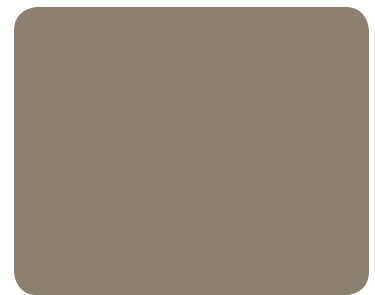




INTERNATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OF ACTION

OCTOBER 23-29, 2016



IPEN is a leading global network of over 500 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in more than 100 developing countries and countries with economies in transition. IPEN works to establish and implement safe chemicals policies and practices to protect human health and the environment. It does this by building the capacity of its member organizations to implement on-the-ground activities, learn from each other’s work, and work at the international level to set priorities and achieve new policies. Its mission is a toxics-free future for all.

IPEN has been engaged in the SAICM process since 2003, and its global network helped to develop the SAICM international policy framework. At its founding, in 1998, IPEN focused on advancing the development and implementation of the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Today, its mission also includes promoting safe chemicals management through the SAICM process (where it holds the public interest organization seat on the SAICM Bureau), halting the spread of toxic metals, and building a movement for a toxics-free future.

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International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action is an annual event held each year to raise awareness of the hazards of lead and lead paint, in particular. In October 2016, events were held in at least 42 countries. Thirty-three of these events were organized by IPEN NGOs.

IPEN thanks the events many sponsors, including US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), IPEN, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UNEP Regional Office for North America (UNEP RONA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).



ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

KENYA. Three hundred students, teachers and school administrators gathered at Kilimani Primary School in Nairobi to hear students recite a poem and perform a skit highlighting the hazards of lead paint, especially to children. Mr. Gamaliel Omondi from the Ministry of Health also spoke at the event organized by Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD), explaining the negative impacts of lead to kids and adults and to the environment as a whole. Mr. Peter Namutala of the Kenya Bureau of Standards assured the audience that the government is committed to developing a policy to phase out lead-containing paints in Kenya.



TANZANIA. Professor Jamidu Katima urged the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to hasten its process of preparing standard, to control the levels of lead in paint at an event organized by the NGO AGENDA in Dar es Salaam. A representative of Tanzania Advocacy Consumer Society, Mr Adrian Nzamba added that when toys, household furniture and other household articles are decorated with lead paint, children who may chew them end up directly digesting lead in the dried paint.

UGANDA. National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) focused on lead-containing paints in seven primary and secondary school events in Kampala and Masindi. Over 200 pupils at each school heard from Kamese N. Geoffrey, Senior Programme Officer of NAPE, who explained the risks associated with children's exposure to lead paint and dust. In addition, NAPE appeared in two live radio talk shows hosted by the Bunyoro Broadcasting Services and the Kitara Broadcasting Services. An article

entitled "Protect our children against lead poisoning" was published in the New Vision, a government-run newspaper. NAPE's press release was also cited in different radio programs.

ZAMBIA. Children's Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF) began their observance of the Week of Action with an educational activity about lead and lead exposure at the Nalituwe Secondary School with 50 students in attendance. The Livingstone City Council Health Inspectorate, Zambia Bureau of Standards Inspectorate and the CEHF then visited several hardware shops to discuss lead paint. At one stop, Mr. Shah, a shop owner, stated that a regulation should be issued immediately "so that the health of children is protected." On October 27, a parade featuring the Zambian Air Force (ZAF) Band drew the participation of 200 people, including Deputy Mayor Grandwell Chibamba, Senior Clerk of Court Joseph C. Tumonwa; Retired ZAF Col. Leo Mwansa; ZAF Major Chimfwemb; Environmental Health Officer Malata Mulenga; District Education Planning Officer Elvis Siayauya; Senior Inspector Henry M. Salimu of the Zambia Bureau of Standards; and Provincial Investigator Matyola Chipapa of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC). The events enjoyed full media coverage from ZNBC TV, Times of Zambia, Lusaka Times, Daily Mail and other community and private radios stations.



CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

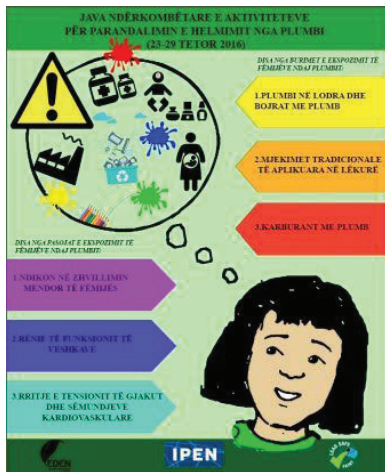
ALBANIA. EDEN Center volunteers and a group of students organized a flashmob at the Tirana Lake Park to raise community awareness about lead poisoning. At the event, participants put black bags on their heads and walked without talking to illustrate the effect lead has on the brain. They then handed out factsheets about lead poisoning. Prior to this, more than 60 students and their teachers at the Protagonist Elementary School in Tirana heard a lecture from EDEN Center on lead paint and childhood lead poisoning. EDEN also conducted a number of additional, smaller lectures and spoke on the radio regarding the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action and their activities.



Photo by EDEN Center



Photo by EDEN Center



EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA



ARMENIA. “KHAZER” Ecological and Cultural NGO, in cooperation with Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE), organized press conferences in Gyumri and Yerevan to present the results from lead paint studies conducted in Armenia in 2011 and 2016. The well attended events generated a number of news articles and drew participants from the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Health, the paint industry, consumers’ community, health sector, civil society and the media.

AZERBAIJAN. Ecological Society “Ruzgar” convened a press conference to increase public awareness on the lead content of household paints that are sold in Azerbaijan and to initiate a public movement that will protect public health against this hazard. Participants included technical experts and representatives from policy-making agencies, including Mr. Mehman Nabiyeu, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources; Prof. Canbaxish Najafov, Representative, Ministry of Health; and Dr. Xagani Mamadov, Head, Monitoring Laboratory-



Toxicology. Journalists from Azadlig, Movge, Palitra, Olaylar, Ruzgar-Ecoil, Sharg, TV Space and Respublika, from the Office of the President, covered the event.

BELARUS. The Center for Environmental Solutions (CES) initiated a campaign to publicize the presence of lead in paints sold in the country as revealed in the “National Report: Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Belarus.” To inform the general public about the issue, CES put out a press release and appeared on TV and radio programs. To encourage the industry to make the switch, CES prepared a public appeal asking 10 major producers and retailers to stop making and selling lead-containing paints. To foster governmental action, CES had a working meeting with the representatives of the Republican Center of Hygiene/National SAICM focal point to discuss the results of the study and the steps to achieve lead-free paints in Belarus. This meeting was also attended by Dr. Irina Ilyukova, Head of Laboratory of Preventive and Environmental Toxicology, Ministry of Public Health.

GEORGIA. Gamarjoba conducted an information campaign to raise awareness about the issue of lead-containing paints sold in the market. The group used the results of the “National Report: Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Georgia” co-published with IPEN as basis for the petitions submitted to government and industry leaders calling for a regulatory control on lead in paint. The petitions were addressed to the Head of the Georgian Parliament Environment Group, the Minister of Natural Resources of Georgia and local paint producers. Gamarjoba also reached out to young Georgians through “information hours” involving 40 kindergarten students who also took part in the discussion and drawing competition against lead paint.





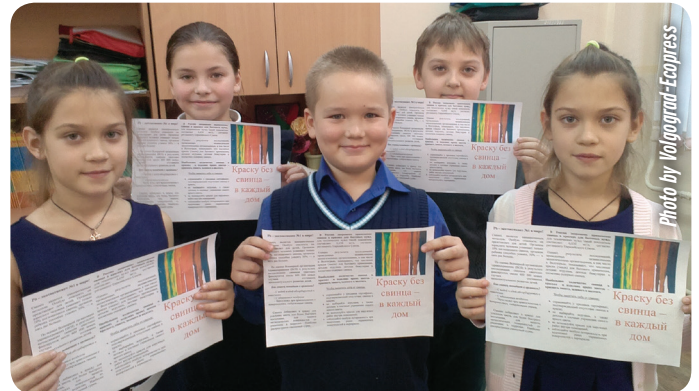
KAZAKHSTAN. Greenwomen held a joint press conference with the Human Health Institute to release the report “The Lead Content in Paint for Residential Use in Almaty (Kazakhstan).” Among the speakers were Ekaterina Yuanchuk of the Consumer Protection Committee of the Ministry of National Economy, Dr. Zulkiya Namazbaeva of the National Centre for Occupational Diseases and Health and Aidar Kappasov of the Human Health Institute. During the week, Greenwomen distributed informative materials about lead in paint targeting various sectors, including paint manufacturers and retailers.

KYRGYZSTAN. Equipped with the results of the study indicating high lead content in some solvent-based paints for residential use in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Independent Ecological Expertise wrote letters to the Kyrgyz Government, the Ministry of Health and the State Inspection on Environmental and Technical Safety recommending that the authorities resolve the issue. The letters drew immediate reactions from the concerned agencies, particularly on the need to strengthen control to prevent violations of the country’s law on paint product safety.



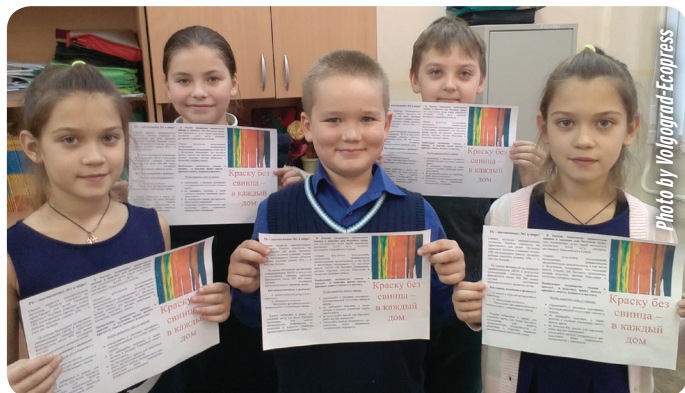
Specifically, the State Inspection on Environmental and Technical Safety sent a letter to the Ministry of Economy on the approval of regulations regarding the unscheduled inspection of paint manufacturing processes. The group also met the press to draw attention to the issue.

MOLDOVA. The NGO EcoContact organized a press conference to launch the “National Report: Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in the Republic of Moldova.” This joint study with IPEN showed that 16 out of 28 household solvent-based paint samples analyzed had total lead concentrations above 90 parts per million. The event, which drew wide media coverage, was participated in by Svetlana Bolocan, Head of Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Division, Ministry of Environment and Elena Jardan, Head of Laboratory of Toxicology, National Centre of Public Health, Ministry of Health. Also joining the panel were Andrei Isac, Rodica Iordanov and Natalia Guranda of EcoContact.



RUSSIA. Eco-Accord hosted a round table discussion on the results of a national study on the lead content of household paints in Russia conducted by the group in collaboration with IPEN. The event drew participants from various media outlets and from paint industry representatives, including the Russian Association of Paint Quality, Leroy Merlin Vosto, TEKS, Tikurilla, and Yaroslabskie Krasky. Paint producers expressed keen interest on the research and conveyed their willingness to test more paints to avoid manufacturers of lead-added paints from becoming members of the Association. How-

ever they noted that Russia lacks accredited laboratories that have the capacity to test lead in paints, making lead content monitoring very difficult.



RUSSIA. Volgograd-Ecopress organized an “environmental hour” at School N27 in Volgograd for grade 3 to 11 students. NGO experts provided information about lead in paint as a significant source of lead exposure for children. Previous and new data on lead in household paints from Eco-Accord and IPEN were also presented. Volgograd-Ecopress also organized a press conference where Elena Vasileva, the group’s Director, highlighted the need for proper legislation to control lead in paint in Russia.

TAJIKISTAN. The Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives (Dastgiri Center) hosted a multi-stakeholder round table discussion regarding the availability of lead-containing paints for domestic use in Tajikistan. Key resource persons were Z. Solibaeva, Deputy Director of the Centre of Biotechnology of Tajik



National University who talked about plumbism, followed by I. Muminov and M. Burkhanova, both of FSCI, who discussed the highlights of the study of lead in paints and the necessary measures to phase out such paints, respectively. The round table event also drew the participation of government officials from the State Committee of Environment Protection, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Agency of Standardization, Certification, Metrology and Trade Inspection, the Customs Service, and the Environment Department of Dushanbe City.



UKRAINE. MAMA-86 organized a press conference on the theme “Invisible Killer in Our Home: The Consequences of Lead Paints on the Health of Ukrainians.” The event drew media attention to the results of the lead content analysis of solvent-based household paints purchased by MAMA-86 from shops in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Dnipro. The well-attended media event had five speakers, including Olexander Brychko, Executive director of the Ukrainian Paint and Coatings Association and Volodymyr Udovichenko, Head of the Technical Committee for Standardization TK 168 “Varnishes and Paints” of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. Aside from this, MAMA-86 branches in various parts of Ukraine organized various lead poisoning awareness and prevention seminars and workshops involving students, teachers and workers.

FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

BENIN. Two awareness raising activities organized by Groupe d'Action pour la Promotion et la Protection de la Flore et la Faune (GAPROFFA) to shed light on the various health and environmental issues associated with lead paints drew media coverage in "Le Grand Matin," a major Benin newspaper. Eighty-four pupils, teachers, parents and school administrators participated in one school-based event held at "Complexe Scolaire, Les Génies". The second event, held at GAPROFFA headquarters drew 50 participants, including students, artisans, homeowners, painters, paint store managers and representatives from the Ministry of Environment.

CAMEROON. Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement (CREPD) installed a huge billboard at the busy Mokolo Market in Yaounde. The billboard carried an infographic showing the annual cost of lead exposure in Cameroon as equivalent to the cost of building 31,000 new and fully-equipped classrooms. A team from CREPD handed out informational materials and talked to passerbys about lead paint. CREPD also organized a lead hazard event for 400 nursery and primary students at La Bergerie. A CREPD-produced video on the lead paint situation in Cameroon and a video documentary on lead poisoning and its health effects by France Television were shown during the school event.



TOGO: Les Amis de la Terre-Togo (ADT) held a press conference and appeared on a national radio program to foster awareness about lead paint. Forty-six people from the print and broadcast media and civil society representatives attended the conference. After presentations by Mr. Nadjo N'Ladon Casimir, a specialist in chemical and technological risk management, and Mr. Mougue Bibi Pacôme, an environmental lawyer from ADT, a group of 10 students from the Camp Gnassingbé Eyadema Public Primary School read a message on why Togo should stop making, marketing and using lead paints and why lead paints should be regulated. After the conference, ADT, represented by Mr. Amegadze Kokou Elorm and Mr. Mougue Bibi Pacôme, went to Radio Lomé for a 60-minute discussion about lead-added paints and the hazards posed by such paints.



LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL. Environmental Health Association (Toxisphera) sounded the alarm over the proliferation of paints containing high concentrations of lead in the market, citing studies conducted by the Association for the Protection of the Environment of Cianorte (APROMAC) and Toxisphera. Federal Law 11762 of 2008 restricts the maximum limit of total lead content at 600 parts per million (ppm) for paints used in residential buildings, schools and children's facilities in Brazil. In a press release, the groups noted extremely high lead levels in paints analyzed in 2012 and recommended that the Brazilian government effectively enforce the law throughout the national territory to control lead in domestic as well as imported paints. The groups further recommended that factories voluntarily eliminate lead from their paints and that consumers demand safe and adequately labeled products.

COLOMBIA. Colnodo released Colombia's first lead paint study in partnership with IPEN. Laboratory tests revealed that 59% of the samples had a lead content greater than 600 ppm, and 59% had a lead content greater than 10,000 ppm. To inform the general public about the risks of lead exposure from such paints, to put pressure on manufacturers to produce lead-free paints, and to promote regulatory control on lead in paint in the country, Colnodo worked with Sustainable Development Network (RDS) to publicize the report and the corresponding press release. The information reached more than 17,000 people in Facebook and 9,000 in Twitter, and 26,000 more received the report through the RDS Bulletin.

(Report produced by Colnodo and IPEN)



PARAGUAY. The Directorate General of Environmental Health and Alter Vida hosted an interagency breakfast meeting in the capital city Asuncion, which drew participants from public and private institutions, including paint manufactures. The 25 participants included representatives from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Environment, Paraguayan Industrial Union, Paraguayan Society of Toxicology, Institute of Standards and Technology, House of Representatives, Office of the Public Prosecutor, Faculties of Medicine and Exact and Natural Sciences, Municipality of Asuncion, and paint companies Amanecer SA, DUX SA and Pintupar SA. At the meeting, the Representative of the Commission on Ecology and Environment of the House of Representatives pledged to push a lead paint bill based on a draft law promoted by the General Directorate of Environmental Health. The participants likewise agreed to promote public awareness and understanding of the lead paint issue and the need for action.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

JORDAN. More than 50 people tackled the health, environmental, social and legal aspects of lead paint regulation at a multi-stakeholder consultation organized by Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP) and a coalition of four NGOs. Distinguished speakers Prof. Sameh Qaraybeh from the School of Land Science and Environment of the Yarmouk University and Mr. Tareq Al-Sibai from the Tradition Protection Society discussed the health and environmental impacts and socio-economic impacts of lead-containing paints. Lawyer Akram Al-Zu'bi presented the indicative components of a lead paint legislation. The General Director of the Environment Directorate of the North of Jordan, and the General Director of the Agriculture Directorate of Bani Kenanah also participated. Prior to the meeting, youth and student groups painted and wrote messages on the walls of a girls' school to draw attention to the adverse effects of lead exposure to children's health and development. Youth volunteers also painted street curbs in the area with lead-free paints.



MOROCCO. Société Marocaine de Toxicologie Clinique et Analytique (SMTCA) organized a “national day against lead poisoning” in Rabat in collaboration with the Poison Control Centre and Pharmacovigilance of Morocco (CAPM) to educate stakeholders and propose a common framework for addressing the lead paint hazard. Participants, mostly health professionals and representatives of concerned institutions and organizations, learned how the Moroccan people are exposed to lead and the control measures being implemented by various ministerial departments. Recommended action points included the need to determine the limit of the lead content in



paints in consultation with stakeholders. Dr. Naima Rhalem of SMTCA also conducted a lead poisoning awareness and prevention program at a local school that sensitized a hundred students to common sources of lead exposure at home, including lead-containing paint and old tagine (earthenware).

TUNISIA. The Association-de-l'Education-Environnementale-pour-les-Futures-Generations (AEEFG) convened a meeting to discuss the lead paint situation in Tunisia and the need for regulation. The meeting drew the participation of various stakeholders, including officials of the National Agency for Sanitary and Environment Control (ANCSEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Key outcomes include adding lead in paint in ANCSEP's national plan for 2017, and linking ANCSEP and WHO to work on the issue of lead paint. AEEFG presented the lead in paint report to the ANCSEP to serve as a basis to start a national campaign on this major public health and environmental issue. Also, AEEFG in cooperation with A2BET (a national Tunisian NGO) organized student conferences to share information about the dangers of lead, the problem with lead-containing paints and the need for lead-free alternatives.

أن التكلفة السنوية للتعرض للرصاص تكمن من بناء و تجهيز 68.000 فصل دراسي كامل لا يوجد تركيز آمن معروف لمستوى الرصاص في الدم منظمة الصحة العالمية

LEAD SAFE HOME Protect Children: Eliminate Lead Paint IPEN a toxics-free future Ministry of Education

Infographic by IPEN

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH. 250 young people, primarily from the Bangladesh Girl Guides Association and the Green Club of the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), along with representatives from the Bangladesh Paint Manufacturers' Association, Asian Paints Bangladesh Ltd. and the Elite Paint and Chemical Industries, Ltd. participated in a rally and human chain at the National Press Club in Dhaka to pressure the government to issue regulation banning lead paint in Bangladesh. After this event, the ESDO team distributed information materials on the importance of banning lead paint at Dhaka University, market places, shopping malls and at the vicinity of the National Parliament. ESDO also sponsored a children's art competition that attracted 200 people.



INDIA: Toxics Link (TL) organized two school events in New Delhi that drew 75 students. A national level poster competition about lead paint hazards sponsored by TL received close to 100 entries from schools in the National Capital Region, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and other states. Coinciding with the Diwali festival, Toxics Link spoke on a 96.9 FM radio talk show focused on the issue of lead-containing paints. Also, a 10-second radio jingle about lead paint prepared by TL was repeatedly played on 92.7 FM reaching five locations, including Baroda, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Hyderabad and Kolkata.



NEPAL: Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) organized several activities in cooperation with the Government of Nepal, the World Health Organization, workers' organizations and other stakeholders with the aim of raising awareness about lead exposure and promoting compliance to the country's mandatory lead paint regulatory standard. CEPHED met the press for the kick-off program on October 23. This was followed by radio and TV appearances and the airing of public service announcements (PSAs); a seminar on the effective implementation of the lead paint regulation;



facturer of Multilac®, the third company in the world and the first in South Asia to receive such recognition under this global program. A special supplement announcing Multilac’s success in passing the independent verification procedures was published in Sunday Observer and Sunday Times and featured congratulatory messages from President Maithripala Sirisena, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and the country’s Ministers of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Housing and Constructions, and Industry and Commerce, as well as from CEJ, IPEN and other well-wishers.

a training for painters on lead-safe work practices; school orientation programs; and a school rally in Kathmandu City for “Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future” with over 500 students in attendance. CEPHED also disseminated customized information, education and communication materials from the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

SRI LANKA: Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) celebrated the Week of Action by participating in the launch of certified lead-safe Multilac® paints in Colombo. Multilac® successfully obtained Lead Safe Paint® certification from SCS Global Services making Macksons Paints Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd., manu-



SOUTHEAST ASIA



Photo by Balifokus

INDONESIA. A press conference organized by Balifokus featured Yuyun Ismawati, Balifokus Senior Advisor; Dr. Paul Connett, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Chemistry at St. Lawrence University, USA; and Dr. Adre Mayriza, Chairman of the Indonesian Early Childhood Association as speakers. In addition, more than 500 children, parents and teachers at 10 kindergarten schools in Bekasi, Bogor, Denpasar, Depok and Jakarta learned about lead paint hazards from Balifokus, which screened the schools for lead paint using a portable X-Ray Fluorescence device. Balifokus also reached out to several paint shops in these cities to distribute informative fact sheets and other materials about lead paint. Using the hashtag #BanLeadPaint, the group further spread the information through its Facebook and Twitter accounts, which were widely shared by multiple individuals and organizations.

MALAYSIA. Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) reiterated its call to the Malaysian government to take immediate steps to eliminate lead in paint through a press release written in three languages (Bahasa Melayu, Chinese and English). CAP high-

lighted the problem by drawing attention to the fact that over 60% of the 39 paint samples jointly tested by CAP and IPEN had exceedingly high lead levels. CAP also provided the media with infographics on lead paint produced by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and the World Health Organization.



THAILAND. Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand (EARTH) conducted a social media campaign to mark this year's Week of Action utilizing the organization's Facebook and website to spread awareness on lead paint issues. Among the information materials disseminated were e-posters; an infographic on



Photo by IPEN

the cost of lead exposure; an article on the invisible cost of lead poisoning; a legal update on Thailand's lead paint regulation and the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. Information shared through the EARTH's website was accessed by 1,683 users with 177 likes and 19 shares, and the e-posters were accessed by 3,776 users with 359 likes and 47 shares. A planned press conference was cancelled out of respect for the revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej whose death plunged the nation into mourning.

PHILIPPINES: A “Zombie Run” organized by EcoWaste Coalition at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City drew public attention to the dangers of lead and the urgent need to effectively to enforce the phase-out of lead-containing architectural, decorative and household (ADH) paints. Youths disguised as “Toxic Lead Zombies” performed a “Walking Lead” number to the tune of the all-time hit “Thriller” as kids and their parents fled for their safety and health. Clinical toxicologist Dr. Bessie Antonio spoke about the health effects of lead exposure, particularly among young children, and provided some practical tips to avoid exposure. Close to 150 people attended the creative event that drew wide media coverage.



VIETNAM: Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) held a press conference to release the report “Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Vietnam. The study, conducted in partnership with IPEN, found total lead concentrations above 600 parts per million in 14 of the 26 samples of solvent-based decorative paints representing 11 brands from 11 manufacturers. Moreover, five of the samples contained dangerously high lead concentrations above 10,000 ppm. The report recommended, among other things, that the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam should immediately draft a regulation that will ban the manufacture, import, export, distribution, sale and use of paints that contain total lead concentrations exceeding 90 ppm. Vietnam lacks specific legislation to control the use of lead in decorative paints and children’s toys.

IPEN wishes to acknowledge and thank the institutions that fund its Global Lead Paint Elimination Campaign: European Union; Global Environment Facility; New York Community Trust; and Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

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.

