

Workshop on Case Studies in the Sound Management of Chemicals
Summary of Group 2 Discussion: Scaling Up Knowledge and Practices
Geneva, Switzerland, 3-4 December 2009

- Key principles for scale up include:
 - Implementing multi-sectoral approaches
 - Ensuring broad stakeholder engagement
 - Mainstreaming chemicals management into development policies
 - Clarifying partner roles up front
 - Breaking down information so it is relevant and useful
 - Empowering people by telling them what they can do to address issues related to chemical risks and chemicals management
- Scale up can be problematic
 - Potential for governments not to apply successful approaches effectively when attempting to centralize
 - Lack of trust in government initiatives can also be a concern
 - Locally tailored replication of successful approaches by NGOs can help to surmount these barriers
 - However, there is still a need for some sort of centralization/scale up in order to realize economies of scale
- Life cycle approaches are necessary
 - Being proactive and considering issues from the life cycle point of view is essential to avoid the types of problems that lead to stockpiling obsolete chemicals
 - Life cycle approach can be difficult to implement at the local level where the benefits of this approach cannot always be seen
 - Infrastructure (such as legislation) is often needed to create incentives for action that facilitate life cycle implementation
- Awareness raising and behavior change are key challenges in scaling up best practices
 - People can be made aware of chemicals management issues and solutions through many means, including advertising, early education, NGOs, industry capacity building programs
 - However, awareness does not necessarily lead to behavior change – incentives are required, which again raises the issue of appropriate infrastructure
 - It's important to facilitate alternatives that are less toxic, available, and cheaper/provide opportunities for greater income
 - Enforceable regulation is also challenging, but necessary to ensure proper incentives/disincentives are in place
- International harmonization is important to consider
 - National legislation is not always possible, thus the need for unified international standards on sound chemicals management
 - Harmonization of safer alternatives helps to broaden markets and bring down costs, thus allowing for greater use of these alternatives
 - Capacity building is essential; the UNITAR model of country profiles, capacity assessments, prioritization, and information exchange is useful to consider
- A summary of lessons learned from the case studies in the sound management of chemicals will help to provide concrete examples of specific approaches