



**a toxics-free future**

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## **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:** Societal and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (booklet)

**NGO:** ReLANS (Red Latinoamericana de Nanotecnología y Sociedad)

**Country:** Mexico

**Date:** June 2012

### **Elements of SAICM Covered:**

Nanotechnology is an emerging issue, and still needs more discussion about how it will be incorporated in the Global Plan of Action, based on a Switzerland Proposal and in the Regional recommendations for the approval of ICCM3 that will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2012.

### **Description of the situation with regards to nanotechnology in your country or region:**

The stimulation of nanotechnology development by governments is a trend common to many Latin American countries. Brazil, Argentina and Mexico started to

encourage nanotechnology development in the early 2000s. Brazil and Argentina rapidly crystallized their efforts in national programs established in 2004 and 2005, respectively. In Mexico there was the intention to develop a national plan, although it is not yet concrete at this time.

Investments have been made across Latin America and the Caribbean, but the difference in scientific research infrastructure is notoriously large between the countries. Undoubtedly, Brazil and Mexico have the best endowment for research in a diversified range of areas. Argentina, in spite of being a country that historically developed a significant scientific capacity, is considerably less equipped than the other two largest Latin-American countries.

Several challenges face nanotechnology development in the region. One is the polarization of capacities. Much has been said about the North-South gaps in Science and Technology; but we also note a possible widening of the intra-regional gap. Another has to do with the risk of guiding the regional scientific development to an external agenda; since the priority is given to competitiveness in order to capture foreign market niches, which is far from solving social needs. Still another challenge is the pro-business orientation, which ignores any health and environmental risk assessment. In addition, no social debate exists.

#### **Description of the activity conducted:**

- Research and writing of the booklet in Spanish by Co-Chairs of ReLANS and with the collaboration of CAATA in the SAICM chapter.
- Editing and printing of 1000 issues of the booklet in Spanish. See IPEN website: [http://www.ipen.org/pdfs/Nanotecnologia\\_es.pdf](http://www.ipen.org/pdfs/Nanotecnologia_es.pdf)
- Agreement with University of California-Santa Barbara for the translation of the booklet to English. It was translated and 200 issues printed. See ReLANS website: [http://www.relans.org/IPEN\\_NT\\_En.html](http://www.relans.org/IPEN_NT_En.html)
- Press conference and media interviews on the topic (radio, newspapers, TV, Web sites) in Mexico
- Personal presentation at several Academic Events and distribution of the booklet in Latin America
- Agreement with the Latin American Secretariat of the IUF (International Union of Food and Agricultural Workers) for the translation of the booklet to Portuguese. Tentative date: end of July, 2012. Probably UITA will do the design for the electronic version but more resources are needed for the printing
- Agreement with African NGOs and scientists for the research and writing of a version for Africa similar to the Latin American booklet. Tentative date of the draft: August 15, 2012. More resources are needed for electronic version and printing, David Azoulay from CIEL is also working as an author in the Africa booklet so he has more information about potential printing plans.

#### **Impact on target groups:**

- Four groups were targeted: Academic, NGOs, Trade Unions and government.
- Academic: 4 presentations in Congresses (México, Brazil, Venezuela); 1 agreement for translation (USA); 7 workshops/congresses where the booklet was distributed (México, Brazil, Uruguay, Cuba, Venezuela, Italy); agreement with African scientists.
- NGOs. 1 Video interview (Brazil); <http://nanotecnologiadoavesso.org/category/tema/nanotecnologia-na-america-latina>

- Trade Unions: Agreement for the translation to Portuguese. Rel-Uita (IUF-Latin America) distributed 80 issues within their trade unions.
- Government: Distribution of the booklet in the pilot workshop organized by UNITAR in Uruguay (April 18, 2012).

#### Impact on target policies:

- The target policy was to highlight the recommendations on nanotechnology made by GRULAC and NGOs in the regional consultation meeting in Panama from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011. This include the call to apply a precautionary approach, during the complete lifecycle of engineered materials, transparency and the right of consumers and workers to information, the application of extended producer responsibility, and the participation of workers and the health sector.
- The agreement was to write and disseminate the booklet in Spanish. This was and is being covered. We added the translation to English (for Caribbean speaking countries and key external people interested); also the translation to Portuguese; and also the writing of a version for Africa.
- A wider dissemination within target groups (trade unions and NGOs) will depend on our possibilities, since we do not have mobility funds/infrastructure.

#### Outreach to stakeholders:

- The main stakeholder / sector engaged was the Latin Americana Rel-Uita Trade Union. We continue working closely with them.
- We recommend that UNITAR incorporates and disseminates the booklet in their pilot country's projects on nanotechnology.
- The booklet has been presented in different congresses and universities related to nanotechnology discussion such as:

March, 07	Booklet Presentation	<i>Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas.</i> UNAM México D.F.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foladori, G. Booklet Presentation</li> <li>• Bejarano, F. Booklet Presentation</li> <li>• Commentator: Ribeiro, Silvia, ETC group. <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ceGBguKy00">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ceGBguKy00</a></li> <li>• Commentator: Rafael Camacho. Instituto Investigaciones Biomédicas, UNAM.</li> <li>• Teresita Romero Torres. Instituto Nacional de Ecología. Semarnat.</li> <li>• Silvia Ribeiro sobre Nanotecnología. <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ceGBguKy00">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ceGBguKy00</a></li> </ul>
March 12-15	Distribution of 50 issues	<i>Universidad de La Habana. La Habana, Cuba</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Conference. New Materials in the Age of Convergence. Universidad de la Habana, <a href="http://www.imre.oc.uh.cu/nanoimre2012/La_Habana">http://www.imre.oc.uh.cu/nanoimre2012/La_Habana</a>, Cuba.</li> </ul>
April 18	Distribution of 30 issues	<i>Montevideo, Uruguay</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nano Safe Workshop (UNITAR / LATU). Montevideo. <a href="http://www.unitar.org/uruguay-hold-nanotechnology-workshop-part-national-pilot-project">http://www.unitar.org/uruguay-hold-nanotechnology-workshop-part-national-pilot-project</a></li> </ul>
April 18-20	Distribution of 10 issues	<i>Florence, Italy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Public Communication of Science and Technology Conference (PCST). Florence, Italy. <a href="http://www.pcst2012.org/scientificprogramme.php">http://www.pcst2012.org/scientificprogramme.php</a></li> </ul>
May 6, 7	Distribution of 15 issues	<i>Santa Bárbara, California, USA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution to Delegates of National Science Foundation to Center for Nanotechnology in Society (CNS)-USB workshop and to members of CNS. S Santa Bárbara, California. [English version co-edited: ReLANS / IPEN / CNS-UCSB]</li> </ul>
May 18-19	Presentation and distribution	<i>Lages, Santa Catarina, Brazil</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foladori, G. I Simpósio Internacional Ciência, Saúde e Território. Universidade do Planalto Catarinense (UNIPLAC).</li> </ul>

	of 30 issues		<a href="http://www.uniplac.net/noticias/index.php?id_noticia=3086">http://www.uniplac.net/noticias/index.php?id_noticia=3086</a>
May 21-23	Presentation and distribution of 20 issues	Caracas, Venezuela	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invernizzi, N. Presentation in the workshop: Oportunidades y Riesgos de la Nanotecnología. Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas. Caracas, Venezuela. <a href="http://www.rednano.org/eventos/registrotaller.html">http://www.rednano.org/eventos/registrotaller.html</a></li> </ul>
June 5-8	Distribution of 120 issues	México DF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IX Jornadas Latinoamericanas de Estudios Sociales de la Ciencia y la Tecnología. UNAM. México D.F. <a href="http://www.ea-journal.com/eventos/details/142-ix-jornadas-latinoamericanas-de-estudios-sociales-de-la-ciencia-y-la-tecnologia-esocite-2012">http://www.ea-journal.com/eventos/details/142-ix-jornadas-latinoamericanas-de-estudios-sociales-de-la-ciencia-y-la-tecnologia-esocite-2012</a></li> </ul>
June 8-9,	Presentation	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPEN Gral. Assembly. Rio de Janeiro</li> </ul>

### Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

- Booklet in Spanish and English (following in Portuguese). Paper.
- 3 Web sites with the booklet on line: ReLANS; IPEN; ReI-UITA
- Press Conference and written material
- Power Point presentation in different Congresses, see references in the last point
- 1 scientific article written on the popularization experience.

### Communication efforts:

- Press Release: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/84754489/Bol-Prensa-ReLANS-CAATA-Final>
- *Azteca Noticias*: <http://www.aztecanoticias.com/notas/salud/100442/nanotecnologia-pone-en-riesgo-la-salud-expertos>
- *Nuestra Visión Noticias*. [Video]. Advierten sobre uso de nanotecnología. <http://www.nuestravision.com.mx/nuestravision/index.php/noticias?task=videodirectlink&id=418>
- *Reforma*: Urge normar nanotecnología. <http://noticias.terra.com.mx/urgen-normar-nanotecnologia,5a3646ad70fe5310VgnVCM4000009bf154d0RCRD.html>
- *terra.com.mx*. Especialistas advierten de los impactos sociales y ambientales de la nanotecnología [http://economia.terra.com.mx/noticias/noticia.aspx?idNoticia=201203071747\\_AGE\\_80950282](http://economia.terra.com.mx/noticias/noticia.aspx?idNoticia=201203071747_AGE_80950282)
- *Tierramérica*. México: Scientists Call for Regulation of Nanotechnology. March 12. [www.tierramerica.info/nota.php?lang=eng&idnews=3920&olt=568](http://www.tierramerica.info/nota.php?lang=eng&idnews=3920&olt=568)
- *Sociedad Mexicana de Toxicología*. <http://www.somtox.com.mx/wib/aviso.html>
- *Bionero*. Advierten sobre impactos sociales y ambientales de la nanotecnología. <http://www.bionero.org/ecologia/advierten-sobre-impactos-sociales-y-ambientales-de-la-nanotecnologia>
- *Periódico Correo*. <http://www.periodicocorreo.com.mx/ciencia/24504-senalan-expertos-riesgos-a-la-salud-por-uso-de-nanomateriales.html>
- *Nanotec Blog*. <http://nanotec-blog.blogspot.com.br/2012/03/nanotecnologia-pone-en-riesgo-la-salud.html>
- *RAPAM / CATA*. Por un futuro libre de Tóxicos. [http://www.caata.org/main\\_page.html](http://www.caata.org/main_page.html)