

African Governments Agree to Set Legal Limits on Lead in Paint

Government officials and stakeholders from 15 African countries agreed to cooperate to phase out the use of lead in paint by 2020 at a workshop held in late November 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The workshop was jointly sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and IPEN, the Implementing and Executing agencies of the Lead Paint Elimination Campaign in Africa, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Lead exposure brings about a tremendous economic loss, amounting to 135 billion dollars per year, equivalent to 4 per cent of GDP, said Mr. Samba Harouna, UNEP representative in Addis Ababa.

Other lead elimination activities around the world:

Ethiopia's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, has announced that it is now developing draft regulation for consideration by the Ethiopian Council of Ministries that would establish a 90 parts



per million (ppm) standard for decorative paints. The standard is based on a recommendation from the Ethiopian Standards Agency, which has consulted the paint industry on this issue.

Participants agreed that African countries should adopt a total lead limit of 90 parts per million for all paints.

At the request of the **Presidency of the Republic of Camereroon**, relevant Ministries are now engaged in developing draft regulation for a 90 ppm standard.

According to Voice of Nigeria, the **Standards Organization of Nigeria** is proposing a 90 ppm

standard for approval by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment.

A new *Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Control the Use of Lead in Paint*, developed by the GAELP Advisory Group (of which IPEN is a member), is now available on the UNEP website.

UNEP also expects to release a **global report on progress made on establishing lead limits in paints** at the second meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 2), which will be held in Nairobi in May 2016.

INSIDE:

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, 25-31 October 2015

Read about activities conducted by governments, NGOs, health officials and many others from countries all over the world to raise awareness and push for lead paint elimination.



IPEN Global Lead Paint Elimination Campaign

Although banned for more than 40 years in industrialized countries, paint with high lead content continues to be sold in most countries in the world. IPEN is working for the global elimination of lead in the manufacture, sale, import, export and use of paint.

BANGLADESH

Human Chain and Policy Dialogue

ESDO introduced a draft guideline for lead free paints at a “High level Policy Dialogue” attended by a diverse set of stakeholders including paint manufacturers, media representatives and government officials. At the meeting, the representative of the Bangladesh Paint Manufacturers Association freely expressed support for the production of lead free paints.



ESDO also organized a “human chain” and rally that included 100 teenagers from Bangla and English medium schools and universities. Green Club members and environmentalists held banners and placards urging immediate enactment of legislation regarding the production, import and use of lead containing paints.



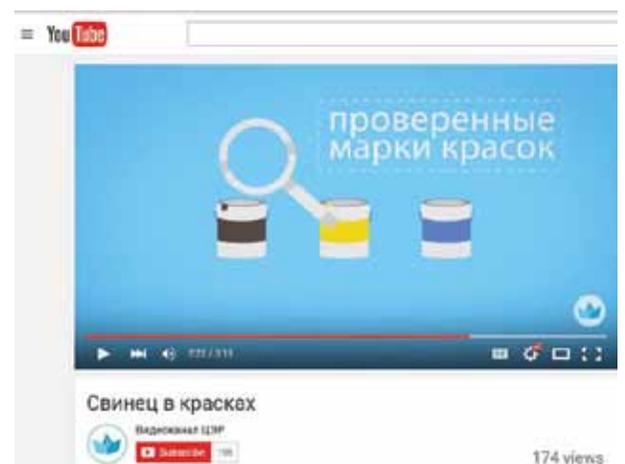
BELARUS

Animated Video

The Center for Environment Solutions (CES) produced and circulated a 3-minute animated movie entitled “Lead in Colors” in Russian language describing the detrimental effects of lead exposure to human health and why lead in paint is a concern.



The video circulated widely via social networks in Belarus and other Russian-speaking countries. In addition, a news release on lead poisoning and lead in paints was picked up on media websites in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and other Russian language sites.



CAMEROON

Blood Tests for Children and Outreach to Policy Makers

The Research and Education Development Center (CREPD) conducted outreach to local and municipal authorities, policy makers, the media and the public through television, radio, newspapers and correspondence.

Together with OK International, CREPD also launched a pilot test of the blood lead levels in 150 young children aged 1 to 6 years in four districts of the city of Yaounde led by researchers from the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of University of Yaounde.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

New Report on Lead Levels in Paint

Due to national elections, Jeunes Volontaires pour L'environnement (JVE) released a new report on lead in paint in Cote d'Ivoire, prior to the Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action.

The report found that most of the paints would not meet regulatory requirements in industrialized countries and that a third had dangerously high lead levels. The release event, which drew officials from Environment and Health Ministries, paint dealer representatives, health professionals, and other civil society organizations, received prominent news coverage.



ETHIOPIA

Standards Bureau Commits to 90 ppm

PAN-Ethiopia released its new report analyzing lead in paint for sale in Ethiopia. Attending the event were representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Forest and Industry, the Ethiopian Standards Agency, WHO, US Embassy, the media, and paint industries.

The Standards Agency took the initiative to discuss 90 ppm as a standard for Ethiopian decorative enamel paints, and the paint manufacturers promised to take voluntary action.



GHANA

Press Briefing

Numerous media attended and reported on a press briefing on lead paint organized by Ecological Restorations in Accra.

George Ortsin, National Coordinator of the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme spoke at the event and stated the need for the government to adopt a holistic regulatory framework, in collaboration with the paint industry and civil society, that will eventually phase out lead in paint in tune with the global consensus to eliminate such paints.

**Ecological
Restorations**



INDONESIA

News Release & School Events

BaliFokus held a press conference in collaboration with the Indonesian Centre for Environmental Law and Indonesian Consumers Association to raise the lead paint issue with local and international media.

In collaboration with Pre-Elementary School Association (Himpunan PAUD Indonesia/HIMPAUDI), BaliFokus also brought the issue to students and teachers at a pre-school in Jakarta.

BALIFOKUS



JORDAN

Public Hearing

Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP) organized a public hearing education event in Irbid (a city of 2 million people) in order to build support for lead paint elimination in Jordan.



The meeting was attended by community-based organizations and the Mayor of Kora, a district in Irbid. Jordan currently has no lead paint legislation, only a letter from the Minister of Health to the Chamber of Industry informing them not to use lead in paint.

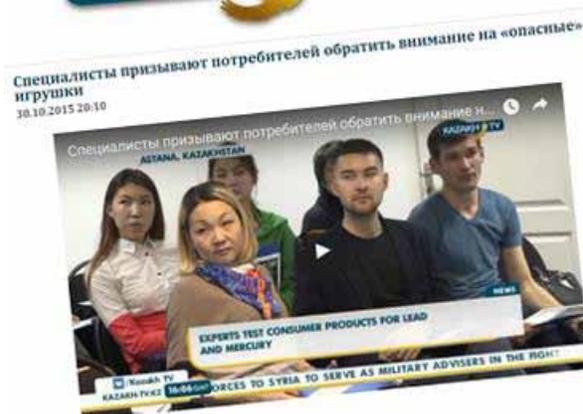


KAZAKHSTAN

Meeting with Health Officials

Numerous media reported on a meeting held by Human Health Institute on the presence of lead and mercury in consumer products and attended by environmental experts and representatives of government.

One outcome of the meeting will be a letter sent to the Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Energy as well as to the members of Parliament requesting that the national chemical management system be strengthened to prevent lead and mercury poisoning.

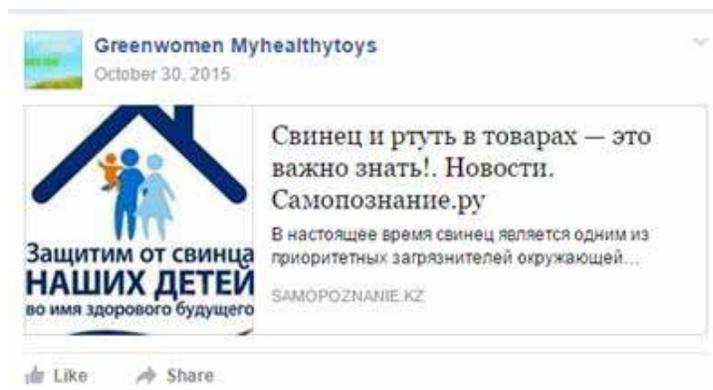


KAZAKHSTAN

Facebook Discussion & Dissemination of Materials

Following a discussion on Facebook organized by Greenwomen, participants sent statements to Kazakh authorities recommending tightened legislation on the sale of lead paint and to minimize worker exposure to lead in paint.

The group also shared information on the manufacture and use of lead-based paint in Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and France, and members prepared and shared information materials on the dangers of lead in paint with the media and stakeholders.



KENYA

National Working Group Established

A national working group on lead paint elimination was one outcome from a policy dialogue and forum held by Centre for Environmental Justice and Development in Kenya. The working groups will adapt the terms of reference of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP) and develop a work plan to fit the Kenyan situation.

Key stakeholders participated in the meeting, including representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources, Health, and Transport and Infrastructure; Crown Paints; and the Kenyan National Environment Management Authority.

Eco Ethics Kenya also initiated a Read-Lead social media campaign on lead paint hazards.



MAURITIUS

Community Meeting

The Pesticide Action Network (PANeM) held a community meeting at Bois Pignolet attended by numerous community members and secondary school students.

Presentations and discussion were led by representatives of the Falcon Community Association and PANeM. Organizers plan for this to be the first in a series of such presentations across the island.



NEPAL

Information & Education

CEPHED organized informational and educational activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment and others from the academic, health and government sectors.



About 3,000 students, teachers and administrative staff in three large secondary schools took part in orientation programs on lead paint and its health and environmental impacts. Special radio and TV public service announcements on lead paint produced by CEPHED were repeatedly aired throughout the week.

Finally, CEPHED convened a seminar in cooperation with the Government of Nepal, Nepal Health Research Council and the Private and Boarding Schools Organization of Nepal that drew some 50 participants.



NIGERIA

Regulatory Limit on the Way

SRADev kicked-off its Schools for Lead Free Paint Campaign and circulated a “Solidarity Statement for Lead Safe Schools” to more than 30 schools in Lagos.



At a meeting with Nigeria’s directors of Laboratory Services and Product Certification, SRADev representatives were informed that a regulatory limit of 90 ppm lead content in paint in Nigeria will soon be gazetted and is awaiting approval from the Ministry of Trade and Investment.

SRADev also attended the Annual Coatings Show hosted by the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria and used the opportunity to discuss lead paint elimination with key stakeholders among the more than 20 local and international paint manufacturers.



PHILIPPINES

Awareness Raising Among School Children

Some 500 students, parents and teachers at Masambong Elementary School participated in an awareness-raising program organized by EcoWaste Coalition.

Dr. Annabelle Sinlao, lecturer at Manila Central University College of Medicine and resource person of Health Care Without Harm discussed the issue with the young audience, while Dr. Luis Gatmaitan, author of the children's storybook "Ang Makulay na Bahay" (The Colorful House) read the story in tandem with celebrity Posh Develos.

 EcoWaste Coalition



SOUTH AFRICA

Media Awareness & Social Media Campaigns

In partnership with the Environment and Health Research Unit at the South African Medical Research Council and the South African Paint Manufacturers' Association, groundWork prepared a media awareness campaign about the lead poisoning awareness week.

Additionally, a social media campaign ran throughout the week using #StopLeadPaint as the main focus of action.



SRI LANKA

Roundtable on Regulation Implementation; Lead Paint Import and Export Control

Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) conducted a round table discussion on the barriers for the full implementation of the lead paint regulations in Sri Lanka. Actively participating in the meeting were key government and paint company officials.

Afterward, the Basel Convention Steering Committee appointed a team of people to look into the process of managing lead paint, which has become a scheduled waste. It was agreed to put leaded paint in the Export and Import Control List to stop the entry of lead paint into Sri Lanka.

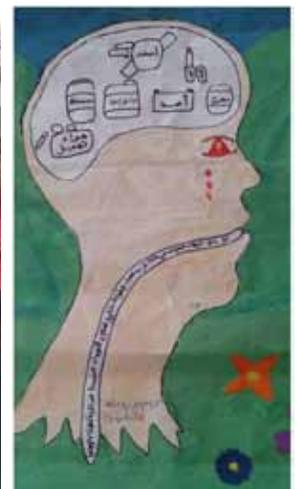


TUNISIA

Awareness Activities in Schools, with Parliament & a Short Film

Several activities conducted by Association de l'Education Environnementale pour les Futures Générations resulted in prominent media coverage and a strong connection with the Ministry of the Environment.

Activities included awareness activities in two schools, production of a short film on lead in paint, awareness activities with members of parliament, and awards for the best student drawings illustrating the problems with lead poisoning.



TANZANIA

Outreach to Media & Stakeholders

Due to national elections, AGENDA began disseminating information about lead paint to the media and key stakeholders the week before Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.



AGENDA
For Environment and Responsible Development

AGENDA visited key stakeholders in government, industry and civil society, and distributed information materials in Kiswahili. The Week of Action was also covered by seven different media outlets.

UGANDA

School Programs

To create awareness among school kids about the perils of lead exposure, the National Association of Professional Environmentalists conducted lectures in three schools in the Waikiso District for students, teachers and parents.



NAPE also publicized the hazards of lead paint by providing information on Facebook and on its website.



ZAMBIA

Awareness for Teachers & Students

Children's Environment Health Fund (CEHF) organized an awareness event in the Livingston District on the hazards of lead paint.

District officials and teachers from the Nalituwe Secondary School participated.

Children's Environment Health Fund



INTERNATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK AROUND THE WORLD





IPEN's global network is comprised of more than 700 public interest, non-governmental organizations in 118 countries. Working in the international policy arena and in developing countries, with international offices in the US and Sweden, IPEN is coordinated via eight IPEN Regional Hub Offices in Africa, Asia, Central / Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. IPEN works to establish and implement safe chemicals policies and practices that protect human health and the environment around the world.



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