**TASK FORCE 10: PREVENTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

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Effective occupational health practice requires not only the front-line OHS at the enterprise and local levels, but also several expert services that individual companies or workplaces may not be afforded to sustain. Expert advisory and analytical services of occupational hygienists, ergonomists, and safety engineers, among others will be needed. In all steps of occupational health practice the principles of total quality management and continuous quality improvement should be followed.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS: PREVENTIVE TECHNOLOGY (TF10)**

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**Dust control course (PACE-initiated)**

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*Keywords*: prevention, control, dust

*Target Group*: industry based health and safety officers, industry based ventilation officers, occupational health inspectors, environmental health officers, industry based occupational nurses and doctors, lecturers involved in teaching dust control methods

The objective of this project was to prepare training material and to arrange courses based on the WHO/PACE dust control document. This includes the document Hazard Prevention and Control in the Work Environment – airborne dust, a CD-ROM-based training material including the text document as well as a number of video files illustrating different phenomena’s, practical solutions etc. The videos use different visualisation methods as PIMEX, dust lamp and the use of smoke. Material were also be prepared for lecturers preparing the courses.

The CD-ROMs were used in two pilot courses in Cape Town and Johannesburg in March 2003. The CD-ROMs are available from the Project Officers and NIWL and from WHO (kortummargote@who.int) free of charge.

The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland and the University of Cape Town, South Africa collaborated on the project.

*Project start date*: January 2003

*Project end date*: September 2004

**GTZ Convention Project Chemical Safety**

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*Keywords*: chemical management; control banding; developing countries; prevention

*Target group*: small and medium-sized enterprises with chemical hazards

The project aims to support developing countries in the implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, create human resources and institutional capacities and to demonstrate via pilot measures how chemical safety in the partner countries can be improved and sustainably implemented in line with international standards. With this objective the development of a Chemical Management Guide (CM Guide) for small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries has been initiated. The guide describes a step-by-step approach which is based on identifying ‘hot-spots’ and develop an action plan for the implementation of improvement. In a second step the companies are trained to make an inventory of all chemicals within their company with the aim to provide the information needed to calculate losses, consider substitutes, and determine and evaluate adequate controls on the basis of the ILO Toolkit. Thus, the CM Guide is a management tool for cost management, environmental and occupational hygiene management, and organisational change.

Based on the ideas outlined above, a draft version of the CM Guide was developed and tested in practice. Experiences from workshops held in Indonesia and from a test implementation of this approach in five Indonesian SMEs are available. These experiences provide insight into the obstacles that companies typically
face in undertaking chemical management. Currently a “handbook for trainers” is being developed that aims to provide local trainers with teaching materials on control banding and occupational safety. Workshops were held in Chile in March 2004 and in Vietnam in April 2004.

Products: Chemical Management Guide in English and Bahasa Indonesia, Handbook for Trainers in English. Both are translated into Spanish, French and Vietnamese.

Application of preventive technologies to focus especially on small enterprises

Tom Sorahan, University of Birmingham, UK (t.m.sorahan@bham.ac.uk); Heather Jackson, IOHA, USA (Heather.Jackson@lyondell.com)

Keywords: prevention, control banding, participatory occupational hygiene, work-related illness, ILO Toolkit

Target group: All interested Collaborating Centres over and beyond those who have currently expressed interest.

The objective of the project is to make the control banding techniques, as illustrated by the ILO Toolkit, usable by all participating Collaborating Centres and allow them to translate the Toolkit to ensure a culturally appropriate version for them to distribute, evaluate, and eventually implement. Translation of the Toolkit for local applications will best assist individual countries to begin application of the Toolkit and to focus on the needs of small enterprises. The project also aims at creating a mechanism to share successes and practical applications with similar trades and small enterprises based in part on the concepts of participatory occupational hygiene.

A two-day workshop on Control Banding was hosted in London, UK on the 4th and 5th of November, 2002. The centres collaborating on the project are Japan (NIIH), China (Dept OH + IOM), Viet Nam (NIOEH), Chile (ACS), Thailand (NICE + Dept. of PH), Russia (SCIIOH), Bulgaria (NCHM), Serbia and Montenegro (IOPH), South Africa (NCOH) and India (NIOH), UK (HSE); USA (NIOSH).

Further development of PACE (India)

H.N. Saiyed (saiyedhn@yahoo.com), National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, India

Keywords: National silicosis elimination programme, agate industry, quartz crushing industry, stone quarries, dust control device.

Target groups: Employers, workers, occupational health and safety regulation enforcing agencies, policy makers, trade unions, general public with emphasis on people living in the surrounding of the high risk industry.

The purpose of the project is to develop simple and affordable dust control devices for the industries with high risk of silicosis. This activity is one of the Component of National Silicosis Elimination Programme and the progress is as follows:

- Dust control system developed and successfully installed for the agate industry. The evaluation work is completed. Ten factories are already using the dust control devices.
- Dust control device developed and installed in quartz grinding factories. The evaluation work is on the way.
- Development of dust control device is on the way in stone quarries.

Other Centres collaborating on the project are: Director General Mines Safety, Government of India. Dr. P.K.Sisodya. Desert Medicine Research Centre, Jodhpur, India. Dr. M.L.Mathur; Chief Inspectors of Factories Gujarat and Rajasthan State. Mr. B.N.Mehta. Chief Inspector of Factories; Directorate General, Labour Institute, Mumbai. Mr. S.K.Saxena, Director General.

Strengthening of occupational and environmental health research in Central America and the Caribbean

Catharina Wesseling (cwesseli@una.ac.cr), Luisa Castillo (lcastill@una.ac.cr), IRET-UNA, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica

Centres Involved in Project: IRET-UNA; Central American and Caribbean research institutions. Support from Karolinska Institute, National Institute of Working Life (Sweden), Stockholm University, University of Washington, University of Texas.
Start year: 1987

Keywords: Central America, Caribbean, Research, Occupation, Environment

Target group: Scientists and science administrators in Central America

The purpose of the project is to generate and strengthen qualified human resources and scientific-technical knowledge for occupational and environmental health in Central America.

Summary description of project scope: multicentric and bilateral research projects in Central America; Central American research training programs: Establishment of a Central American scientific-professional network

Progress: Collaborative research and research training underway. Professional network designed, to be established.

Products: 22 collaborative scientific publications and abstracts; 1 international conference; 1 regional workshop; 14 regional courses; course materials; 2 manuals; over 30 seminars with national and international speakers

Project start date: 1987

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Alternatives for pesticide use in Costa Rica

Fabio Chaverri, IRET-UNA, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica (fchaverr@una.ac.cr)

with Ministry of Environment (MINAE), University of Costa Rica (UCR, Faculty of Agro-Nutritional Sciences); Technological University of Costa Rica (ITCR, School of Agronomic Sciences); National Association of Organic Agriculture (ANAO); Biomass Users Network (BUN); Eco-Lógica (an organic certification organization); Latin American Pesticide Action Network (RAPAL)

Keywords: Integrated Pest Management, Organic agriculture, Sustainable agriculture, Technology transfer, Environmental management certification.

Target group: Pesticide users (large agro-industries, small and medium farmers, agricultural workers), policy makers, general public.

The objective of the project is the reduction of pesticide use in Costa Rica. It began in 1993. The most problematic crops and pesticides are prioritized for preventive action. Elimination and substitution of the most dangerous pesticides are targeted. The project includes, among other activities, elimination of methyl bromide and sustainable crop management in melon, elimination of methyl bromide in flower production, production of organic banana and coffee including support to Eco-Lógica in organic certification, and certification of enterprises in environmental management. Public and governmental awareness is raised through campaigns directed to policy makers, pesticide users and consumers.

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Successful show cases of elimination of methyl bromide in melon and flowers. Reversion since 2000 of the increasing trend of methyl bromide use. Support in the creation of an organic certification organization (Eco-Lógica). Participation in the drafting of legal regulations. There is an increase in area of organic farming, particularly in coffee and banana.

Collaboration with other Centres: The methyl bromide project is embedded in an international treaty, the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer. The project is implemented by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and United Nations Development program (UNDP). Many activities are coordinated with PAHO / project PLGSAUD. The project has also cooperated frequently with the Agronomic School of the Humid Tropical Region (EARTH), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), and many nongovernmental organizations.

Products: 1 book, 2 booklets, 4 technical articles, 2 conference presentations, 1 video, 2 consultation tasks, including chemical pesticide residue analyses in control of organic management.

Project end date: Continuous

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Alternativas al uso de plaguicidas en Costa Rica
Fabio Chaverri, IRET-UNA, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica (fchaverr@una.ac.cr)
Centros incluidos en el proyecto: Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía (MINAE); Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR, Facultad de Ciencias Agroalimentarias); Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica (ITCR, Escuela de Agronomía); Asociación Nacional de Agricultura Orgánica (ANAO); Red de Usuarios de Biomasa (BUN); Eco-Lógica (una organización de certificación de producción orgánica); la Red de Acción en Plaguicidas en América Latina (RAPAL).

Palabras claves: Agricultura orgánica, transferencia de tecnologías, certificación en manejo ambiental
Grupos meta: usuarios de plaguicidas (agroindustrias grandes, agricultores pequeños y medianos), tomadores de decisiones y el público en general.
Objetivo del proyecto: Reducción de uso de plaguicidas en Costa Rica

Colaboración con otros centros: El proyecto de bromuro de metilo es parte de un programa internacional dirigido por el Programa Ambiental de las Naciones Unidas (PNUMA) y el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD). Muchas actividades son coordinadas con el programa PLAGSALUD de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS), la Escuela Agrícola de la Región Tropical Húmeda (EARTH), la Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT), y organizaciones no gubernamentales en general, especialmente la Corporación Educativa para el Desarrollo Costarricense (CEDECO).

Productos: 1 libro, 2 folletos, 4 artículos técnicos, 2 presentaciones en congresos internacionales, 1 video, y 2 tareas de consultorías (incluyendo análisis químicos de residuos de plaguicidas en control de manejo orgánico).

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Development and maintenance of consistency in asbestos fibre counting by Proficiency Testing schemes
Institute of Occupational Medicine, Alan Jones, Edinburgh (Alan.Jones@IOMHQ.org.uk)

Project start date: April 2003
Project end date: March 2006

Courses in the use of the PIMEX method
Gunnar Rosén (gunnar.rosen@arbetslivsinstitutet.se) and Ing-Marie Andersson (ing-marie.andersson@arbetslivsinstitutet.se), National Institute for Working Life, Sweden

Keywords: prevention, control, visualisation, PIMEX.
Target group: industry based health and safety officers, industry based ventilation officers, occupational health inspectors, environmental health officers

The objective is to train a group of occupational hygiene specialists in the use of the PIMEX method and to provide them with necessary software and know how. The course that will be arranged will give the participants an overview of different visualisation tools that can be used for a more effective search for measures aimed at control of occupational hazards.

PIMEX is one such method. The participants will be given deep knowledge about the method and a strategy for its use and also full access to know how and software to implement the method.

Courses were given in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa, in 2003. All course documentation including special software was put on one CD-ROM and handed out to the course participants. Another course is planned for the IOHA Conference in South Africa in September 2005.

The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland, the University of Cape Town, the National Center for Occupational Health, Johannesburg, and WHO are collaborating on the project.

Project start date: March 2003
Project end date: September 2005

Assessing the Utility of Control Banding in the United States
T.J. Lentz (TBL7@cdc.gov), Rick Niemeier (RWN1@cdc.gov), Marilyn Fingerhut (MAS2@cdc.gov), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA
Keywords: control banding, engineering controls, occupational hygiene, small businesses, work practices
Target group: International occupational health community, U.S. occupational health professionals and small business community

This project will investigate multiple issues relating to the utilization of control banding, an approach to controlling risk from chemical exposures designed specifically to meet the needs of small businesses. Primary objectives of this project will be to determine the utility and barriers to implementing control banding for addressing hazards in U.S. workplaces. Through meetings and discussions with international partners, national agencies, and labor groups in the United States, and an interdivisional NIOSH panel of experts (control banding committee), this project will generate strategies and products for guiding the implementation of control banding, evaluating the effectiveness of these techniques, and determining obstacles to overcome for effective implementation. By adopting and modifying existing approaches and tools first tested by international partners, the project will also consider development of additional control banding applications for NIOSH priority areas of ergonomics, dermal exposures, and traumatic injuries.

A summary of activities planned for Fiscal Year 2004 (10/03 – 10/04) is provided below.

- Co-sponsorship of the Second International Control Banding Workshop, March 2004 , Cincinnati, Ohio, USA;
- Co-sponsorship of the AIHCE Forum on Control Banding, May 2004 Atlanta, Georgia, USA);
- Developing and establishing a Web Page on control banding, either internally or by assisting the WHO/IPCS or ILO through funding of a cooperative agreement to develop such a page;
- Developing and evaluating the utility of a control banding “toolkit” for approximately six chemical substances used in small business environments, utilizing technical and research capabilities either within the Institute or through joint agreements with the HSE, ILO, or WHO.

Convening periodic interdivisional meetings of the Institute control banding committee and external national and international stakeholders via teleconferences, ENVISION, and in conjunction with other programmed travel or meeting opportunities.

Project start date: October 2003
Project end date: Continuing

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**Assessing the Utility of the ILO Toolkit in Singapore**

Magdalene Chan, Occupational Health Department, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore (magdalene_chan@mom.gov.sg)

*Keywords:* ILO Toolkit, control banding, risk assessment, chemical hazard analysis and control, small and medium enterprise

*Target group:* international occupational health community, occupational health professionals and small business community

The objective of the project is to investigate the issues involved in applying the ILO Toolkit that uses the control banding approach and to evaluate its usefulness in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Singapore context.

The project will be carried out in two phases. In the first phase, the ILO Toolkit will be tested out in parallel with a semi-quantitative risk assessment method developed by Singapore’s Ministry of Manpower, based on exposure data and other parameters. The field tests will be conducted by industrial hygiene professionals on selected processes from various industries. Risk levels derived from the risk assessment method will be compared to the control approaches obtained from the Toolkit assessment to evaluate the consistency of both methods. In the second phase, different SMEs will be selected to try out the Toolkit method using their own resources. The applicability of the Toolkit will be assessed based on the results of the field tests and feedback from the SMEs.

The project is in its first phase and field testing has been conducted on processes from the metalworking and paint manufacturing industries.

Names of other centres collaborating on the project: Heather Jackson (Heather.Jackson@lyondell.com), International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA).


*Project start date:* July 2003
*Project end date:* October 2005
Translation of toolkit package and preparation of Chemical Management Guide
Martin Tischer, Federal Institute of Occupational Health, Germany (tischer.martin@bau.bund.de)
Emilia Ivanovich, National Centres of Hygiene, Medical Ecology and Nutrition, Bulgaria (e.ivanovich@nchmen.government.bg) with Svetla Zolova and Theodor Panev
Keywords: brochure, chemicals, adverse effects, prevention
Target group: occupational hygienists, physicians, safety engineers, decision-makers, planners and managers, occupational health services staff
Project start date: January 2004
The objective of the project is to raise awareness among industrial hygiene and occupational health professionals and decision-makers of good practice in identification, evaluation and management of the risk, due to exposure to hazardous chemicals. It involves the development of methodology and tools for effective identification, evaluation and management of risk due to exposure to hazardous chemicals to contribute to effective occupational health practice, strengthening expert services of occupational hygienists, occupational physicians, safety engineers, and employers for implementation of good occupational health practice and principles of total quality management and continuous quality improvement.
The project is in the organizational phase. A review of the Control Banding concept, its applicability for the countries in transition and possible piloting in Bulgaria is being undertaken. WHO, IOHA and the Institute of Occupational Health and Poison Control, Chinese Centres for Disease Prevention and Control, Beijing, China are collaborating on the project.
Project end date: December 2006

Translation of ILO-OSH Management System
Yuxin Zheng, National Institutes in Occupational Health and Poison Control, China (yuxzheng@163bj.com)
The ILO-OSH Management system has been translated into Chinese. Following this, a National Occupational Health Management System was recently developed incorporated with the Chinese National Law on Prevention and Control of Occupational Diseases. The tailored OSH Management system will be adapted for coal mining, adhesives industries etc. The project will be completed by 2005.

Developing criteria for ergonomics quality in design accreditation procedures
Waldemar Karwowski (karwowski@louisville.edu), EQUID Committee, with IEA STP Committee
Keywords: ergonomics quality, products design, work systems, services, certification, human-system compatibility
Target group: managers and designers concerned with ergonomics quality in design and institutions and bodies for promoting ergonomics and occupational safety and health and for developing relevant assessment and certification procedures
The objective of this project is to elaborate and develop criteria for ergonomics quality in design and assist institutions and bodies interested in relevant assessment and certification procedures. The project is managed by the IEA EQUID Committee in collaboration with IEA Federated Societies and research and educational institutions in the ergonomics field. The project aims to contribute to the enhancement of human well-being and overall system performance including safety and health aspects. Human-system interaction design considerations for the project include physical, cognitive, social, organizational and environmental factors. The outcome of the project will be incorporated in the process of ergonomics quality in design accreditation that should contribute to the sound development of products and work systems.
The project has initiated the development of the policy and procedures for training of assessment and certification personnel related to ergonomics quality in design. The outcome of the project will be incorporated in the process of ergonomics quality in design accreditation that should contribute to the sound development of products and work systems.

Dust Control in Small Silica Flour Milling Units
H.N. Saiyed (saiyedhn@yahoo.com), National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, India
Project start date: January 2004
**Project end date:** December 2006

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**Development and maintenance of consistency in asbestos fibre counting by Proficiency Testing schemes**

Alan Jones, Institute of Occupational Medicine, UK (Alan.Jones@IOMHQ.org.uk)

*Keywords:* asbestos, fibre counting, proficiency testing (PT), international comparability

*Target Group:* Laboratories that measure asbestos fibre concentrations, and hence people liable to be exposed to asbestos.

The objective of this project is to provide a comprehensive network linking national fibre counting schemes and to provide a sound proficiency testing service for laboratories in countries without a national system. The measurement of concentration of airborne asbestos fibres is very dependent on the proficiency of the analysts who count the fibres by phase contrast optical microscopy. National PT schemes help achieve consistency within countries. This project aims to help establish consistency between various national PT schemes, to maintain this consistency by establishing international links.

Meetings between European national PT schemes for fibres counting have led to a comparison exercise, which is being organised by the IOM. Initial data has been discussed at a meeting in November. Funding is partly in place, partly awaiting authorisation of application.

*Project start date:* April 2003

*Project end date:* March 2006

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**Development and maintenance of consistency in asbestos fibre counting by Proficiency Testing schemes**

Yuxin Zheng, National Institutes in Occupational Health and Poison Control, China (hefs@public.bta.net.cn)

*Project start date:* April 2003

The objective of this project is to provide a comprehensive network linking national fibre counting schemes and to provide a sound proficiency testing service for laboratories in countries without a national system.

*Project end date:* March 2006

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**Workplace monitoring guidelines and industrial hygiene practice**

Yuxin Zheng, National Institutes in Occupational Health and Poison Control, China (yxzheng@163bj.com)

Claude-Alain Bernhard, Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, Switzerland (Claude-Alain.Bernhard@inst.hospvd.ch)

Tom Sorahan, University of Birmingham, UK (T.M.Sorahan@bham.ac.uk)

Nikolai Izmerov, RAMS Institute of Occupational Health, Russia (izmerov@rinet.ru)

The occupational health standards of 200 more chemicals in TWA or STEL were investigated and issued in May 2001. The biological exposure limits of about 10 chemicals or their metabolites were approved to be the indicators of biological monitoring in 2002.

Funding from the Ministry of Health, China is in place. The project will be completed by 2003.

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**Reduction of cow allergen in farmers’ households**

Rudi Schierl, Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of Munich, Germany (rudi.schierl@arbeits.med.uni-muenchen.de)

*Keywords:* cow dander allergy, allergen reduction, working conditions

*Target group:* Farmers, farm workers

The purpose of the project is the evaluation of simple measures to reduce cow allergen in farmers’ homes. Allergies to cow dander is a major problem in farming environments. Occupational asthma due to animal allergy forces many farmers to give up work. Despite the avoidance of animal contact, the disease often persists. One mechanism is the transfer of allergens from the stables into the living room, kitchen, and bed. Our project aims at behavioural and technical measures to reduce exposure to farm animal allergens. Local agricultural professional associations co-operate on this project.
At the end of our study, we will be able to develop simple recommendations to reduce allergen exposure in farmers’ homes. The study was started in 2002 and will be finished in 2004.

**Design of a quality assurance system for professional risks**

Juan Carlos Llano (jlano@minproteccionsocial.gov.co), Fanny Grajales (fgrajales@minproteccionsocial.gov.co), Ministry for Social Protection, Santaté de Bogotá, Chile

**Keywords:** Quality Guarantee System, Professional risk system.

**Target group:** professional risk institutions that belong to the General Health System

The purpose of the project is to design and implement a Quality Assurance System for the professional risk system to educate leaders in quality assurance, to collect information regarding quality assurance in other countries, to develop requirements to be applied in quality assurance, to validate the requirements through a pilot project, to publish the legal requirements, and to implement them in the professional risk system.

The first step to design the quality assurance system is to sign agreements with qualified entities for the formation of project leaders. The next step is to recollect information about quality guarantee systems and to define the requirements for the development of the system, followed by the validation of the system through a certified organism made by a competent organism. A pilot project will be developed to test the requirements, which will then be implemented into the legal regulation.

**Assessing the utility of control banding toolkits in Southern India**

Dr H.N. Saiyed, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, India (saiyedhn@yahoo.com)

**Keywords:** occupational risk management, control banding, prevention, SME, industrial hygiene and health

**Target group:** Management and staff of enterprises involved in chemical handling, sectoral facilitators (consultants), academic professionals

The primary objective of this project is to assess the various application aspects of the GTZ chemical management guide as a control-band (chemical risk management) tool in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as selected large-scale enterprises in Southern India. The center has been involved with exposure profiling SMEs as a part of on-going research projects and larger enterprises as a part of on-going consultancy activities. Consequently it has available a large data set of quantitative industrial hygiene measurements across a multitude of exposure situations. This presents a perfect opportunity for the center to engage in pilot projects that would assess and evaluate the applicability of control banding projects within Southern India.

Building on the extensive co-operation of individual managements and professional associations within Tamil Nadu (the state where the center is located), the center will apply the toolkit in parallel with traditional industrial hygiene measurements in selected large-scale enterprises. The risk levels and effectiveness of controls will be compared to the results arrived through the control banding approach.

In order to assess the usability and usefulness of the control-banding tool for SMEs, volunteer enterprises from selected industrial cluster will be invited and guided to implement the control-banding tool. The experiences and results of the application will be compiled in a report to be shared with interested parties.

To facilitate the process, training programmes on use of the tool for facilitators and small enterprise representatives will be arranged in collaboration with German partners. Technical support is currently available through the GTZ-CIM programme and additional support for train the trainer activities is being organized. In course of the project the translation of the tool into Indian languages such as Tamil and Hindi is also envisaged.

Finally, project results will be integrated with other pilot projects in control banding being developed by other WHO CCs (in Benin, South Africa and Brazil) to allow the generation of a common framework for implementing interventions in developing country settings.

*Project start date: 2004*

*Project end date: 2005*