



# INTERNATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OF ACTION

OCTOBER 22-28, 2017





Established in 1998, **IPEN** is currently comprised of over 500 Participating Organizations in 116 countries, primarily developing and transition countries. IPEN brings together leading environmental and public health groups around the world to establish and implement safe chemicals policies and practices that protect human health and the environment. IPEN’s mission is a toxics-free future for all.

IPEN launched its Global Lead Paint Elimination Campaign in 2008. The Campaign works in cooperation with UN Environment, World Health Organization and other partners in Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. IPEN assists non-government organizations (NGOs), government officials, and paint industry leaders working at the national level to promote regulatory controls on lead paint and raise awareness about the adverse human health impacts of lead paint, particularly on the health of children.

Since 2008, IPEN has assisted NGOs in sampling and analyzing paints in more than 50 low- and middle-income countries and in the development of national lead paint elimination projects and programs.

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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 October 2017, 41 events were held in at least 37 countries.

IPEN thanks the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint for facilitating the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, and especially the core planning group for the Week: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).



**تكلفة الرصاص**  
لا يوجد تركيز آمن  
معروف لمستوى  
الرصاص في الدم  
منظمة الصحة العالمية

إن التكلفة السنوية للتعرض للرصاص تمكّن من  
بناء و تجهيز **68.000** فصل دراسي كامل

**LEAD SAFE KIDS**  
Protect Children:  
Eliminate Lead Paint

**IPEN**  
a toxics-free future

Ministry of Education



## ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

**ETHIOPIA.** Pesticide Action Nexus Association (PAN-Ethiopia) organized an event in Addis Ababa in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) to push for “Lead Free Paints in Ethiopia.” The event targeted journalists and sought to inform the public about the results of the paint studies conducted by PAN-Ethiopia in 2013, 2015 and 2017 and the impact lead poisoning has on human health, the environment and the economy in Ethiopia. The final version of draft lead paint regulation submitted by the MEFCC to the Council of Ministers for ratification was presented. During the event, PAN-Ethiopia encouraged paint industry companies that supported the regulation to phase out lead from their paint formulations.



**KENYA.** Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD) put out a press release to draw attention to the high lead concentrations of paints sold for household and decorative uses in Kenya and 14 other African countries. A new report, Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use, conducted by CEJAD and IPEN participating organizations in Africa, found that more than half of all paints analyzed had lead levels above 90 ppm and more than a quarter of such paints contained dangerously high lead levels exceeding 10,000 ppm.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) has now gazetted two standards: KS 2661-1:2017 and KS 2661-2:2017 on the determination of total lead content in paints, varnishes and related products under Gazette Notice Number 675 dated 26 January 2018. The standards limit the total lead content in paints, varnishes and related products to 90 parts per million (ppm).

**MOZAMBIQUE.** Justiça Ambiental (JA) completed a lead paint study undertaken in collaboration with IPEN. Laboratory analyses of 32 samples of solvent-based paints for home use, representing eight brands from eight manufacturers, indicate lead levels greater than 90 ppm in eight of the samples. Four paints had lead concentrations above 10,000 ppm. JA distributed pamphlets explaining the problem with lead in paints and its impact to human health.

**NIGERIA.** Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev) marked the Week of Action by publicly releasing its latest lead paint study, Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Nigeria, which was conducted in collaboration with IPEN. Of the 54 samples of solvent-based paints analyzed, 40 samples (74%) were found to contain total lead content above 90 ppm and 29 samples (54%) had dangerously high lead concentrations above 10,000 ppm. To address the problem, SRADev called on the Federal Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, to immediately draft a regulation that will ban the manufacture, import, export, distribution, sale and use of paints with total lead content exceeding 90 ppm. A representative of the Minister of Environment said SRADev’s report will no doubt provide a basis for the development of a regulatory framework that will eliminate lead in decorative paints in Nigeria.

In high level meetings held in November and December 2017 in Abuja and Lagos, respectively, the National Steering Group (NSG) on Lead Paint in Nigeria, chaired by the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv), agreed that the upcoming National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) regulations must adopt the voluntary 90-ppm total lead standard (NIS 269:2017) developed by The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON). NESREA is an agency under the Federal Ministry of Environment responsible for enforcing all environmental laws and standards.

**TANZANIA.** AGENDA for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA) held a press conference to urge the government to ban lead in paint through legal control measures. Nineteen journalists from the broadcast, print and online media attended the event held in Dar es Salaam. AGENDA





Photo by AGENDA

emphasized the need for the government to hasten the process of removing lead-containing paints in the market to protect the health of children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups. The group noted that several paint manufacturers have taken voluntary action to stop adding lead compounds to their decorative paint products and that it was time for others to implement the same.

**UGANDA.** Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria Control (UNETMAC) held a press conference and TV talk show to promote the elimination of lead paint in Uganda. Officials from the Ministry of Health and the National Environment Management Authority, paint manufacturing companies and civil society organizations attended the press briefing. Dr. Ogaram David, a toxicologist and one of UNETMAC's technical advisors, served as panelist on a NBS TV talk show. Complementing the efforts of the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), UNETMAC called on the government to ban lead paint in the country and urged paint companies to shift to non-lead paint formulations.

National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) organized a press briefing that shed light on the results from a new lead paint study, Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Uganda,



Photo by UNETMAC

conducted by the group in cooperation with IPEN. With 20 of the 30 analyzed paint samples containing lead above 90 ppm, NAPE pressed the National Environmental Management Authority to move faster in drafting the necessary regulation that will ban lead paint in Uganda. Prior to the press briefing, NAPE provided copies of the report to concerned paint manufacturers. NAPE also embarked on an awareness campaign in Kitante Hill Primary School to inform the teachers and students about the dangers of lead paint to children.

**ZAMBIA.** Children's Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF) conducted a series of activities that culminated in a high-level stakeholders' consultative meeting on lead in paint legislation in Zambia at Nakatindi Hall in Lusaka. The Hon. Lloyd M. Kaziya MP, Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, led the roster of more than 60 participants from the government, paint industry, academe, civil society and the media. The event was a big success with all of the stakeholders voting unanimously in favor of enacting a law that will phase out lead paint in Zambia. Prior to the meeting, members of CEHF took part in the celebration of Zambia's Independence Day brandishing a banner that read "Lead Safe Africa by 2020."

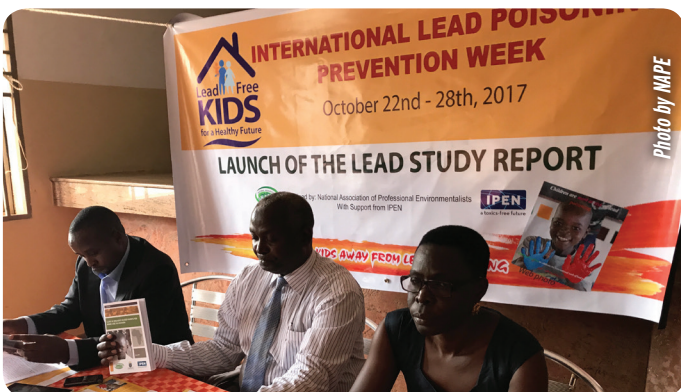


Photo by NAPE



Photo by CEHF

## EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA



**ARMENIA.** Armenian Women for Health and the Environment (AWHHE) organized a “Green Rights, Violations, Defense” workshop at the Press Club of ECOLUR agency in Yerevan. The event informed the media, civil society and the public about the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action and the risks from lead exposure to children’s health and the environment. AWHHE highlighted how exposure to lead violated children’s rights to health and a healthy environment.

**AZERBAIJAN.** “Ruzgar” Ecological Society held two events to mark the Week of Action in Azerbaijan. First, a meeting of experts discussed the harmful effects on human health and the environment from lead and mercury, and the absence of a legislative act limiting the amount of lead in household paints. A second meeting, attended by NGO and media representatives, discussed and adopted a proposed amendment to the country’s chemical safety legislation to limit lead in paint. The amendment will be presented to the Parliament.

**GEORGIA.** Gamarjoba took its lead paint elimination campaign to the schools where it conducted lessons on the dangers of lead for both children and parents. The group also expanded its campaign to Facebook and Twitter, and launched a petition seeking legislative action to control lead in paint. Gamarjoba also discussed the results of the study, Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Georgia, with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources, including the opportunities and barriers to legislation eliminating lead in paint.



**MOLDOVA.** EcoContact held a press conference at the IPN Press Agency in Chisina to inform the media about issues related to lead poisoning prevention in Moldova. Among the many issues presented and discussed were recommendations from public hearings regarding a strategic policy framework for the elimination of lead in paints, including the vision, objectives, measures to be taken, responsible actors and agencies, and the results and indicators for the period 2018-2020. Ms. Svetlana Bolocan, Head of Waste and Chemicals Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and Ms. Elena Jardan, Head of Laboratory of Toxicology, National Centre of Public Health, attended the event.





**TAJIKISTAN.** Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives (Dastgiri-Centre) spearheaded a round table meeting in observance of the Week of Action. The meeting was initiated to discuss data from its 2016 lead paint study, Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Tajikistan, and to suggest outlines for draft legislation eliminating lead in paint. Representatives from the government, academe and civil society attended the event, including government officials directly involved in chemical issues, scientists and NGO partners. Among the participants were specialists from the Agency for Standardization, Metrology, Certification and Trade Inspection and other relevant health and environmental agencies.





## FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

**BENIN.** Groupe D'Action Pour La Promotion et la Protection de la Flore et la Faune (GAPROFFA) marked the Week of Action by sharing information about lead paint and lead poisoning prevention to secondary school students at "Complexe Scolaire Les Génies" in the Department of Atlantic, Benin. This was followed by an outreach program with painters in the northern region of Benin. GAPROFFA also used the occasion to lobby policy makers at the Ministry of Life and Sustainable Development for the adoption of a mandatory regulation on lead paints.



**CAMEROON.** Centre de Recherche et d'Éducation pour le Développement (CREPD) led by Dr. Gilbert Kuepouo appeared on various TV and radio shows to inform the public about the health and economic impacts of lead exposure and to press for the approval of Cameroon's lead paint regulation. CRTV's "Follow Me," "Matinée de l'information," "Bonjour, Hello" and "Cameroun Magazine" provided CREPD with lots of airtime to draw attention to the issue of lead paint and the need for regulation. The group also provided

information materials to key government agencies in the capital city, and conducted an outreach program at Ecole "Family Bilingual School" in Etoa-Méki Foyer Bandjoun, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

In September 2017, Cameroon enacted a regulation amending Prime Minister's Decree No. 2011/2581 on toxic chemical substances, which bans the manufacture, importation and marketing of all paints containing total lead levels more than 90 ppm.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.** Planiète verte-RDC organized school-based activities on lead poisoning prevention involving Grade 6 students from Ibanda Institute, Bukavu Institute, Monseigneur Bya'ene Institute and the Tumaini Institute in the city of Bukavu. Through these activities, the students and their teachers were encouraged to make a commitment to inform their families about the dangers of lead paint.





**GUINEE.** Carbone Guinée sponsored an advocacy workshop that delved into the need to regulate lead in paint to protect human health and the environment. Among the 45 attendees were the representatives from the National Assembly, Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, Guinean Institute for Standardization and Metrology, technical directorates, universities, civil society and business organizations.



**TOGO.** Les Amis de la Terre-Togo (ADT) organized a press conference in Lomé that attracted 17 journalists from various media outlets. The risks associated with the use of lead paint were clarified and the need for lead paint regulation was underscored. ADT also convened a “conference-debate” for the establishment of a regulation that will ban the production, marketing and use of lead paint in Togo. The event drew 34 participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Health, National Environmental Management Agency, Environment Directorate, Ets Delta Painting, Togo National Painting Union, Togo Consumers’ Association, Consumers’ League of Togo, civil society organizations, as well as health professionals and the media.

## LATIN AMERICA

**ARGENTINA.** Taller Ecologista released the new report, Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Domestic Use in Argentina, which indicates the viability of producing paints without added lead in Argentina. Attendees at the event signed a petition urging the Ministry of Health to modify the current lead in paint limit from 600 to 90 ppm. Among those who attended the presentation were Ing. Daniela Mastrángelo, General Director of Innovation and Environmental Quality of the Municipality of Rosario, Gustavo Cataldi of the Chamber of the Paint Industry, Dr. Prada of the Pediatric Society of Rosario and representatives of Sintoplast Paint. Also, Taller Ecologista in collaboration with Ciclo de Ecología screened the documentary film “Custodians of the Territory” that shed light on lead exposure due to the consumption of birds shot with lead pellets. The documentary is part of a wetlands conservation program by the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of the National University of the Center of the Province of Buenos Aires.

**COLOMBIA.** To mark the Week of Action, Colnodo organized a campaign through the website of the Sustainable Development Network (RDS) and social media to raise awareness about the risks of exposure to lead in paints, especially for children. Two examples of the several tweets and Facebook posts: 1. “La pintura con plomo que causa daños graves a los niños ampliamente vendidos en los países en desarrollo, incluido Colombia. #BanLeadPaint,” and 2. “Es hora en Colombia de erradicar pintura con plomo que los países desarrollados prohibieron hace casi 40 años debido al peligro para la salud. #MakeLeadPaintHistory #BanLeadPaint.” Also, a video conference was held to introduce the Lead Safe Paint® certification program to participants from the government (Ministry of Health and Social Protection and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development), the paint industry (Hexion Química, Pinturas Bler, Pintuco and Invesa) and trade unions (Acoplásticos).



## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**EGYPT.** Kenana initiated a youth advocacy campaign to push for a policy that will prohibit lead in paints in Egypt. A seminar by chemist Mohamed Aly was first held to sensitize the participants about the health, environmental and occupational hazards associated with the production and use of lead-added paints. Advocacy and media consultant Asma Abdul Majeed followed with a talk on how young people can be engaged and how social media and other platforms can be used to communicate and influence decision makers to institute lead paint regulation. Kenana also staged a youth rally to press for a national ban on lead in paints.



**IRAQ.** Together to Protect Human & Environment Association gave a lecture on lead and lead poisoning prevention to a group of activists, academics, members of the Department of Vascular Control, and employees of the Environmental Protection and Promotion Commission in the Kurdistan Region/Erbil.

The group also conducted a paint brand survey as part of a lead paint study that it is conducting in cooperation with IPEN.

**JORDAN.** Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP) kicked off the week with a meeting with Dr. Mohammad Khashashneh of the Ministry of Environment and Dr. Mohammad Bitar of the Chamber of Jordan Industry to seek consensus on the guidelines that will govern a ban on lead paint in the country. A separate meeting with the Ministry of Health was held on the same matter. These policy negotiation meetings were followed by an awareness-raising event on lead paint and lead poisoning prevention held at Isra University in cooperation with the



Jordan Olympic Committee and the Committee on Environment and Sport.

Jordan Environment Society (JES) organized a series of activities to raise student awareness about the dangers of lead-containing paints and the steps needed to avoid lead poisoning. Dr. Bassil Al-Yousify, Director of the World Health Organization's Regional Center for Environmental Health, presided over the launch of the campaign at the Jubilee School Hall which drew government and school participants as well as representatives from Sipes paints.



**LEBANON.** IndyACT met with officials of the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and the MoE’s representative to the National Committee for Standardization of chemicals in products, including paints, to discuss the need to elaborate national standards for lead in paint. To discuss the risks posed by lead-added paints to public health and the environment and increase support for a law regulating lead in paints, a well-attended meeting was held in Saida City with president and members of the municipality, civil society representatives from the region and the media in attendance. Dr. Naji Kodeih’s articles in Arabic and English about lead paint were published in an environmental website. He also was a guest on Al Nour Radio and engaged in a 45-minute interaction that focused on the urgency of adopting a lead paint regulation in Lebanon.

**TUNISIA.** Association d’Education Environnementale pour la Future Génération (AEEFG) celebrated the Week of Action in Kasserine, south of Tunisia. On the first day, a workshop for students was held to introduce the problem with lead in paints and the international movement to get rid of such paints. On the second day, the students took part in painting the logo of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP) on the school wall using lead-free paints. A press release was published in a national newspaper highlighting the importance of getting a lead paint law adopted.





## SOUTH ASIA

**BANGLADESH.** Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) initiated a high-level policy dialogue to push for a ban on lead paint in Bangladesh. Among those who took part were government officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, academicians and the officers of ESDO. A 200-strong human chain and rally by Girl Guides and Green Club members was also held to raise awareness about the issue of lead paint and the urgent need for a regulation to be enacted to prevent lead exposure and pollution. The activities, inspired by the theme “Learn the Risks, Educate Community, Ban Lead Paint,” were widely covered by the media.

As reported in the Financial Express on 5 January 2018, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) now has finalized a maximum 90 ppm lead standard for household paints. The standard is awaiting gazette notification to be published after almost three years of consultative meetings.

**INDIA.** Toxics Link released a new study entitled Toxic Paints: A Research Report on Lead Content in Household and Decorative Paints to advocate for a better implementation of India’s “Regulation of Lead Content in Household and Decorative Paints Rules,” which took effect in November 2017. Toxics Link played a key role in getting the regulation adopted, but there was a delay in the issuance of the guidelines for the testing of paint samples. The study found 73 percent of the analyzed paints with lead levels above the 90 ppm regulatory limit, with 11 out of 15 paint samples representing 13 brands containing exceedingly high lead levels. Coincidentally, the Government of India issued the testing guidelines for paints to supplement the regulation soon after the report was released by Toxics Link. A radio talk show on Apna Radio 96.9 FM (a community radio of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) was also organized to spread awareness about lead paint hazards and promote compliance with the country’s lead paint rules.

The Central Pollution Control Board of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change now has issued the “Compliance and Testing Procedures for the Measurement of the Lead Contents in Household and Decorative Paints.” According to guidelines,

“household and decorative paints manufactured or imported on or from the date these rules come into force, i.e., 1.11.2017, shall be labeled “lead content does not exceed 90 ppm” or “lead content does not exceed 90 mg/kg.”

**NEPAL.** Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) and the Society for Legal and Environmental Analysis and Development Research (LEADERS Nepal) jointly carried out a packed, week-long program. The awareness-raising and capacity-building activities were carried out in collaboration with the Nepal Bar Association, Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists and a host of government and non-government organizations and with support from the country office of the World Health Organization. In addition to the mass dissemination of lead paint-related information materials through various media, CEPHED also released a new report which indicates that 60% of the analyzed paints were found to be compliant with Nepal’s new mandatory 90 ppm lead paint standard.

On 1 January 2018, Justice Om Prakash Mishra and Justice Bham Kumar Shrestha of the Supreme Court of Nepal dismissed the writ filed by the Nepal Paint Manufacturers’ Association and allied paint industries that sought to nullify a mandatory 90 ppm lead paint standard enacted in 2015 by the Government of Nepal.



**SRI LANKA.** Representatives of Centre for Environmental Justice, Macksons Paint Lanka and the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the painting of a ward with Multilac, a certified Lead Safe Paint®. The hospital, one of the largest children's hospitals in the world, serves as the national referral center for pediatric care in Sri Lanka. After the signing ceremonies, CEJ staff distributed leaflets and posters to hospital doctors, nurses and visitors, including parents and their children, about the hazards of lead in paint and the importance of using lead safe paints. With neurologist Dr. A. Padeniya, the group also met the hospital director, Dr. W. K. Wickramasinghe, who also cited the importance of lead safe paint for children's health.



## SOUTHEAST ASIA AND EAST ASIA



**CHINA.** The Shenzhen Zero Waste Environmental Public Interest Development Center translated and published the IPEN report Total and Soluble Lead Content of Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in China. The study shows that paint with very high levels of lead are still easily available on the market in China. However, it also shows that it is feasible to produce both white and brightly colored paint with no added lead in China, since paints from several of the brands analyzed for the study contained only low levels of lead. The study further shows that a soluble lead limit (the basis for the current regulation) can result in a false sense of safety, since several paints with a low soluble lead content had a very high total lead content. Almost twice as many paints did not comply with a 90 ppm total lead limit compared to a soluble limit of 90 ppm. The report was publicly released on December 25, 2017.

**INDONESIA.** Balifokus organized a series of activities across four cities in four provinces highlighting the dangers of lead, as well as asbestos, in houses and



children's facilities. Information materials about the lead content of paints sold in markets and tips on how to choose lead-free paint products were distributed to consumers at building depots in three cities. A coloring competition involving 40 kids from various kindergarten schools was held at Fli 'n Flo Bogor Kidz Club in Bogor, while interactive dialogues with students, parents and teachers from several kindergarten schools were held in Bogor, Denpasar, Jakarta and Yogyakarta Cities. The group conducted X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) screening of schools, residential apartments and playgrounds to draw attention to the problem. With the help of local paint companies PT Indaco and PT Bital Asia, a professional demonstration on lead paint and asbestos roof abatement was held as well. Balifokus also organized a national seminar and stakeholder meetings advocating for a mandatory 90 ppm standard instead of the country's current voluntary 600 ppm standard.

Gita Pertiwi and Kakak Foundation organized a joint campaign dubbed as "Weekend without Lead Poison with Children and Youth" in Karanganyar City attended by city officials. The event drew more than 100 young participants, including those from a school serving kids with special needs. In Solo, the organizers took the issue of childhood lead poisoning prevention, particularly the dangers of lead in paint, to local radio and TV stations.

**MALAYSIA.** The Consumers' Association of Penang held a press briefing led by president S.M. Idris and researcher Hatijah Hashim to emphasize the toxicity of lead and to call on authorities to ban lead in paints and consumer products in order to combat lead poisoning. "Without a ban Malaysia will be a dumping ground for products with high levels of lead that have been rejected by other countries," the group pointed out. The group recalled that 60% of the solvent-based decorative paints analyzed by CAP in 2016 had exceedingly high lead levels. More than a year has passed since the report was publicly released, but the government has yet to come up with a regulatory control on lead in paint.

On 21 November 2017, 15 paint manufacturers in Malaysia formally signified a commitment to eliminate lead in paint by 2020. Among the companies



that signed the commitment form at the Green Forum organized by the Malaysian Paint Manufacturers' Association were AkzoNobel Paint, Becker Industrial Coating, Boustead Sissons Paint, Chugoku Paint, Dolphin Paint, Federal Paint, Kansai Paint, KCC Paint, Kossan Paint, Paint, MCI Paint, Nippon Paint, Sancora Paint Industries, Sime Kansai Paints, Suzukacoat, and Seamaster Paint.

**PHILIPPINES.** To mark the national phase-out of lead-containing architectural, household and decorative paints, the EcoWaste Coalition organized a festive event at San Vicente Elementary School in Quezon City with over 500 people in attendance. During the event, the group launched the report, *Lead in Solvent-Based Paint for Home Use in the Philippines*, which indicates a significant increase in the percentage of paints sold on the market that conform with the 90 ppm maximum total lead content limit. To celebrate this campaign milestone, the group unveiled a “Lead Safe Paint Store” with some of the 50 compliant paint brands on display. Messages of recognition and support were received from the Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers, as well as from the offices of Vice President Leni Robredo, Senator JV Ejercito (Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography) and Representative Ging Suansing (Chair of the House Committee on Ecology). Also, the EcoWaste Coalition together with the consumer protection group, Laban Konsyumer Inc., jointly requested paint manufacturers improve



product labeling information and retrieve old lead-containing paints that are still in retail shops after the phase-out deadline. Additionally, representatives of both the EcoWaste Coalition and IPEN spoke at the seminar on lead poisoning prevention sponsored by the Environmental Management Bureau.

**VIETNAM.** The Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) convened a groundbreaking national workshop that brought various stakeholders together to discuss the elimination of lead paint in Vietnam. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Pollution Control Department), Ministry of Health (University of Public Health, Bach Mai Hospital, and the Institute of Occupational Health and Environment), Ministry of Industry and Trade (Department of Chemicals), Vietnam Paint and Printing Ink Association and civil society organizations. All participants agreed that the state management agencies should quickly promulgate regulations to control lead in paint, especially decorative paints for home and school use. Participants also suggested that NGOs/GOs should promote health education and awareness-raising on the health hazards of using lead paint. After the workshop, Vietnam Television (VTV) collaborated with CGFED for an episode about lead paint and lead poisoning that was aired on “The Weekend Morning Café” of VTV3.

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

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