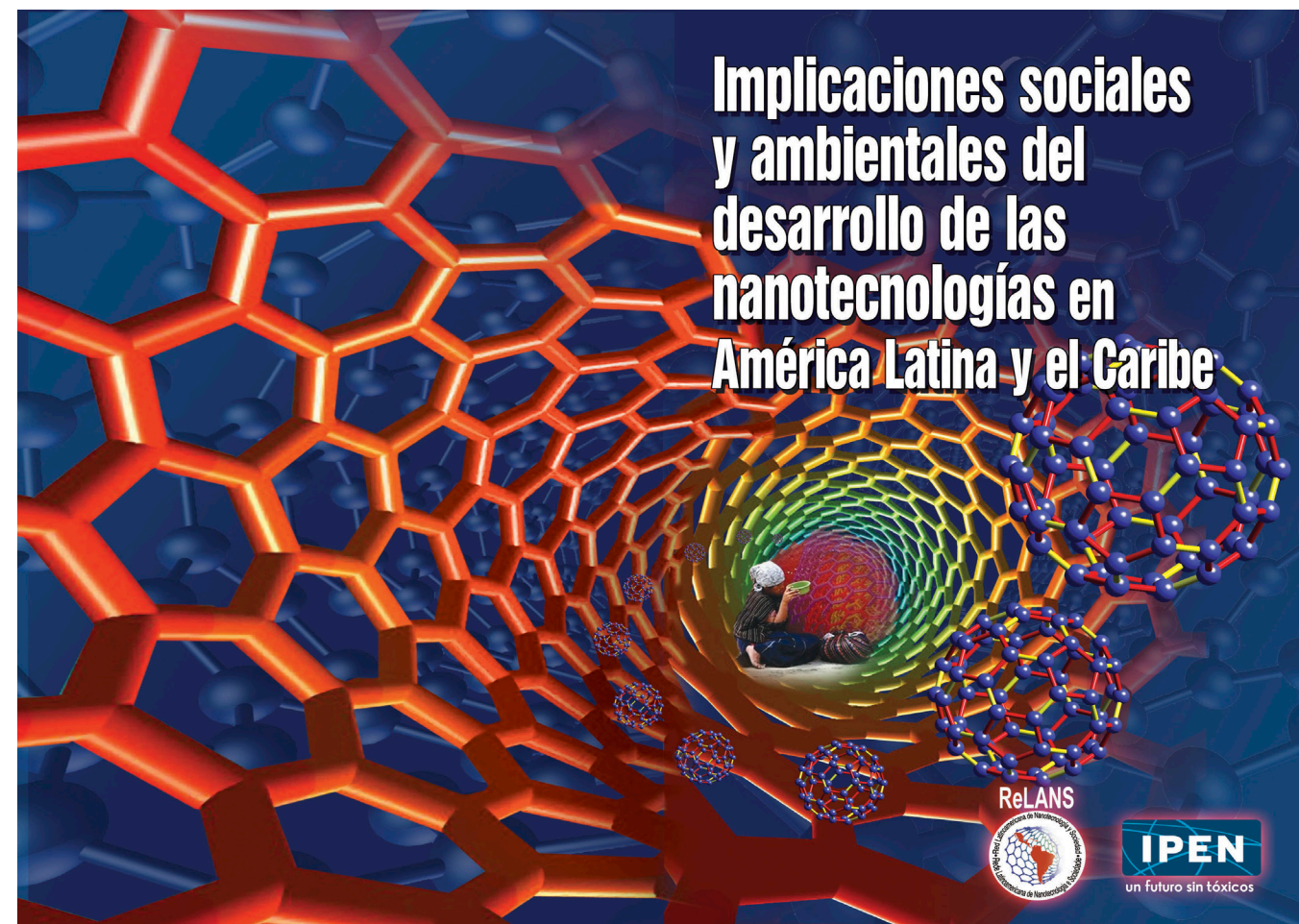


NGO: ReLANS (Red Latinoamericana de Nanotecnología y Sociedad / Latin American Nanotechnology & Society Network)

Country: Mexico

Project: Societal and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology development in Latin America and the Caribbean

SAICM GPA activity numbers: 2, 83, 87, 102, 105, 106, 109



In March 2012, ReLANS, the Red Latinoamericana de Nanotecnología y Sociedad / Latin American Nanotechnology and Society Network, completed a booklet titled: "Social and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology Development in Latin America and the Caribbean."

The booklet provides a definition of nanotechnology, and outlines the market for nanotechnology, as well as worker, health and environmental risks associated with nanotechnology. It also dedicates a chapter to the recommendations regarding the policy towards nanotechnologies and engineered nanomaterial that were approved at SAICM-related workshops held in Kingston, Jamaica in 2010 and in Panama City in 2011. These recommendations include:

- Applying the precautionary approach during the complete lifecycle of engineered nanomaterial;
- Ensuring transparency and the right of consumers and workers to information;
- Applying extended producer responsibility throughout the entire lifecycle of engineered nanomaterials;
- Strengthening the capacity to effectively evaluate the potential risks of engineered nanomaterials, especially for vulnerable groups;
- Incorporating multisectorial participation, particularly of workers and of the health sector, in the elaboration of policies, programs and training materials on occupational health and environmental safety of nanotechnologies; and
- Establishing regulations of foreign trade.

The booklet, originally written in Spanish, has now been translated into English (in collaboration with the University of California- Santa Barbara) and Portuguese (in collaboration with the International Union of Food and Agricultural Workers). It was released at a press conference in Mexico, and has also been presented via media interviews (radio, newspapers, TV, web sites) and at several academic events in Latin America.

