

## **Southeast Asia and East Asia – August 2012**

Southeast Asia and East Asia is economically and politically diverse. This leads to different types of challenges and needs with respect to chemical safety and this has been evident in how SAICM has been implemented in the region. Overall, the speed of SAICM implementation has been unhurried and uneven and in most cases still evolving and far from being complete and effective. Progress in elevating chemical safety as an integral piece of any national agenda and plan of action for socially just and sustainable development has been slow and gradual.

Several countries in the region have moved toward SAICM implementation in a variety of activities. Thailand has incorporated SAICM into the country's National Master Plan on Chemical Safety and has set up a corresponding national coordinating committee that includes representatives from government, industry and civil society. Korea has fully analyzed the Global Plan of Action and developed an implementation plan and a coordinating committee that includes two public interest NGO representatives. Most governments have initiated measures to strengthen sound chemicals management that have yet to be concluded. For instance, Malaysia has drafted a Chemical Classification, Labeling and Safety Data Sheet regulation and an Environmentally Hazardous Substances Notification and Registration Scheme that have yet to be approved. In 2012, Indonesia formed a technical committee that will work toward the establishment of a National Hazardous Chemical Substances Commission as directed by a government regulation that was issued in 2001. In 2011, the Philippines decisively resumed a process that has been idle since 2007 that will adopt a Chemical Control Order for lead and lead compounds, which will, among others, prohibit lead-added decorative paints.

While several countries in the region have severely restricted or banned some highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), much remains to be done to enforce such directives. Regional information sharing on HHP bans and their rationale could be helpful to governments in the region who seek to address HHPs in their country. Attention must be given to the registration review process to phase out HHPs and to prevent new ones from entering the market. Also, government policies aimed at reducing HHPs should include promoting toxic-free sustainable agriculture and providing incentives to farmers to move away from harmful chemicals. An alarming issue is the illegal movement of pesticides from manufacturing countries across the long porous borders of countries that have a long tradition of sustainable agricultural practices and which do not manufacture synthetic agrochemicals. A regional mechanism could help ensure that pesticide manufacturing countries respect pesticide bans of other countries.

As in other regions, waste management is a key issue in Southeast Asia and East Asia. There are increasing public and governmental concerns with POPs, metals, and other types of toxic chemicals from municipal and hazardous waste management, cement kilns, and various types of incineration including waste-to-energy incinerators. SAICM stakeholders anticipated this problem when they proposed GPA item 258, which calls for implementing "...capacity building programs on waste minimization and increased resource efficiency, including zero waste resource management, waste prevention, substitution and toxics use reduction, to reduce the volume and toxicity of discarded materials."

NGOs have worked actively to help implement SAICM in the region by working alongside impacted communities and many other sectors. Their efforts have ranged from conducting creative and evidence-based information and education activities; sampling and data analyses; initiating chemicals policy reforms; providing policy papers; and addressing SAICM's emerging policy issues.

## **Gaps**

Despite the steady efforts of countries in Southeast Asia and East Asia to promote the sound management of chemicals since SAICM was adopted in 2006, gaps still remain in implementation. These gaps include:

1. Insufficient financial resources to fully and effectively implement SAICM and related multilateral chemicals and environmental agreements, nationally and at the ASEAN-level.
2. Lack of concrete efforts to mobilize additional resources from the chemicals industry to pay for the costs of sound chemicals management.
3. Weak incorporation of the precautionary principle and other essential tools in current or emerging chemicals policies such as “no data, no market,” toxics use reduction, materials substitution, “polluters pay,” and “right to know,” among others.
4. Slow progress in crafting national chemicals profiles and frameworks for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.
5. Lack of a holistic mechanism or system for inter-agency coordination on chemicals management in terms of data collection and repository, information sharing, enforcement, compliance measures, etc.
6. Inadequate infrastructure and personnel to effectively enforce bans and/or restrictions on the trade, sale, use and disposal of chemical substances, products and wastes of concern, including inefficient customs control to prevent illegal traffic in dangerous and toxic goods.
7. Lack of an ASEAN-level policies and corresponding cooperative plans to respect national pesticide bans and prevent transboundary movement of banned pesticides.
8. Lack of robust and unified legislations, general as well as specific regulations, to advance the goals of chemical safety and sustainable development in agriculture, industry and commerce.
9. Insufficient assessment and guidance on the use of nano materials and nano technology, and the impact of their application to human health and the environment.
10. Lack of documentation on the health, environmental and economic impacts of highly hazardous pesticides and other products and wastes of equivalent concern.
11. Ineffective policies to prevent and reduce the growing volume and toxicity of discards and the establishment of functional systems toward the environmentally-sound management of municipal solid waste, healthcare waste, and hazardous waste.
12. Poor public access to essential information such as chemicals transported, used and stored industrial facilities, chemicals discharged from pollution sources, chemicals in products, chemicals in wastes, chemicals poisonings, etc.
13. Lack of effective civil society engagement and participation in the implementation of SAICM, especially at the policy level.

## SAICM implementation by NGOs in Southeast Asia and East Asia

Civil society organizations affiliated to IPEN have carried out various activities related to the national implementation of the SAICM Global Plan of Action. Below are some examples of SAICM implementation from NGOs in the region.

<b>SAICM Objective</b>	<b>NGO Activity and GPA Items</b>	<b>Names of NGOs</b>	<b>Country</b>
<b>Risk Reduction</b>	Contributed to the development of a national chemicals profile  GPA items: 1, 165	Ban Toxics, EcoWaste Coalition, Health Care Without Harm	Philippines
	Participated in government-initiated policy discussions on developing chemicals laws and regulations  GPA items: 12	Ban Toxics, Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien (CEDAC), EcoWaste Coalition, Health Care Without Harm	Cambodia, Philippines
	Promoted the phase out and ban on major chemicals of public health concern (asbestos, highly hazardous pesticides, phthalates, toxic metals etc.)  GPA items: 20, 54	Consumers' Association of Penang, EcoWaste Coalition, Pesticide Action Network – Asia Pacific	Malaysia, Philippines
	Collaborated with the government on a megaposter on pesticide and chemical fertilizer  GPA items: 52, 54	Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien	Cambodia
	Conducted air, water, sediment, fish and/or hair sampling to determine levels of mercury in hotspots and encourage action to curb mercury pollution  GPA items: 57	Balifokus, Ban Toxics, Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand, EcoWaste Coalition, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Health Care Without Harm	Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand
	Mercury monitoring in artisanal small-scale gold	Balifokus	Indonesia

	<p>mining hotspots in West Java, Central Palu and West Lombok to develop health and environmental indicators, identify feasible non-mercury gold extraction methods, and explore phytoremediation approach to clean up the contaminated sites; in collaboration with Bandung Institute of Technology, Tadulako University and Mataram University</p> <p>GPA items: 57</p>		
	<p>Conducted studies on mercury in cosmetics and personal care products such as skin whitening creams</p> <p>GPA items: 57</p>	<p>Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand, EcoWaste Coalition, Green Beagle</p>	<p>China, Philippines, Thailand</p>
	<p>Conducted paint sampling activities to know lead levels in decorative paints and organized awareness-raising activities based on the findings</p> <p>GPA items: 88, 89, 108, 157</p>	<p>Balifokus, Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand, EcoWaste Coalition</p>	<p>Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand</p>
	<p>Conducted heavy metals study and monitoring near hotspots (hazardous waste landfills and gold and zinc mining sites)</p> <p>GPA items: 57, 69, 76</p>	<p>Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand</p>	<p>Thailand</p>
	<p>Promoted non-incineration alternatives to managing industrial, hazardous, healthcare and municipal waste</p> <p>GPA items: 54, 70, 258</p>	<p>Balifokus, Bangon Kalikasan Movement, Cavite Green Coalition, Community Sanitation and Recycling Organization, Consumers'</p>	<p>Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand</p>

		Association of Penang, Ecological Alert and Recovery – Thailand, Renewal EcoWaste Coalition, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Indonesia Toxics-Free Future Network, Interface Development Interventions, Greenpeace, Mother Earth Foundation, Philippine Earth Justice Center	
	Conducted public awareness activities on health and environmental effects of pesticides  GPA items: 27, 54, 64, 78, 88	Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien, Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development, Gita Pertiwi, Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific, Pesticide Action Network Philippines, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center, Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association, Tenaganita	Cambodia, China, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Asia-wide
	Performed information, education and research activities on healthcare waste management and non-incineration alternatives  GPA items: 54, 56, 70, 84, 119, 162, 258	Balifokus, Consumers' Association of Penang, EcoWaste Coalition, Health Care Without Harm	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines
	Carried out community-based monitoring on the use of pesticides	Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien,	Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia,

	GPA items: 13, 23, 46	Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development, Gajad Muda University, Gita Pertiwi, Pesticide Action Network-Philippines, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center, Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association, Tenaganita	Philippines, Vietnam
	Organized training on health and environmental risks of pesticides  GPA items: 46, 112	Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development, Pesticide Action Network-Philippines, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center	China, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam,
	Campaigned against paraquat and endosulfan, sent out information to governments in the region, presented risks of paraquat use to Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture  GPA items: 27	Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center	China, Asia-wide

	<p>Organized knowledge sharing activities, trainings and demonstrations on ecological agricultural practices, including health effects of pesticides, chemicals-free farming and benefits of organic food</p> <p>GPA items: 51, 54, 56, 112, 160</p>	<p>Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien, Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development, Consumers' Association of Penang, Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific, Pesticide Action Network Philippines, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center, Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association, Research Center for Rural Development</p>	<p>Cambodia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Asia-wide</p>
	<p>Participated in multistakeholders' project to develop a national framework on chemical accident prevention and preparedness</p> <p>GPA items: 71</p>	EcoWaste Coalition	Philippines
	<p>Developed new guidelines for hazardous substances such as boric acid, chlorinated paraffin, ethanol amine and alkyl phenol in metalworking fluids; in collaboration with eight manufacturers of metalworking fluids occupying 80% of the market share</p> <p>GPA items: 3, 6, 13, 20, 21</p>	OUR Network Korean Steelworkers Union	Korea
<b>Knowledge and Information</b>	Monitored compliance of FAO Code of Conduct in pesticide retail shops	Pesticide Action Network Philippines	Philippines

	GPA items: 23		
	<p>Organized various information, education and communication activities to promote the community and consumer right to know and be protected against harmful chemicals in products, toxic releases in industrial processes and environmental pollutants from waste treatment and disposal facilities</p> <p>GPA items: 72, 105, 124, 147, 150, 161, 163, 177, 187</p>	<p>Consumers' Association of Penang, Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand, EcoWaste Coalition, Greenpeace</p>	<p>Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand</p>
	<p>Organized sampling activities to determine the presence of harmful chemicals like toxic metals in children's products such as toys and school supplies, and conducted awareness-raising and policy activities based on data generated</p> <p>GPA items: 88, 150, 245</p>	<p>EcoWaste Coalition, Yayasan Lembaga Konsumen Indonesia (Indonesian Consumer Association)</p>	<p>Indonesia, Philippines</p>
	<p>Investigated bisphenol A in canned foods used in Korean public schools and conducted public awareness-raising with parents</p> <p>GPA items: 88, 150, 245</p>	<p>OUR Network</p>	<p>Korea</p>
	<p>Implemented mercury inventory and mercury storage project; in collaboration with Bandung Institute of Technology, Ban Toxics, Health Care Without Harm, PPLi (Waste</p>	<p>Balifokus</p>	<p>Indonesia, Philippines</p>



	Management International)  GPA items: 57		
	Initiated risk communication and conflict mediation regarding industrial pollution and community livelihood and sustainable solutions  GPA items: 105, 106, 109, 110	Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand	Thailand
	Developed and distributed fact sheets and monographs on highly hazardous pesticides (endosulfan, paraquat, glyphosate, chlorpyrifos, fipronil) and safer alternatives  GPA items: 81, 89, 114	Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development, Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific, Pesticide Action Network Philippines, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center	Cambodia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Asia-wide
	Organized activities with consumer brigades, school consumers /nature/ environment clubs to promote consumer information and education  GPA items: 112	Consumers' Association of Penang	Malaysia
	Translated and published Thai version of "In Harms' Way" to educate Thai health professionals and public about the impact of chemicals on child development, and collected relevant reports in Thailand on chemicals and children's health  GPA items: 150	Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand	Thailand
	Organized workshop series on the precautionary	EcoWaste Coalition	Philippines

	principle, chemical safety and children's health  GPA items: 150		
	Held regional workshop on curriculum development for community education on pesticide risk reduction  GPA items: 112	Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center	Cambodia, China
	Contributed to the Report by the Special Rapporteur to Right to Health  GPA items: 149	Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific	Malaysia
	Conducted local radio shows to highlight ecological agricultural practices including bio-diversity based ecological agriculture  GPA items: 159	Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien	Cambodia
	Sent out 2704 short messages to farmers, consumers and partner CSOs regarding risks of endosulfan  GPA items: 119, 140	Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center	China
	Distributed 1000 calendars with information on pesticide risk to farmers and government officials  GPA items: 119, 140	Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center	China, Vietnam
	Risks of paraquat were presented in Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture in 2011  GPA items: 27, 119	Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center	China
	Organized public awareness-raising and	EcoWaste Coalition	Philippines

	<p>media activities on the ecological management of spent mercury-containing fluorescent lamps to combat unsafe recycling and disposal</p> <p>GPA items: 57, 69</p>		
	<p>Co-organized with the FTA Watch a review of the social and environmental challenges under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) policy, and the problems with trans-boundary transfer or trade of hazardous waste from Japan to ASEAN countries and / or from other industrial countries through the economic agreement.</p> <p>GPA items: 163, 164, 268, 273</p>	Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand	Thailand
	<p>Workshop on mercury-free health care in collaboration with Ministry of Health and medical device industry</p> <p>GPA items: 57, 59</p>	Global Village of Beijing	China
<b>Governance</b>	<p>Participated in public hearings and technical working group meetings regarding the banning of endosulfan Lobbied the local and national authorities to ban the aerial spraying of agrochemicals</p> <p>GPA items: 196</p>	EcoWaste Coalition, Interface Development Interventions, Pesticide Action Network Philippines, various community and farmer groups	Philippines

	<p>Contributed to the development national strategy to environmentally sound management of mercury in Indonesia.</p> <p>GPA items: 59, 165, 170, 176</p>	Balifokus	Indonesia
	<p>Lobbied for the ecological management of mercury-containing lamp waste</p> <p>GPA items: 57, 69</p>	EcoWaste Coalition	Philippines
	<p>Campaigned for the development and implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register</p> <p>GPA items: 177, 178, 179</p>	Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand, EcoWaste Coalition, Greenpeace	Philippines, Thailand
	<p>Participated in the development, implementation and/or review of Stockholm Convention's National Implementation Plans (NIPs)</p> <p>GPA items: 206, 211</p>	EcoWaste Coalition, PAN Philippines	Philippines
	<p>Filed a legal complaint in order to assert the genuine representation of the public interest in the National Hazardous Substance Commission</p> <p>GPA items: 164, 188</p>	Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand	Thailand
<b>Capacity Building</b>	<p>Conducted trainings and provided inputs and suggestions on chemical conventions addressing human and environmental impacts of pesticides</p> <p>GPA items: 225</p>	Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development, Pesticide Action Network Philippines, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center	China, Vietnam, Asia-wide

	Organizing training activities on community environmental and health monitoring  GPA items: 227	Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand	Thailand
	Provided training opportunities on hazard classification and GHS  GPA items: 249	EcoWaste Coalition	Philippines
	Carried out capacity building programs and projects on waste prevention and reduction, including zero waste resource management, sustainable consumption practices, etc.  GPA items: 258	Cavite Green Coalition, Consumers' Association of Penang, EcoWaste Coalition, Mother Earth Foundation	Malaysia, Philippines
	Conducted seminars and workshops to equip informal waste recyclers with information and knowledge on chemical hazards and basic exposure prevention tips  GPA items: 260	EcoWaste Coalition and informal recyclers' groups	Philippines
	Organized a survey and capacity building workshop on better management of e-wastes  GPA items: 260	Institut Hijau Indonesia in cooperation with local waste recyclers in Jakarta.	Indonesia
	Launched E-Waste Action Now, produced e-waste advocacy documentary and conducted awareness raising activities, including seminars and media events.  GPA items: 260	Ban Toxics, EcoWaste Coalition, Greenpeace, Philippine Earth Justice Center	Philippines

<b>Illegal Traffic</b>	<p>Conducted a survey to assess the transboundary movement of pesticides with focus on banned pesticides</p> <p>GPA items: 265, 266, 267, 268, 269</p>	<p>Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien, Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific, Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association</p>	<p>Cambodia, Laos</p>
	<p>Organized policy advocacy and public pressure to repatriate the contaminated imported metal scraps from UK and the Netherlands</p> <p>GPA items: 268, 272, 273</p>	<p>Indonesia's Toxics-Free Network (Balifokus, Indonesian Centre for Environmental Law, Yayasan Lembaga Konsumen Indonesia (Indonesian Consumer Association), Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia, Gita Pertiwi and Greenpeace Indonesia)</p>	<p>Indonesia</p>
	<p>Raised concern, disseminated information and conducted investigative work on illegal shipment of dangerous and toxic wastes</p> <p>GPA items: 268, 272, 273</p>	<p>Balifokus, Consumers' Association of Penang, Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand</p>	<p>Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand</p>
	<p>Promoted media efforts to alert customs authorities on possible entry of illegal products containing lead, mercury and other toxic metals</p> <p>GPA Item: 273</p>	<p>EcoWaste Coalition</p>	<p>Philippines</p>