

Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project Partner Newsletter



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INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MEETING PASSES RESOLUTION ON LEAD PAINT

Advocacy by IPEN partner organizations resulted in a resolution promoting national regulatory frameworks for lead paint elimination and other measures at the **4th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**.

Representatives from IPEN, UNEP, WHO, and the Philippines Department of Natural Resources spoke at an information sharing session set up to discuss the hazards of lead in paint.

Hemantha Withanage, South Asia Regional Specialist for IPEN's Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project presented findings from the *Asian Regional Paint*

Report, IPEN and its partners' most recent research into lead levels in commonly available paints.

Other speakers included:

Lesley Onyon, Regional Advisor, WHO-SEARO, presented on the health effects of lead and the Global Alliance for the Elimination of Lead Paint business plan.

Shiela Logan, UNEP Chemicals presented results from UNEP and IPEN's recent nine-country study, *Lead in Enamel Decorative Paints*.

Renato Cruz, Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources, presented the Environmental Management Bureau's new Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds.

Latest News

The prestigious *Environmental Health Perspectives* published "Lead-Based Decorative Paints: Where Are They Still Sold — And Why?" Written by **Rebecca Kessler**, the article covers the issue in detail, quoting extensively from IPEN partners and lead paint studies conducted by IPEN.



The USA's *Huffington Post*, **Lynne Peebles** covered recent lead paint reports from all Asian partners, quoting Yuyun Ismawati, Sara Brosche, Perry Gottsfeld, Dr. Scott Clark and others.

Chemical Watch quoted Toxics Link in a February article reporting on its efforts to make mandatory the current voluntary lead paint standard.

An Australian-based, independent Nepali magazine, *Pristhabhumi*, ran a cover story about CEPHEP's lead in paint study. The magazine is widely read by Nepalese living abroad. *The Himalayan Times* also ran a March article on the risk posed to children by lead in house paint.

EcoWaste Coalition and the Asian Lead Paint Elimination Campaign were cited in a *Paintsquare* article cautioning worshippers not to kiss or rub religious icons which tend to be painted with lead paint.

The *Daily Observer* in Bangladesh reported that the government is considering banning the production, import and export, sale and use of enamel decorative paints by the end of 2014.

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The Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project is a project of IPEN and funded by the European Union.



European Union



a toxics-free future



ASIAN LEAD PAINT ELIMINATION PROJECT PARTNER NEWSLETTER

ASIAN PARTNERS SAMPLE HOUSEHOLD DUST FOR LEAD

Asian Lead Paint Elimination Partners are conducting studies of lead in household dust and other buildings where children are present.

Children are exposed to lead in paint when painted surfaces deteriorate over time and lead settles into household dusts and soils.

Children, particularly children aged 1-6, ingest the lead through normal hand-to-mouth behavior.

The studies are being conducted to help highlight the hazard of existing lead paint in houses and to make parents and government officials aware of the need to prevent this problem by eliminating lead in paint altogether.

Bangladesh: A total of 75 samples from 25 locations.

India: Sampling in at least 17 locations.

Indonesia: 20 locations in Jakarta, Depok, Denpasar

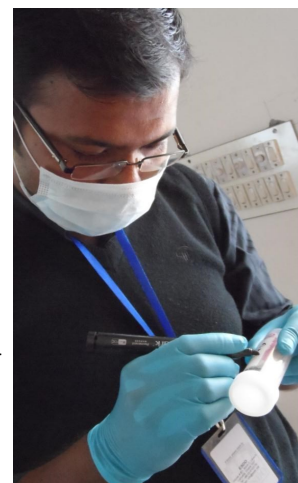
and Solo

Nepal: Samples from 23 locations, including 4 schools.

Philippines: More than 20 locations

Sri Lanka: Sampling in 21 locations.

Thailand: Sampling at approximately 20 daycare centers where Thailand's department of Disease Control (DDC) will be conducting a study on the effect of lead paint on Thai children.



Labelling dust sample before sending to lab for analysis

STUDY FINDS HIGH LEAD LEVELS IN PAINTS IN SEVEN ASIAN COUNTRIES

The majority of household paints analyzed in seven Asian countries contain unsafe levels of lead; would not meet regulatory standards established in most highly industrialized countries; and, in a number of cases, have astonishingly high lead content.

These are the findings of the [Asian Regional Paint Report](#) released by IPEN partner organizations at 4th Asian-Pacific Regional SAICM meeting. (see front page story)

"It is well established that there is no safe blood level of lead, especially for chil-



Hemantha Withanage presents the Asian Regional Paint Report at the 4th Asia Pacific Regional SAICM meeting in Kuala Lumpur

dren and developing fetuses, so it is very shocking to find such high levels of lead in paints being sold throughout Asia," said Hemantha Withanage, South Asia Regional Specialist for the IPEN Asian Lead Paint Elimina-

tion Project.

"Safe, cost effective alternatives to lead have been in use for many years, so there is absolutely no reason for continuing to add lead to paint products in Asia," add-



The report can be found on IPEN's [website](#)

ed Manny Calonzo, Southeast Asian Specialist for the IPEN Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project.

SAMPLING FOR LEAD IN DUST IN SRI LANKA

BY CHALANI HARSHINI RUBESINGHE

Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) selected sampling sites from both urban and rural areas. We noticed that people from rural areas were more enthusiastic, wanting to clarify all the doubts they had on paints and the effects of lead. Some showed us the paint can to see whether it is lead safe and many asked us for labels with the message on “lead safety” for future reference in buying paints.

Our team had to explain the effects of lead and their relation to paint for each participant at each location. At

the work in two half days. I needed practiced the procedure and memorized each step so that I shouldn't miss anything in sampling. At the very first site, at a house with a new born baby, the father warned us to finish the work before the baby's 6-year-old brother got back home. We could barely escape that day!

On the next day, we got captured by a group of little day care residents. It was their free time and they were playing outside when we started our work. As I started preparation by pasting



Children were curious and gathered to watch the lead dust sampling at every location

first one asks “what are you doing?” the second repeats the same question, then the third and so on. Again an-

teachers. Often teachers explained our activity to the children, to prevent misunderstandings.

“Children's vulnerability to lead poisoning due to their curiosity was quite obvious!”

times we had to be careful not to harm the reputation of the pre-school while giving the correct message on lead and paint!

The challenge was to finish

the quadrate, one girl came and sat by my side and then came a little boy and one by one they all gathered around me.

The funniest thing was their “chain” questions. When

other question and everybody repeated the same like an echo. Things became uncontrolled when they got near and started putting their tiny fingers on the frame. The teacher understood our discomfort and got all the children to sing before they made me a sample by wiping me with a dust wipe!

They did sing but they kept their eyes on what we were doing. Truly, the vulnerability to lead poisoning of these little ones due to curiosity on observing the world around them was quite obvious!

At all the sites, children loved gathering around us to observe what we did. Some were pinching, pulling and even complaining to the

The most memorable event was the sampling at “Nelum” Pre-School, Samanathenna, Dehiattakandiya, in dark. Our team was quite exhausted after traveling all the way from Colombo and sampling all day, yet we were determined to reach the target..

Team members Mr. Gamini and Mr. Sugath held the torch for me, while Ms. Rebecca filled in the sampling form, and Mr. Dilena took photographs.

Identifying the dusty marks was quite time consuming and Mr. Sugath had to deal with an irritated barking dog for it was dark by the time we left, and we were strangers to it! By the end, I felt this sampling was the heroic action of all.



CEJ Fielded a five-person team and took 17 dust samples from different locations in Dehiattakandiya.

ASIAN LEAD PAINT ELIMINATION PROJECT PARTNER NEWSLETTER

PARTNER UPDATES

Bangladesh

Despite an unstable political situation, **Environment and Social Development Organization** (ESDO), has continued to stay in fruitful dialogue with the Bangladesh Paint Manufacturer Association (BPMA) and engage in other lead paint elimination activities.

BPMA has committed to sign ESDO's petition calling for a ban on lead imports and to jointly submit the petition to the Prime Minister. Two multinational manufacturers have recently begun advertising lead free paint in Bangladesh and some SMEs

have indicated to ESDO that they have begun lead-free production.

ESDO also received verbal support for a ban from Mr. Azad Chowdhury, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

India

Toxics Link (TL) is participating in the newly formed National Consultative on the Management of Lead Toxicity, which aims to establish a uniform protocol on lead toxicity.

TL also continues its involvement with the Quality Coun-



Over 1,000 Nepalese schools have received posters and information about lead in paint

cil of India (QCI) and implementation of the new, voluntary 90 ppm lead standard.

Indonesia

Balifokus continues to engage in dialogue with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry about the Standard Nasional Indonesia/National Standard (SNI), which would establish a national lead standard.

In deference to the paint industry, the Ministry of Industry has drafted a 600 ppm standard; however, Balifokus continues to advocate for a 90 ppm standard.

delayed, but did result in the Association agreeing to work with **Center for Public Health and Environment Development** (CEPHED) to organize a local workshop to develop a national mandatory standard applicable to both domestic and imported paints.

Meanwhile, CEPHED continues to work with government officials to establish a mandatory national standard, and has engaged in extensive communications on the lead paint issue throughout the country.

More than 1,000 schools now have posters and information about lead in paint.

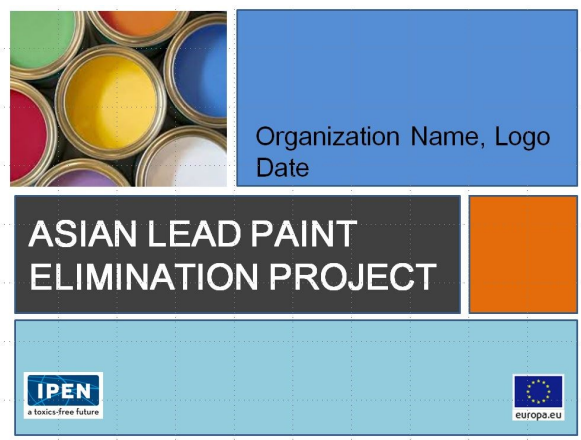
Nepal

A planned IPEN conference with the Nepal Paint Manufacturers Association was

Meetings on lead paint organized by CEPHED in four different regions of the country drew participation



A paint manufacturer advertises lead free products in a Bangladesh newspaper



To obtain a copy of this powerpoint presentation, email Valerie at vdenney@valeriedenney.com

New Lead Paint Elimination Powerpoint

The Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project has a new PowerPoint presentation on lead in paint.

Sections include 1) hazards of lead paint exposure; 2) the economic costs of lead exposure; 3) why lead is put in paint and the alternatives; 4) data on lead in paint in the seven Asian countries.

A final section can be customized for specific country information.

Though the presentation has been developed for IPEN's Asian Paint Elimination Project, the basic information included about lead in paint is useful and can be adapted for any country.

from nearly 300 government officials, public health works, media and others.

Philippines

EcoWaste Coalition has engaged a number of paint manufacturers, including Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines and Super Globe in discussions to develop a Philippine certification scheme.

Paint manufacturers were also asked to review and comment on a proposed draft standard. Johnson Ongking, Boysen Vice President, said that Boysen "will be honored to be the first one to apply for paint certification" once the program is established.

The General Manager for Super Globe said he would bring the matter to their

Board, noting that if other paint companies take this up, they will have to participate in certification in order to remain competitive in the market.

Sri Lanka

Suggestions by **Centre for Environmental Justice** (CEJ) has led to unofficial word that the Ministry of Environment has instructed the Consumer Affairs Authority and the Central Environmental Authority to add leaded decorative paints to the Department of Customs' list of controlled items.

Lead Awareness programs conducted by CEJ are also drawing active participation around the country.

Thailand

Ecological Alert and Recovery (EARTH) is designing a



Above: Lead paint awareness campaign in Bangladesh
Below: Testing for lead paint in playground equipment in the Philippines

survey that the National Institute of Development Administration Research Institute will use to determine SME's needs and response to mandatory lead standards.

EARTH also continues to follow up on progress by the Thai Industrial Standards Institute and the Office of Consumer Protection Committee on progress on a mandatory lead standard and new regulation on lead paint labelling, respectively.

Meanwhile EARTH has distributed more than 1500 copies of its lead paint brochure to regional administrative offices, health officers



IPEN Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project Partners

Bangladesh

[Environment and Social
Development Organization](#)



India

[Toxics Link](#)



Indonesia

[Balifokus](#)



Nepal

[Center for Public Health and
Environmental Development
\(CEPHED\)](#)



Philippines

[EcoWaste Coalition](#)



Sri Lanka

[Center for Environmental
Justice \(CEJ\)](#)



Thailand

Ecological Alert and Recovery
Thailand — EARTH



IPEN Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project

The Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project has been established to eliminate lead in paint and raise widespread awareness among business entrepreneurs and consumers about the adverse human health impacts of lead-based decorative paints, particularly on the health of children under six years old.

The project is being implemented by IPEN over a period of three years in seven countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) with a total EU funding of EUR 1.4 million.

The project includes

- Periodic analyses of lead content in household paints
- Information for small and medium paint manufacturer, dealers, and retailers to help them to shift from lead-based to no-added lead paints
- Third party certification and labeling that includes information on lead
- Help to government institutions to enact a lead paint standard
- Awareness raising programs about lead paint and its impact, especially on children's health and the environment.



The Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project is a project of IPEN. IPEN is an international organization promoting safe chemical policies and practices that protect human health and the environment.

This project is funded by the European Union

Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines
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Makati City, Philippines

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development while maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedom. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and people beyond its borders."