



a toxics-free future

www.ipen.org

ipen@ipen.org

International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: Public Participation in the Civil Society Forum on Involving civil society and business community into "Green growth" policy promotion: Priorities, solutions, perspectives"

NGO: "Greenwomen" Analytical Environmental Agency

Country: Kazakhstan

Date: February 2011

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Include civil society representatives in Government committees formulating, carrying out and monitoring SAICM implementation plans, or useful inputs into the process where NGOs encounter barriers to their substantive direct participation, broad and meaningful participation of stakeholders, including women, at all levels in devising responses to chemicals management challenges and in regulatory and decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety (164, 206)

Description of Stockholm Convention or SAICM implementation-related policy processes that you have participated in or contributed to:

Kazakhstan participates in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The Ministry of Health (State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service, in particular) is responsible for implementation. The National Profile to Assess the National Infrastructure for Management of Chemicals was prepared in 2006 with the financial support of Switzerland and the European Union and with technical assistance of UNITAR.

The project of SAICM Quick Start Program for updating the National Profile to assess the potential for strategic approach and priorities was implemented in Kazakhstan in 2008 with the assistance of UNITAR. "Greenwomen" and other NGOs and representatives of civil society also participated in the assessment. The seminar, with discussions on outcomes and priorities for implementation of SAICM key provisions, was held in Astana on October 7, 2009.

Chemicals management issues are embodied in local laws covering sustainable development issues (Concept of Transition of Kazakhstan to Sustainable Development in 2007-2024; the Concept of Ecological Security of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2004-2015; "Environment Protection Program in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2008-2010" etc.). The program "Ecology in Kazakhstan for 2010-2020" was prepared in 2009. However, these documents don't reflect the complexity of chemical management issues which also require proper funding from budget and other financial sources.

The current legislation regulates the management of chemicals through almost all of their life cycle. However, there are still a lot of examples of unsafe production and use of chemicals. Many enterprises don't have a unified system of chemicals and industrial waste management (for example, classification, marking, storage and transportation) even though the regulatory framework and requirements exist. Of even greater concern is the lack of awareness about the harmful effects of many chemicals on human health and the environment- not only is the general public not aware, but workers also are not. Long-term contamination, existing industrial and household waste landfills (which don't meet any national or international requirements) and illegal waste dumping are other serious problems.

Kazakhstan has not yet developed a national plan for the SAICM implementation to address these issues. The development of a national plan requires the involvement of the public and more effective action from the government. "Greenwomen" is a member of the Public Council attached to the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Unfortunately, this institute cannot influence significantly the promotion and implementation of SAICM in Kazakhstan

Description of NGO positions, priorities and concerns with the process:

"Greenwomen" supports IPEN's Declarations. In cooperation with the key civil society organizations of Central Asia, "Greenwomen" has developed a sub-regional "Action Plan for the implementation of the Goal 2020 "Toxics-Free Future" as well as a "NGO Action Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)."

Project Outcomes:

Description of the activity conducted or type of participation that was organized:

"Greenwomen" and Eco-Accord proposed to organize a session on chemical safety at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED-6) in Astana from 27 September to 2 October 2010. This initiative was supported and a session called «Civil Society and Green Growth» was held during the Civil Society Forum.

On the first of October 2010, during the discussion group of the Forum, "Greenwomen" and Eco-Accord made a presentation entitled "NGO Involvement in the Promotion of Green Growth Policy using the Activities Carried out by IPEN Member Organizations as a Good Practice Example of Addressing Issues of Chemical Safety."

The presentation was dedicated to the Green Growth policy that, according to the principles of sustainable development, is directly linked to the provisions of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Through SAICM provisions, countries ensure meaningful participation of civil society in decision-making on sustainable development matters, improve the environmental situation, and contribute to sustainable economic growth and social well-being. In order to ensure «Green Growth» it is necessary to resolve problems of toxic heritage remaining in countries as a result of environmentally unsound economic growth. The sooner the practice of environmentally unsound economic development ceases to exist the less costly the relief of the consequences will be and the more efficient the implementation of the “Green Growth” policy will be.

In addition, on the 28th of September “Greenwomen” made a presentation at the side event of MCED-6 entitled “Green Tools and Green Decision-Making on Mining: on the Way to Environmentally Sustainable Economy” (NGOs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, WECF, and IPEN).

Impact on target groups:

More than 300 participants took part in the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED-6), including governmental representatives, businesses, international organizations, NGOs, media and other civil society groups. Participants acquired knowledge about international experience: participation of IPEN member organizations in the promotion of the “Green Growth” policy.

It was also possible to organize meetings with governmental representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan in order to share opinions about “Green Growth” policy and NGO participation in this process.

Impact on target policies:

A NGO initiative for the organization of the session on chemical safety was approved during the preparation of the MCED-6 Agenda. This may be viewed as strengthening the role of NGOs in shaping policy in the field of chemical safety both at the national and international levels.

Outreach to stakeholders:

The presentation “NGO Involvement in the Promotion of Green Growth Policy using the Activities Carried out by IPEN Member Organizations as a Good Practice Example of Addressing Issues of Chemical Safety” was presented at the side event for interested NGOs and then at the Civil Society Forum MCED-6 for governmental representatives, business, civil society, media and international organizations. An opinion was shared that not all participants could understand how principles of sustainable development could be linked to the provisions of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Not all participants could understand what “Green Growth” implies. Therefore, awareness-raising on this process is important for different stakeholders.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

The presentation expressed a NGO position regarding the role of sustainable development in chemical production and use. It is emphasized that the chemical industry needs to follow the SAICM principles in order to ensure sustainable development. NGOs also underlined the importance of including issues of chemical safety into national plans and programs in the field of sustainable development.

Description of communication efforts:

The officially MCED-6 published document encompassed presentation topics, including Greenwomen’s presentation at the session on “Civil Society and Green Growth”. This topic was also discussed by participants of the on line forum held by NGOs prior to MCED-6.

SAICM National Focal Point:

Ospanov Kenes, the Chairman of State Committee of the Sanitary and Epidemiologic Control of the Ministry of Health of the republic of Kazakhstan.