemicals in products, is available, accessible, user friendly and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders”
- Invited UNEP to lead the project to:
 - Investigate existing systems of CiP information exchange
 - Identify stakeholder needs for CiP information and gaps
 - Recommend to ICCM3 (2012) actions to address the issue

Examples of information systems



- Product labels
- Databases, either publicly available or of limited access (i.e. when information is confidential or proprietary)
- Restricted substance lists (company driven)
- Safety data sheets (SDS)

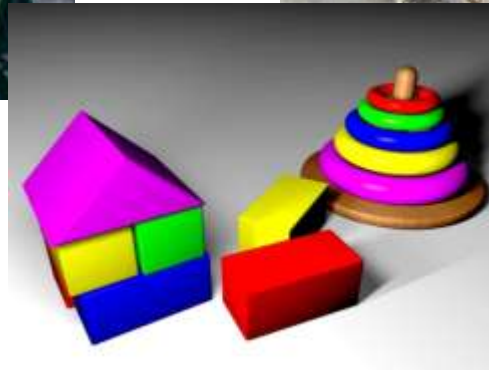


CiP project



Why a chemicals-in-products project?

- Growing awareness of potential adverse effects of chemicals found in common products → increasing pressure for information on chemicals in products



CiP project



Why a chemicals-in-products project?

- Efforts already underway: REACH SVHC, GHS/SDS, sector / company specific; developing countries → needs are largely unmet



EPD[®]



- Harmonization and synergism would facilitate efforts

CiP project – Major activities to date



- Initial project scope defined (priority product sectors: electronics, children's articles, clothing, building products, cosmetics/personal care and food containers/packaging)
- Global report of drivers and major global trends in chemicals in products information exchange, as well as global system descriptions and needs analysis
- In-depth priority sector case studies of existing information exchange activities and experience, stakeholder needs and gaps
- Extensive consultation (multi-stakeholder project Steering Group) to monitor activities and results, provide advice, build awareness, gather input / feedback

Findings - Common drivers for chemicals information exchange



- Need to meet legislative requirements (a major driver for most current chemicals in products information systems)
- Concerns among consumers and public interest groups regarding safety of products;
- Industry concern for product liability and brand and corporate image;
- Corporate policies regarding safety, health and environmental performance;
- These drivers are present in all countries. However, in developed countries they result in CiP information exchange at a much higher level.

Findings - Obstacles to information exchange

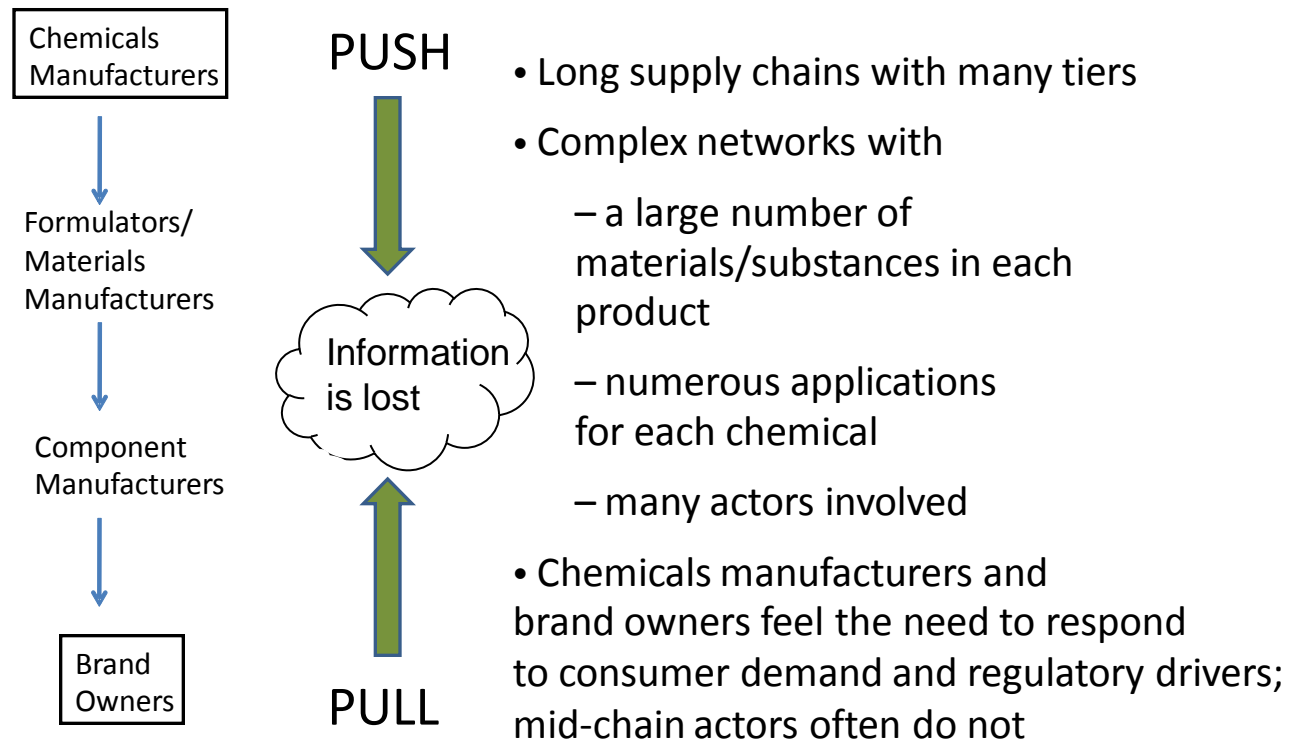


- Complexity of the issue
- Lack of standardized systems
- Lack of defined roles and responsibilities
- Costs and other resource implications for gathering and processing the information
- Information is not carried through the production chain / life-cycle
 - lack of requests or of perceived needs to transmit the information → lack of mid-chain drivers
 - confidential nature of the information
 - has not been done in the past → a new activity which needs time and effort to establish

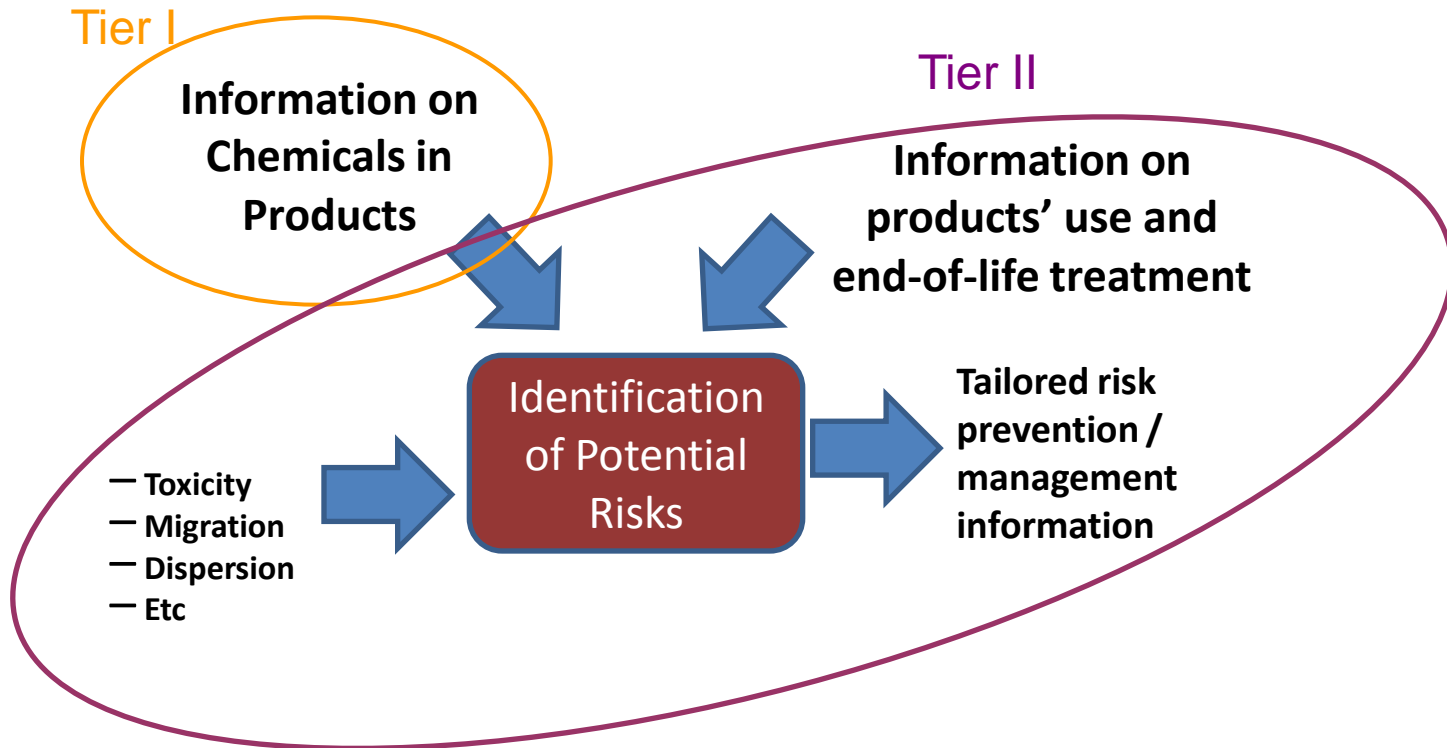
Findings - Gaps in information exchange



Production chain “pull” and “push” of information access and provision



Tier I and Tier II information



CiP project Workshop



International Workshop – March, 2011

- ~85 participants - all regions and major stakeholder groups represented
- Recommended the development of a programme to facilitate the exchange of information on chemicals in products
- Identified elements for the next steps in the CiP project
- Suggested pilot testing in one or more sectors

Recommendations to ICCM3



Development of a programme to facilitate the exchange of information on chemicals in products. The programme could:

- (a) Identify the roles and responsibilities of the major stakeholder groups
- (b) Establish principles on what information could be transferred to different stakeholders and how that transfer could take place
- (c) Build on existing experiences of best practices

Development of the programme could draw on the CiP project meetings / discussions and other existing knowledge

Proposal for the programme to be submitted to ICCM4 (2015)

Recommendations to ICCM3



Elements to address during the development of the programme:

- Principles on what chemicals information could be transferred to different stakeholders → i.e. what information, for which chemicals and how transmitted
- The need to address differentiated needs of different stakeholders, sectors and regions
- Build on related activities (cost of inaction, capacity building, technical and financial assistance)
- Actions to gain buy-in by industry and other stakeholders
- Treatment of confidential business information
- Development of guidance documents – both general and sector specific – and including:
 - promotion of successful systems
 - use of standardized languages
 - policy guidelines
 - proposals for regulatory tools

CiP project – Next steps



Finalize recommendations to ICCM3

- Were considered at the SAICM Open-ended Working Group (November 15-18, 2011 – Belgrade, Serbia)
 - Broad support voiced – a round of consultations to finalize the recommendations prior to ICCM3

Outreach and awareness raising among stakeholders

- Identify partners for an eventual sector pilot test(s)

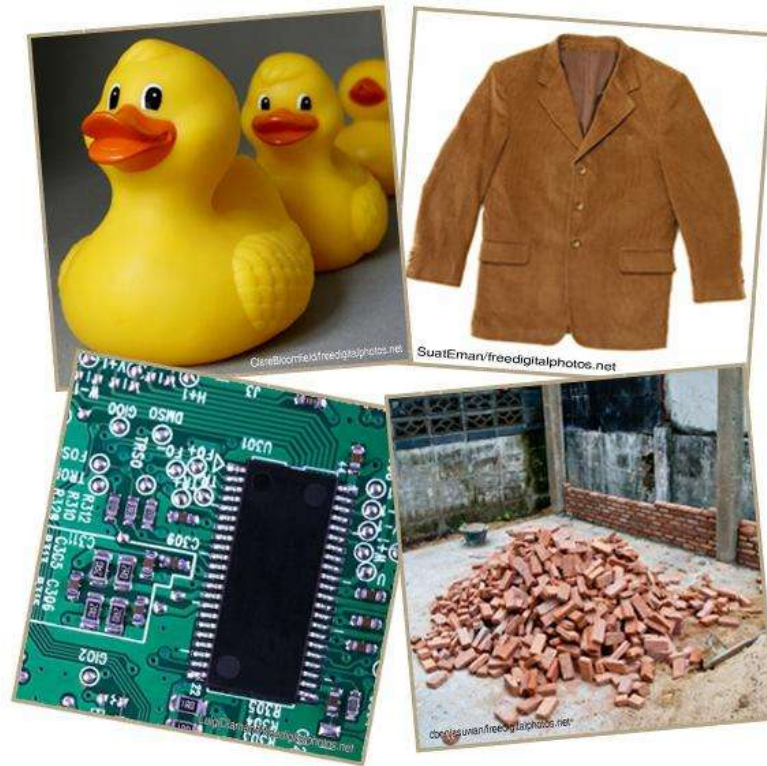
Development of a project plan for the next intersessional period (2012 – 2015)

Decision point: ICCM3 in 2012 – will consider results and recommendations and decide on future actions

Key points



- UNEP CiP project has many parallel activities with the BizNGO CiP activities
- CiP project is an international forum where best practices in Know and Disclose can reach a wide audience
- ICCM3 is a high-visibility opportunity for presenting results
 - September 17-21, 2012 in Nairobi
- Pilot projects foreseen under the CiP project - an opportunity to expand / replicate activities under the Know and Disclose principle.
- Work in alternatives assessments and avoiding hazards is a strong motivation



THANK YOU

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