

Report from 11th Regional Chemicals Management Forum



February 21-23, 2017
Vientiane capital, Lao PDR.

Opening and Welcome

The 11th Regional Chemicals Management Forum was held at Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Vientiane capital, Lao PDR, and jointly organized by the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) and the Department of Industry and Handicrafts, Ministry of Industry and Commerce (DIH, MoIC), Lao PDR.

The main objective of the 11th Regional Chemicals Management Forum was to continue the building of a regional meeting place for development cooperation, training and networking in chemicals management. Furthermore the 11st Regional Forum aimed to introduce participants to a specific Chemicals Management issues, namely Mercury management, human rights and chemicals and regional collaboration on chemicals management beyond 2018.

The meeting was opened at 9.00 a.m. on 21st of February 2017, with welcome remarks by **Mr. Somphong Soulivanh**, Deputy Director General of the Department of Industry and Handicrafts (DIH), MOIC and **Ms. Louise Herrmann**, Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, Development Cooperation Section.

On behalf of the MoIC, **Mr. Somphong Soulivanh** extended his warm welcome to participants from Sweden, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam to attend the 11th Regional Chemicals Management Forum. He also expressed sincere appreciation to KEMI, the Government of Sweden and all participating countries for their continuous support to move forwards the initiative of Regional Chemicals Management Forum. This initiative has significantly contributed to better understanding and regional cooperation concerning chemicals management and Human Rights and particular issues, such agricultural chemicals, waste management. Therefore he emphasized the importance of chemicals management, human rights and considered the 11th Regional Forum as a platform for further strengthening the cooperation among countries in the region towards the development of sound and advanced chemical management.

On behalf of the Government of Sweden, **Ms. Louise Herrmann** extended her appreciation to the MoIC for hosting the 11th Regional Forum, KEMI for co-hosting and arrangement to share Swedish experience in chemicals management and governance. She also thanked all participating government agencies, international organizations and companies for coming to share their experiences via presentation and dialogue throughout the three days. She mentioned about continuous support of Swedish government towards countries in the region under the project called "Towards a non-toxic environment in South East Asia". The project has facilitated regional exchange of knowledge, experience and dialogue on chemicals management and specific issues, and promoted regional agreement upon joint strategies how to move forwards in a proper direction. At present, many things can threaten our fundamental right to life and health-hazardous chemicals are among these threats. Hazardous chemicals in products can pose serious threats to workers during the production, to people living in the vicinity of factories affected by pollution, and to consumers who use such products. The potential harms of hazardous chemicals in products highlight the importance of sound chemicals management, including information dissemination and awareness raising, to be one of the key issues for sustainable development. In 2015, 193 Heads of States agreed on and adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda has 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a number of sub-goals. The Sustainable Development Goal most closely related to Chemical Management is SDG 12 "Ensure sustainable consumption

and production patterns". SDG 12 has target 12.4 that requires, by 2020, to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil, in order to minimize their adverse impact on human health and the environment. This is a re-confirmation of the 2020 goals formulated by the global policy framework to international chemicals management known as SAICM. Last but not least, the drive of ASEAN to have more regional integration, such as ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), will also stimulate ASEAN countries to do more cooperation, e.g. increased harmonization of regulations, joint enforcement activities, and identification of areas for special attention in the area of chemicals management.

Attendance

Seventy-four participants attended the 11th Regional Chemicals Management Forum. The participants represented concerned government agencies of the following countries, namely Sweden, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. The 11th Forum also welcomed the experts from UNEP, civil society organisations, academia and concerned business entities. See detailed list of participants in Annex 2.

Part 1: Presentations of country situations

Representatives of participating countries in Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and Bhutan presented about the latest development of chemicals management since the 10th Forum, planned activities in 2017 and main focus areas and challenges during the coming 5 years (2018-2022).

Lao PDR situation

The latest development of chemical management is about the Chemical Law. This law consists of 9 chapters and 81 articles. For Chemical Management, it covers seven articles namely ❶ Article 9 ❷ Article 16 ❸ Article 18 ❹ Article 22 ❺ Article 39 ❻ Article 44; and ❼ Article 45.

This law was approved in November 2016. Although the Chemical Law has formulated and approved, it has faced with many challenges due to Lao PDR does not have marrow strategy to promote the controlling chemical waste; there are no regulations after chemical law, and lack of information on chemical usages; and inability of workers in management of chemical waste. Therefore, to minimize these issues, Lao PDR requires some facilities such computerized system for chemical management; Manuals and guidance of chemicals management; and also Laboratory for chemicals analysis.

Ways forward in 2017 and 2018-2022

2017

- Formulate on some Secondary Chemicals Law.
- Research and create a national chemicals list.
- Request to the Minister of MoIC to create ~~have~~ new chemicals Department.

- Propose to KEMI Agency and also International organization to continue support on development new legislations under Chemicals Law, and Capacity building on chemical management

2018-2022.

- Formulate strategy, Action plan and some regulations under the Chemicals Law.
- Baseline data based for chemical.
- Capacity building on chemical management to line ministries and also DOIC at the provincial levels.
- Sharing information on Chemical Management in the regional, national and international levels.
- Cooperation training and regional networking in chemical management.

Vietnam situation

Since the 10th forum, Vietnam has action plan for updating the legal documents on chemical managements, e.g. Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) revised and developed a number of legal documents on chemicals management into the draft decree detailing and guiding the implementation of some articles of the Law on Chemicals. This law has submitted to Government Office and waiting for commending from Government members. These legal documents include: The decree No.115/2016 / ND-CP amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 163/2013 / ND-CP dated 11/12/2013 of the Government on sanctioning of administrative violations in the field chemicals, fertilizers and industrial explosives. Second, Draft Decree Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 202/2013 / ND-CP of November 27, 2013 of the Government on management of fertilizer. Moreover, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment has focused on villages and establishments of manufacturing, sales and service by 2020, with has a vision to 2030. Furthermore, Prime Minister will be approved the national action plan on the management of air quality by 2020 and the vision to 2015 and also the National Action Plan on the management of air quality by 2020, with has a vision to 2025.

Thailand situation

Thailand has implemented the 4th National Strategic Plan on Chemicals Management (2012 -2021) with the goal that within 2021 the social and environment is safe by effective management of chemicals in accordance with national development and participation from all sectors. This strategic plan has focused on three pillar activities. They are the most important development since last forum. Most important events during in 2017; and Main focus areas and challenges during the coming 5 years (2018-2022).

The first activity involves the development on planning and implementation; the development of chemical inventory. The development on GHS; and the development on knowledge. This area's activity also highlighted the Hazardous Substances.

The second activity is about the development of knowledge and collaboration; the development of planning and implementation; the development of chemical inventory; the development on legislations and the organization; and the development on international agreement and corporation. In this plan, it is dynamic on five strategic plans. The four plan is for national strategic plan on chemical management (2012-2021), this strategic plan will link to the fifth national strategic plan on chemical management (2019-2036).

Finally, it focuses on the challenges during the upcoming five years (2018-2022), which talking about the development on planning and implementation; the development on knowledge and collaborator; the development on GHS implementation; and the development on chemical inventory.

Although the national strategic plan has many positive scenario, they also have Challenges during the coming 5 years, e.g. the development of the new chemical law; development of new law on pesticides; establishment of the national chemical agency; thematic working group on chemical and waste for ASEAN pacific corporation; and ASEAN working group on chemical and waste.

Myanmar situation

Ministry of Industry (MoI), is responsible for prevention of Hazard and damage by chemicals to natural environment resources and also protection of Hazard from chemical and related substance rules. In particular, controlling the chemicals transporting, storing, using and discharging of chemicals and also will sooner issue the license for chemical business and register the chemicals uses in chemical business. Furthermore, the Ministry of Industry is the focal point for collaboration with related ministries, in terms of Chemical, Biological, radiological and Nuclear defense, and so on.

In currently, the MoI not only prepares the National Chemical Profile which the chemicals are imported and used in Myanmar and it will be issued sooner, but also translates the ISO standards to Myanmar language and submits to standardization committee to adopt standard.

In this presentation, Myanmar is also heighted the key area which is relating to the Mercury used in goal mining. Myanmar was not in a position to sign the Minamata Convention on Mercury before it was closed to signature on 9 October 2014.

To reduce the Mercury usage, they have implemented many activities such as training/ seminar on MOHA, GHS&RC Awareness to MOHA, which organized by Ministry of Home Affair. Another activity is to disseminate GHS overview knowledge and RC awareness.

In this regard, they have faced with several challenges, e.g. They do not have Comprehensive Primary Laboratory & Appellate Laboratory, lack of Laboratory and equipment for testing or inspection, inability to repairing & Maintenance and also knowledge on Chemical Hazard, and also they lack knowledge on Classification of Chemical Mixture.

Cambodia situation

To achieve goal for Chemical Management, Cambodia has started several programs such as prepared a report of law and regulation implications for ratification; prepared a report of economic implication; preparing a stakeholder consultative workshop; and also updating inventory report on mercury. Moreover, they have drafted code of environment, which it has 11 chapters. The purpose of this draft is to enable sustainable development through protection public health and the environment, restoration and enhancement of natural resource management and also management of hazardous chemical substances is in chapter 6. In this activities, they have lacked infrastructure for hazardous waste management, the Hazardous waste is disposed mixed with municipal waste such as batteries, and also Cambodia has insufficiency of information on mercury wastes. These issues are a main burden for Cambodia.

Bhutan situation

Currently, Ministry of Health in Bhutan does not have chemical regulations, the regulations, they have used are based on some national constitutions and international actions like ILO Convention Replacement of Asbestos, benzene UNEP Basel Convention, PIC Convention World Bank Guidelines. To pursue this action, Bhutan has created of Awareness amongst Stakeholders by providing the national workshop and also building the National Capacities for sound Management of Chemicals. For instance, they have updated of National Chemical Profile; Setting priority for Carcinogenic chemicals; Identification of preventive intervention for Carcinogenic chemicals; and Development of National Program. However, in practical, Bhutan faced with several challenges such as Minimal or poor collaboration and coordination amongst respective agencies; Inadequate polices and rules to regulate life cycle management of chemicals; Limited and scattered Information; Limited or inadequate infrastructure - technical and physical; and General lack of awareness and associated risk of chemicals. These negative phenomena are main issues for Bhutan to achieve goals for Controlling Chemical Waste. On the other hand, to reduce this drawback, Bhutan has settled up the strategy toward as:

To develop a sound chemical management system

- Establishment of National Framework for life cycle management of chemicals; and
- Develop and harmonize an integrated national chemicals information/database management system.
- To assess and reduce chemical risk, and advocacy

Institutional strengthening and development:

- Promote and strengthen surveillance systems for public health and environmental hazards posed by chemicals

Part 2: Mercury management

Updates on the Minamata Convention

Ms Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida from UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok presented updates on the Minamata Convention and possible support from UN Environment connected to implementation of the convention. This presentation, she specified not only the updated on Minamata, but she also presented on the way forward on mercury, e.g. mercury is a global pollutant, so the next step is to setting up the meeting, e.g. the meeting should have 128 participants joint the Signatories forum; 38 parties; 12 more are required for convention to enter into force; and the Asia-Parcific Minamata Working Sessions to be held.

Results from a pilot project for mercury in ASGM

Mr Richard Gutierrez, from Ban Toxics highlighted the results from a pilot project on mercury in ASGM. In his presentation, he mentioned on the addressing mercury pollution in the Artisanal small scale gold mining communities in Cambodia. As he studied one year project by focusing on mercury. The objective is to support the Cambodia's communities to reduce the usage of mercury. In his research, he also faced with many challenges such

as the poverty and unemployment in rural areas; preventing used of mercury for gold amalgamation and the used of cyanide in combination with mercury; capacity for enforce law; mining law policies do not recognize ASGM; Channeling greater support to large and medium scale mining companies; and poor working condition and health association. These drawback scenario are main issues for Cambodia to encourage their community to stop using Mercury and Cyanide.

Part 3: Regional support

Presentation of KRICT-ASEAN Chemical Cooperation Center

Mr Hyunrok Kim introduced the work of Korea Research Institute of Chemicals Technology (KRICT). Korean Research Institute of Chemicals Technology –KRICT has roles on the development of chemical technologies and relevant convergence technologies, contribution to strengthening competitiveness of Korean chemical industries and creation of new growth engine for national economy with 6 main functions includes: 1) green chemical process, 2) advanced materials, 3) drug discovery, 4) convergence technology, 5) chemicals information, chemicals bank and 6) public service/cooperation through infrastructure. Its key research and development fields are: bio & drug discovery, Chemical Information Management, Chemical Safety and Toxicology, carbon resources, advanced materials, convergent chemical process, and convergent research of emerging virus infection. KRICT has partners 148 institutes in 24 countries,

KRICT has an ASEAN Chemical Technology Cooperation Center in Hanoi, Vietnam for partnership development based on information creation and sharing, planning for cooperation, project developments, and proposition and funding. In Vietnam, KRICT has practical approaches as Bio-Pesticide Technology Promotion Center and Pilot Demonstration for e-Waste Treatments.

Asia-Pacific Forum on Health and Environment - introduction

Ms Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida introduced the Asia-Pacific Forum on Health and Environment. Ms. Yoshida introduced the ASIA-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment in Manila, 2016. Which had high level ministers and officials from 36 countries of Asia and the Pacific took part in this 4th Forum, on the 10th Anniversary of the mechanism in Manila, The Philippines, in 6-8 October 2016. A leap from 14 countries from Southeast and Northeast Asia of the original composition. The countries signed the Manila Declaration on 8 October 2016. Ms. Yoshida also highlighted as air pollution is the top priority for the environment and health at the Centre of Sustainable Development” guided by SDGs. It was estimated 4.5 million people die prematurely by outdoor air pollution every year in this region. Implementation of the Regional Forum (2017-2019) has goal to achieve substantial initial progress on goals and targets dedicated to key environmental issues that have an important impact on health within the SDG framework and purpose to achieve tangible progress on realistic and measurable targets in environmental health areas within the SDG framework. Ms. Yoshida showed an interesting Gapminder World 2015 graphic on Health and Income of nations in 2015.

Asia-Pacific Forum on Health and Environment – Thematic Working Group on toxic chemicals

Mr Somchai Preechathaveekid from Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand presented the new work-plan of the Thematic Working Group on toxic chemicals.

Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Chemicals and Waste was established to deal with chemicals and waste issue, the members are composed of representatives from Asia-Pacific member countries from the private sector, academe, civil society, occupational groups, regional centres, institutions, and other regional and global initiatives tackling chemicals and waste issue may also be invited to become part of the TWG on Chemicals and Waste. Thailand is currently chairing the working group.

Mr Somchai Preechathaveekid had introduced the background of TWG that in 2016, there has been correspondence with Japan on a possible merger of TWG Solid and Hazardous Waste and TWG Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances to create a TWG on Chemicals and Waste. Consequently, the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, requested FDA Thailand, secretariat of the National Committee on Strategy Development for Chemical Management, to chair this TWG. As both chemicals and waste have major impacts on our environment and human health, Thailand FDA, health sector representative, invited Thailand Pollution Control Department as national focal point of environment, to serve as the co-chair of this TWG.

He also highlighted the overview of TWG - Chemicals and Waste Work Plan for Asia-Pacific Countries 2017-2019 that when developing the draft work plan, TWG took into account the gap in achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste in Asia-Pacific countries. And review previous work plan of TWG Solid and Hazardous Waste and TWG Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances. Work plan also built on current situation in chemicals and waste management and linkages with global trend as well as SDGs and SAICM beyond 2020. The TWG on Chemicals and Waste have work plan responsible for: knowledge management, coordination and advocacy and, resource mobilization and progress reporting. The draft work plan identifies voluntary activities where both health and environmental sector has important supporting role to play, there still needs to be an awareness of the importance of the activities. For each activity, the lead country has been identified base on level of responsibility (while recognizing we all need to work together).

As individual member countries have different priorities, based on their specific contexts, the activities are not presented in priority order. Furthermore, some of the activities are broad. This is recognizes that member countries have chosen different approaches to chemicals and waste management and are at different stages of implementation. Broader activities makes it possible for member countries to tailor the implementation of the plan to their own context. These areas of activities in the work plan are aligned with the objectives set out in the implementation plan of the Regional Forum 2017-2019.

Objectives of TWG - Chemicals and Waste Work Plan for Asia-Pacific Countries 2017-2019 are:

1. To share information and data on chemicals and waste and their health and environmental impacts among member countries

2. To improve the technical knowledge and skill among personnel of member countries on sound chemicals and waste management
3. To strengthen regional institutions networking and collaboration on chemicals and waste management throughout their life cycle

Activities for objectives are identified as:

Activities for objective 1:

- Sharing information and data activity area on chemicals and waste includes activities focused on filling gaps in knowledge including development of specific TWG website to exchange information on health and environmental impacts, good practices, innovative approaches for chemicals and waste management
- Activities include the development of inventory of specialized institutions and experts of member countries

Activities for objective 2:

- Improvement of technical knowledge and skill among personnel activities area are focused on strengthening member countries capacities to address health and environmental threats posed by chemicals and waste, including training on specific topic on chemicals and waste management within member countries
- Activities include the conducting regional meeting on specific topic, study visits and collaboration with other TWG's on related issues

Activities for objective 3:

- Strengthen regional institutions networking and collaboration activities area include activities that are intended to create collaborative mechanism and collaborate among existing TWG.

Part 4: Human Rights and Chemicals

Introduction to human rights and chemicals

Ms Ratana Ly from Royal University of Law and Economics in Phnom Penh and Ms Helena Olsson from Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) introduced some basic concepts connected to human rights and principles included: universal, interdependent and interrelated, indivisible, inalienable. The presenter emphasized that all human rights should thus apply to everyone, everywhere, without discrimination on any grounds and the most vulnerable are often most in need of protection. And elucidated core human rights principles as:

- a. Principle of universality: rights to everyone
- b. Principle of inalienability: inherent rights that cannot be taken away
- c. Principle of indivisibility: legal equality of all human rights, whether they are civil and political or economic, social and cultural rights
- d. Principle of interdependence and interrelated: in practice, the promotion of one right will have positive consequences in the enjoyment of other fundamental rights

Ms. Ly showed core human rights treaties and status of ratification of ASEAN and Bhutan by February 2017 as bellows:

Country	ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CAT	CRC	ICMW	CPED	CRPD
Thailand	2003	1996	1999	1985	2007	1992	N/A	S-2012	2008
Vietnam	1982	1982	1982	1982	2015	1990	N/A	N/A	2015
Indonesia	1999	2006	2006	1984	1998	1990	2012	S-2010	2011
Singapore	S-2015	N/A	N/A	1995	N/A	1995	N/A	N/A	2013
Philippines	1967	1986	1974	1981	1986	1990	1995	N/A	2008
Malaysia	N/A	N/A	N/A	1995	N/A	1995	N/A	N/A	2010
Myanmar	N/A	N/A	N/A	1997	N/A	1991	N/A	N/A	2011
Cambodia	1983	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	S-2004	2013	2012
Laos	1974	2009	2007	1981	2012	1991	N/A	N/A	2009
Brunei	N/A	N/A	N/A	2006	S-2015	1995	N/A	N/A	2016
Bhutan	S-1973	N/A	N/A	1981	N/A	1990	N/A	N/A	S-2010

Participants were given a set of around 30 different rights and were asked to prioritize 5 rights that they found most important in connection to chemicals.

Ms. Ly highlighted general responsibilities of states includes:

- **PROTECT** in law and in reality all the rights and freedoms accepted – against human rights abuses by third parties.
- **PROMOTE** awareness of human rights, responsibilities and remedies for violations.
- **RESPECT** all human rights in all activities and inaction.

On the corporate responsibility to respect John Ruggie model on Business and Human Rights for governance framework comprising 3 pillars: “Protect, Respect and Remedy.

At last human rights and environment/chemicals Ms. Ly introduced some international instruments on environment:

- 1979 Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration) “Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality, and adequate conditions of life in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being...”
- Environmental protection is a pre-condition for the enjoyment of human rights
- 1992 Rio Declaration “Human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature” (consider certain basic rights necessary for the protection of the environment)
- International level: Agreement on trade in endangered species, conservation of biological diversity, transportation and disposal of hazardous substance, marine pollution, depletion of the ozone layer and climate change

Regional laws on HR and environment:

- 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights provides that "all people shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favorable to their development".
- 2003 Protocol to the African Charter, women "shall have the right to live in a healthy and sustainable environment" and "the right to fully enjoy their right to sustainable development".
- 1988 Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights "everyone shall have the right to live in a healthy environment"
- 2004 Arab Charter on Human Right include right to healthy environment
- Europe: 1998 Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters "Right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being".
- ASEAN Human Rights Declaration

Southeast Asia:

- ASEAN Human Rights Declaration –Article 28
- "Every person has the right to an adequate standard of living for himself or herself and his or her family including:
- The right to safe drinking water and sanitation
- The right to a safe, clean and sustainable environment
- In addition, recognizes right to development

Domestic level: HR and environmental:

- More than 90 states adopt rights related to environment in their constitutions:
 - Right to environment
 - Rights to receive information and to participate in decision-making about environmental matters
- Challenges on human rights approach to environmental protection

Group exercise/discussions

The country groups discussed a case study and each group focused on a specific questions. Each country divided into two groups to discuss on how ensure the chosen rights in the government perspective and corporate perspective. It is observed that results of discussion reflects situation of development of different countries on the different priorities chosen. For example, more developed country chose better living condition/standard while LDCs chose basic conditions like right to education, right to health, right to life etc.

Part 5: Future collaboration on chemicals management

Chemicals management and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Ms. Jenny Rönngren from the Swedish Chemicals Agency talked about the relationship between chemicals management and the Sustainable Development Goals "SDGs". The goals were adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015 and these goals apply to all countries of the world, not only developing countries. Sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development and is of great importance to the sustainable development agenda. Ms Jenny Rönngren highlighted the SDGs that are closely connected to Chemicals Management, i.e. goal number 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 15. Since all countries should work to achieve

these goals and she encouraged everyone to show the close links between chemicals management and the SDGs in order to gain attention and resources from policy makers.

Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific region

Ms. Louise Herrmann from the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok (development corporation section) presented the strategy for upcoming years (2016-2021) for Asia and Pacific. It covers the gender equality and climate change. In this strategy, the supporters really need to gather the corporation partners as intergovernmental organizations and collaborate with private sector. Another point, she mentioned the previous activity as the Mekong River Commission. This project was a resulted of activity during 2012 to 2016, e.g. the project for improving the fishery activities and so on.

Introduction to ASEAN Working Group

Ms. Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Environment of Thailand introduced the ASEAN Working Group on Chemicals and Waste (AWGCW) Brief history and development: start from 1997-2016; Terms of reference (TOR) of AWGMEA and ongoing and existing works of AWGCW. Ms. Teeraporn highlighted Reform of AWGMEA to AWGCW was taken on ASOEN at its 25th meeting in August 2014 agreed to Lao PDR's proposal to rename the AWGMEA to better reflect the issues being overseen by the Working Group. AWGMEA at its 19th meeting in June 2015 in Siem Reap, agreed to propose the new name "ASEAN Working Group on Chemicals and Waste (AWGCW)", to be in line with commonly-used term 'chemicals and waste' in relevant international conventions and to allow the working group to cover a broader area of waste issues, such as, electronic waste. The AWGCW's name was endorsed by ASOEN at its 26th meeting in September 2015, with the TOR to be revised in accordance with the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision and the new Blueprint, there are 6 programs of implementation; Work/ during the ASCC Blueprint (2009-2015) period. Thailand is currently the chair of this working group. The AWGCW's next phase implementation consist of two main directions: ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint (2016 - 2025) and Post-2015 ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment (ASPEN). ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment (ASPEN) has 7 priority areas namely: 1. Natural Conservation & Biodiversity, 2. Coastal & Marine Environment, 3. Water Resources Management, 4. Environmental Sustainable City, 5. Climate Change; 6. Chemicals & Waste, and 7. Environmental Education. Beside, AWGCW Drafted 7 action plans for 2016-2025 under the ASPEN includes:

- Management of hazardous waste and other waste defined under the Basel Convention.
- Strengthening the cooperation on transboundary movements of hazardous chemical and hazardous waste.
- Sound chemicals management.
- Promotion of environmentally sound technologies and industries, and cleaner production.
- Ensuring ASEAN presence in the global community.
- Chemicals and hazardous wastes accident prevention, preparedness and emergency responses.
- Remediation of contaminated sites from chemicals and hazardous wastes.

Gender equality and chemicals

Ms. Annette Wallgren from UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific gave a presentation, via Skype, on the connection between gender equality and chemicals.

Ms. Annette Wallgren said round the world, environmental conditions impact the lives of women and men in different ways as a result of existing inequalities, responsibilities, and roles. These differences between women and men can manifest through: unequal land and tenure rights; unequal access to natural resource assets; women's limited opportunities to participate in decision-making and access to basic education, markets, capital, training, and technologies; different vulnerabilities to disasters, climate change and exposure to air pollution and chemicals; women's common double burden of responsibilities inside and outside the household.

The integration of gender considerations throughout environment related actions is crucial for the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of such actions for both developing and developed countries. Addressing gender-based vulnerability can strengthen the capacity, resilience, health and development of the society at large. At the same time, channelling both men's and women's skills and knowledge will improve the outcomes of programmes and efforts made.

UN Environment's approach to gender includes:

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT of staff in gender mainstreaming through training, guidelines, Gender Action Plan, consultations, networking, and dissemination of information;

Increasing integration of gender analyses and gender mainstreaming in UN Environment's **PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES** in the region;

FACILITATING DIALOGUE on Gender and Environment and engaging partners, stakeholders and local institutions to share knowledge and experiences to strengthen joint work towards gender equality.

UN Environment Asia Pacific's Gender Guidance Toolkit comprises of: Gender mainstream projects; include gender its communications outreach; take in gender and environment entry points within the SDGs; UN Environment's partners with capacity for gender mainstreaming, and take in gender entry points within UN Environment's Programme of Work

Sound chemicals and waste management with a gender perspective Ms. Wallgren introduced the differentiation of donate and effect between men and women on gender and chemicals. Men and women are differently exposed to hazardous chemicals. Mining is a male dominated field and textile industry and waste management is often female dominated fields. All in which have clear linkages to chemicals exposure. Globally, women do the majority of household work in families, which also exposes them to chemicals, for instance cleaning detergents. The biological factors, notably size and physiological differences between women and men, and girls and boys, also influence susceptibility to health effects from exposure to hazardous chemicals. When environmental hazards produce illness men and women often have different responsibilities for caring for ill family members. High risk jobs of exposure to hazardous chemicals include farming, auto-plastics manufacturing as well as metalworking and certain jobs in the food industry. A

number of toxic chemicals have been identified as being of particular concern which impact men and women differently:

1. Persistent, bio accumulative, and toxic (PBT) substances: such as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
2. Heavy metals: include elements such as cadmium, lead, mercury, etc.
3. Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs): substances that can cause adverse effects by interfering in some way with the body's hormones

Ms. Wallgren also highlighted the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions GENDER ACTION PLAN – VISION stated gender equality is an integral part of the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including the Secretariat activities

For the experiences of gender inclusive on sound chemicals and waste programmes Ms. Wallgren introduced activities of concerned organization/network namely:

- UN Environment, FAO and BRS publication;
- The Pesticides Action Network in Asia Pacific (PAN AP);
- BAN Toxics: The Philippines & Small-Scale Gold Mining - Comparative analysis of the various contexts and roles women perform in two mining areas;
- UN Environment's project "Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste";
- UN Environment's project "Reducing releases of POPs, POP candidates and other chemicals of concern (CoCs) in the textiles sector"

Group discussions concerning the way forward

One of the recommendation (presented by Lao PDR & Vietnam) was the idea of establishing a Ministerial forum on Regional Chemical Management with meetings every two year.

Closing

Mr Ule Johansson, Swedish Chemicals Agency, expressed his appreciation to DIH, MOIC and organizing team for making this event happen. He also gave special thanks to participating delegations for spending their valuable time participating in this forum and sharing their valuable experiences concerning chemicals in products and chemicals management. He also noted that the forum provided very useful results and thought-provoking proposals for future regional collaboration in chemicals management, adding that KEMI wishes to continue supporting this forum and related regional activities.

Speaking on behalf of the Department of Department of Industry and Handicrafts, Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Mr Somphong Soulivanh, the Deputy Director, thanked Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) for supporting this Forum, and all experts from Sweden and international organization for sharing their knowledge, experience and good practices on Chemicals Management and Human Rights. He expressed thanks to all delegates from participating countries for their contribution to the Forum and also their active participation in discussions.

The 11st Regional Chemicals Management Forum ended at 4.30 p.m. the 23rd of February 2017.

Annex 1: Agenda

Day 1 – Tuesday, February 21		
Time	Activity	Responsible
Registration and opening		
8.30–9.00	Registration	
9.00–9.15	Welcome remarks by host country	Mr Somphong Soulivanh, Department of Industry and Handicraft , Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR (MoIC)
9.15–9.30	Welcome remarks by Sweden	Ms Louise Herrmann, Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, Development Cooperation Section
9.30–10.00	Coffee/tea break, incl. group photo	
Part 1: Presentations of country situations		
Moderator: Mr Somphong Soulivanh, Ministry of Industry and Commerce		
10.00–10.30	Country presentation, Lao PDR	Mr Khamphone Keodalavong, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
10.30–11.00	Country presentation, Vietnam	Mr Pham Hoai Long, Vietnam Chemicals Agency
11.00–11.30	Country presentation, Thailand	Ms Yuwaree Inna, Independent consultant, adviser to
11.30–12.00	Country presentation, Myanmar	Dr (Ms) Khin Pa Pa Soe, Ministry of Industry and Mr Aung Thuyein Win, No 2 Mining Enterprise
12.00–13.00	Lunch	
13.00–13.30	Country presentation, Cambodia	Mr Laska Sophal, Ministry of Environment
13.30–14.00	Country presentation, Bhutan	Mr Karma Wangdi, Ministry of Health
Part 2: Mercury management		
Moderator: Ms Jenny Rönngren, Swedish Chemicals Agency		
14.00–15.00	Update on the Minamata convention and support from UNEP connected to implementation of the convention	Ms Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, UN Environment, Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (Bangkok)
15.00–15.30	Coffee/tea	
15.30–16.30	Results from a pilot project on mercury in ASGM	Mr Richard Gutierrez, Ban Toxics
18.30-20.30	Welcome dinner (meeting room at Crowne Plaza)	

Day 2 – Wednesday, February 22		
Time	Activity	Responsible
8.30–8.45	Reflections on day 1	
Part 3: Regional support		
Moderator: Mr Somphong Soulivanh, Ministry of Industry and Commerce		
8.45–9.15	Presentation of KRICT-ASEAN Chemical Cooperation Center	Mr Hyungrok Kim, KRICT-ASEAN Chemical Cooperation Center, Hanoi
9.15–9.45	Asia-Pacific Forum on Health and Environment - An introduction	Ms Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, UN Environment, Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (Bangkok)
9.45–10.15	Asia-Pacific Forum on Health and Environment - Thematic working group on toxic chemicals	Mr Somchai Preechathaveekid, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand
10.15–10.45	Coffee/tea break	
Part 4: Chemicals and human rights		
Moderator: Mr Ule Johansson, Swedish Chemicals Agency		
10.45–12.15	Introduction to human rights and environment	Ms Ratana Ly, Royal University of Law and Economics, Phnom Penh
12.15–13.15	Lunch	
13.15–13.45	Chemicals and human rights	Mr Richard Gutierrez, Ban Toxics
13.45–14.00	Introduction to group discussion	Ms Ratana Ly, Royal University of Law and Economics, Phnom Penh and Ms Helena Olsson, Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)
14.00–14.45	Group discussions	All
14.45–15.15	Coffee/tea break	
15.15–16.15	Presentation of results from group discussions	All

Day 3 – Thursday, February 23		
Time	Activity	
8.30–8.45	Reflections on day 2	
Part 5: Future regional collaboration on chemicals management		
Moderator: Mr Somphong Soulivanh, Ministry of Industry and Commerce		
8.45–9.15	Chemicals management and the sustainable development goals (SDGs)	Ms Jenny Rönngren, Swedish Chemicals Agency
9.15–9.45	Strategy for Sweden’s regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific region	Ms Louise Herrmann, Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok
9.45–10.00	Introduction to ASEAN Working Group on Chemicals and Waste (AWGCW)	Ms Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Environment of Thailand
10.00–10.30	Gender equality and chemicals	Ms Annette Wallgren, UN Environment, Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (Bangkok) (via Skype)
10.30–11.00	Coffee/tea break	
11.00–11.15	Introduction to group discussions	Mr Ule Johansson, Swedish Chemicals Agency
11.15–12.15	Group discussions	All
12.15–13.30	Lunch	
13.30–15.00	Presentation of results from group discussions	All
15.00–15.30	Coffee/tea break	
15.30–15.45	Conclusions from the group presentations	Mr Ule Johansson, Swedish Chemicals Agency
Evaluation and closing		
15.45–16.00	Evaluation of the Forum	Swedish Chemicals Agency
16.00–16.15	Closing remarks	Mr Ule Johansson, Swedish Chemicals Agency and Mr Somphong Soulivanh, Ministry of Industry and Handicraft
16.15	End of Forum 11	

Annex 2: List of Participants

Can be obtained upon request. Please contact jenny.romngren@kemi.se or ule.johansson@kemi.se.