

A few examples of successful joint activities

- ✓ **Establishing and implementing a Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)**, in the area of health and environmental hazards (and associated training and capacity building programmes for its implementation).
www.oecd.org/env/classify
www.unitar.org/cwg/specialised/ghs.html
- ✓ **Addressing the problems of obsolete/unwanted pesticides in Africa (“Africa Stockpiles Programme”)**, by building capacity in the countries for prevention, management and disposal of obsolete pesticides.
www.africastockpiles.org
- ✓ **Supporting countries to implement the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade**, through the Secretariat provided jointly by FAO and UNEP in Rome and Geneva.
www.pic.int
- ✓ **Assessing Existing Chemicals**, through sharing the burden of information gathering, testing, assessment of High Production Volume Chemicals among OECD countries and identifying the needs for further work on such chemicals.
www.oecd.org/env/existingchemicals/siars
- ✓ **Developing guidance on, and promotion of, Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) and Release Estimation Techniques (RETs)**
www.oecd.org/env/prtr
www.unitar.org/cwg/specialised/prtr.html
- ✓ **Supporting countries to implement the Stockholm Convention on POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) and to develop their National Implementation Plans (NIPs)**
www.pops.int/documents/implementation/nips

SAICM Implementation

IOMC was a co-convenor, together with UNEP and IFCS, of the International Conference on Chemical Safety held in Dubai in 2006 and actively contributed to the development of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). IOMC plays a key role in the implementation of government-mandated priorities agreed for SAICM.

www.chem.unep.ch/saicm
www.who.int/iomc/saicm/en/

- A **source book for SAICM implementation**, listing materials available from IOMC organizations on chemicals management, is in preparation.

IOMC Calendar and Inventory

The following tools have been developed to help ensure coordination of IOMC activities:

- a **Calendar of Events**, listing the past and future meetings, workshops, seminars, etc. of the IOMC organizations
- an **Inventory of Activities**, providing a summary of past and current projects of the IOMC organizations

They are both available as a database on the IOMC website.

More about the IOMC

Please visit the website www.iomc.ch

For further information, please contact:
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INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

IOMC

What is the IOMC?

The IOMC (Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals) brings together nine international organizations actively involved in chemical safety.

What is the objective of the IOMC?

The objective of the IOMC is to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals and to increase the effectiveness of the organisations' international chemicals programmes. It promotes coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

The IOMC Vision Statement

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) is the pre-eminent mechanism for initiating, facilitating and coordinating international action to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal for sound management of chemicals.

Who is involved in the IOMC?

The members of the IOMC consist of the following seven “Participating Organizations”:

- **FAO**, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (based in Rome)
www.fao.org
- **ILO**, the International Labour Organization (based in Geneva)
www.ilo.org/safework
- **OECD**, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (based in Paris)
www.oecd.org/ehs
- **UNEP**, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP Chemicals is based in Geneva)
www.chem.unep.ch
- **UNIDO**, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (based in Vienna)
www.unido.org
- **UNITAR**, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (based in Geneva)
www.unitar.org/cwm
- **WHO**, the World Health Organization (based in Geneva)
www.who.int/ipcs/en

In addition, two observer organizations are also participating in the IOMC:

- **UNDP**, the United Nations Development Programme (based in New York)
www.undp.org/energyandenvironment
- **World Bank** (based in Washington)
www.worldbank.org

Why the IOMC?

The IOMC was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (also known as the Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro and in particular those in Chapter 19 of the conference report (Agenda 21) about toxic chemicals. FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO and WHO initially signed a Memorandum of Understanding; UNITAR joined IOMC in 1997. In 2006 SAICM reasserted the coordination function of the IOMC.

What are the subjects covered by the IOMC?

The IOMC works on subjects related to chemical safety. For example, the IOMC addresses key areas such as those previously elaborated in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and which are now covered by the SAICM Global Plan of Action:

1. **Risk Reduction**
2. **Knowledge and Information**
3. **Governance**
4. **Capacity-building and technical cooperation**
5. **Illegal traffic**

How does the IOMC operate?

The IOMC organizations coordinate their activities on chemicals management through the IOCC (Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee). The IOCC is composed of representatives of the Participating Organizations who meet twice a year. Observer Organizations may also attend the meetings. The Chair of the IOCC serves for one year on a rotational basis.

The WHO is the current administering organization for the IOMC and provides secretariat services to the IOCC.

The IOCC coordinates the planning, programming, funding, implementation and monitoring of activities undertaken jointly or individually by the IOMC organizations. In full consultation among all those involved, it helps identify gaps or overlaps in international activities, and makes recommendations on common policies.

The IOCC fosters information exchange and joint planning with the aim to ensure effective implementation without duplication. Because intergovernmental organisations are mandated by their respective governing bodies and funded by governments, the latter will benefit directly from the IOMC through efficiencies which can be obtained through optimal co-ordination of the work of the IOMC participants.