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Symposium

Chemical Safety and Development Cooperation

- Trends and Perspectives –

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PROCEEDINGS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BMU	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
DED	German Development Service
DNA	Designated National Authority
EECCA	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
EED	German Church Development Service
EUREPGAP	Euro-Retailer Produce Good Agricultural Practices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIOOSH	Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
FLO	Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
ICRC	Interim Chemicals Review Committee
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
ILO	International Labour Organization
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSSD	National Strategies for Sustainable Development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PR	Public Relations
PREMA	Profitable Environmental Management
PrepCom	Preparatory Committee
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

P3U	Pilot Programme for the Promotion of Environmental Management in the Private Sector of Developing Countries
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

Introduction

The Symposium on Chemical Safety and Development Cooperation - Trends and Perspectives - was held in Bonn, Germany, in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), on 12-13 January 2004.

The aim of the symposium was to

- discuss the previous project activities and the project orientation in a broader context,
- contribute to the preparation of the next project phase of the GTZ Convention Project Chemical Safety, as the present project phase was close to end in May 2004,
- contribute to the project progress review and the project planning as parts of the preparation of the new project phase.

Organisational Matters

The symposium was attended by representatives of the following companies, organizations and institutions: BASF Product Safety, Bayer AG, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), CropLife International (CLI), German Development Service (DED), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), German Church Development Service (EED), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fraunhofer-Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology (FhG), Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (FIOSH), Greenpeace Germany, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Management Institut Consulting (MIC), Capacity Building International (InWent), German Environmental Protection Agency (UBA), UNEP Chemicals, and the European Centre for the Environment and Health of the World Health Organization (WHO). (List of participants see Annex).

The Agenda was adopted without changes (Annex).

The presentations given at the Symposium and some background information are attached in the Annex.

Session 1: International Context

The session was opened by showing the IFCS Video "Chemical Safety in a Vulnerable World". The video is available on Internet:

http://www.who.int/ifcs/Forums/ForumIV/FIV_video.htm.

Mr. Schipulle, BMZ 31, welcomed the participants and gave an introduction to the symposium. He emphasized that chemical safety is important to prevent damage to human health and the environment, as the production, transport, trade, storage, use and disposal of toxic substances bare many risks. He asked the participants to share their ideas and suggestions of how BMZ and GTZ could mainstream more efficiently chemical safety issues into development assistance strategies and programmes including particularly public private partnerships with the chemicals industry. He also mentioned that in 2004 and 2005, it will be decided where the location of the PIC and POPs Convention Secretariats will be, and that it would lead to a more sensitive perception of environmental topics in the German public if the convention secretariats were located in Bonn.

Mr. Willis, UNEP, gave a presentation on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and on the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (presentation details see Annex). Following the WSSD in Johannesburg in 2002, a SAICM Steering Committee (FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, UNDP, IFCS and World Bank) was formed to guide the discussion process for the development of the strategic approach. The first session of the preparatory committee (PrepCom1) was held in 2003 in Bangkok with initial discussion on the structure and possible SAICM elements including statement of political strategic vision, statements of needs, goals and objectives, principles and approaches, scope, scientific activities in support of decision-making, concrete measures, coordination, capacity resources and development, implementation and taking stock of progress.

The Rotterdam (PIC) Convention provides for a national decision-making process on the import and export of certain hazardous chemicals and facilitates the information exchange about chemicals and their characteristics. So far, the INC has met ten times and the ICRC four times to oversee the implementation of the interim procedure and to prepare for the Conference of the Parties.

The Stockholm Convention aims to protect the human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). National Implementation Plans must be developed within 2 years after the entry into force of the convention. The convention *inter alia* has provisions for technical assistance and technology transfer. The GEF is the principle entity of the interim financial mechanism. There is the need for co-financing of chemicals management projects supported by GEF.

Mr. Vaagt, FAO, introduced multilateral agreements and international instruments relevant for pesticide management and agricultural development (presentation details see Annex). He started with presenting the relevant MEAs: the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, the Rotterdam (PIC) Convention, the Stockholm (POPs) Convention, the International Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides, and the Codex Alimentarius and its specific codex committees. He also summarized the international policy instruments that provide a general policy context for pesticide management: the Convention concerning Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work, the Rio Declaration of 1992, the global programme of action on sustainable development Agenda 21, chapters 14 and 19, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, the World Health Declaration "Health for all in the 21st century", the International Plant Protection Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and other agreements on fisheries. Developing countries are interested to join as parties and implement MEAs, but in many cases lack capacities and capabilities to do so.

Mr. Klein, WHO, gave a presentation on chemical safety in cooperation with focus on human health and well being (presentation details see Annex). Following the UN Conference on Human Environment in 1972, in 1980 the IPCS was established by WHO, ILO and UNEP. Its objectives are to establish a scientific basis for safe use of chemicals and to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for chemical safety. As a response to current and future priorities, including International Health Regulations and SAICM, the IPCS was re-designed. Now it focuses on the evaluation of chemical risks to human health, providing information on poisons, preparation to chemical incidents and emergencies and capacity-building on the implementation of a globally harmonized system for classification and labelling (GHS).

Harmonization activities promote best practice at national level and reduce international duplication. Bridging efforts on health, environment and chemical safety, and making better use of human health data will support public health policy development and risk assessment/management practice, including consideration of the economic factor. Any technical assistance project in the field of chemical safety directly or indirectly affects human health.

Mr. Schlottmann, BMU, described the trends and perspectives in capacity building on chemical safety in a vulnerable world (presentation details see Annex). Recalling the chemicals related results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, he stressed Germany's responsibility as a worldwide leading chemicals producer and exporter. The development of the chemicals management in Germany began in 1982 with the Chemicals Act. International milestones are Agenda 21 Chapter 19 and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemicals Safety (IFCS I-IV). Further, the main issues of the chemical program of the OECD were highlighted, a program that focuses on the international harmonization of measures to recognize and prevent dangers resulting from chemicals. The overall goal is sustainable chemistry. Finally, it was mentioned that the strong commitment of Germany to promote chemical safety internationally is also reflected in the offer to host the Secretariats of the PIC and POPs Conventions in Bonn.

Session 2: Implementation I: Concepts for Cooperation

Mr. Bernstorff, Greenpeace, representing a public interest NGO, summarized the Greenpeace experience with the retrieval of obsolete pesticides/chemicals from Non-OECD States to OECD states (presentation details see Annex). Greenpeace has been actively involved in this field since 1992, e.g. on waste pesticides in Romania and Albania, on obsolete pesticides in Cameroon and Nepal, on ship breaking in India, China and Bangladesh, on hazardous waste shipment to Egypt and on hazardous waste exports to Hungary, Poland, Russia, the Baltic states and most of the CEE and the CIS nations (now EECCA). Greenpeace activities consist of research, publicity, action and political work. The single activities had been successful to different extents. Results were that in some cases, the hazardous substances had been repatriated to the country of origin, trade was stopped, and/or the topic was put on the political agenda on national, European (EU) and/or international levels. Most important was the United Nations level (UNEP) with its Basel Convention on Hazardous Wastes. As a result the Convention was successfully transformed from a control instrument to an export ban to non-OECD countries.

Mr. Winterling, BASF, presented the Global Compact Initiative (presentation details see Annex) of the UN and described the following additional BASF sustainability tools: One of BASF's values is sustainable profitable performance. BASF's management and board structure contains a Sustainability Council, an International Steering Committee on Sustainability and a Sustainability Centre. The company compares products by an eco-efficiency analysis. Further sustainability tools are the EHS audits, supplier audits, assessment of suppliers in the global code of conduct, environmental goals and global compact. BASF is committed to the Global Compact Initiative of the UN which encompasses nine fundamental principles on human rights, labour standards and environmental protection.

Mr. Arndt, FIOSH, gave a presentation on the implementation of the GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals) and of international chemical conventions (presentation details see Annex). After having presented the aims of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, he gave an overview over both conventions and

the GHS, emphasizing the benefits and the use of the GHS information. The GHS for example harmonises national chemical hazard communication systems world wide and avoids duplication of testing and evaluating chemicals. As principles for a safe management of chemicals he stated the life cycle analysis and regulatory activities referring to chemical products, pollution prevention, air, water, soil, waste, consumers and workers. The producer countries are responsible for the generation of information, risk management and the production of less hazardous products whereas the user countries are responsible for awareness raising, the availability of information, regulatory framework for safe use, the implementation and enforcement. Examples for technical assistance for user countries are training workshops for PIC-DNAs, co-operations between PIC-DNAs, inventory projects (Stockholm Convention) and training workshops on the implementation of the GHS in sub-regions.

In the discussion it was mentioned that a starting point for technical assistance is capacity building of designated government officials being responsible for the implementation of the conventions, like PIC-DNAs. Further points raised were that the problem of regionally misinterpreted GHS symbols (for example the skull stands for luck in Mexico) is an educational issue, and that there is still an un-sufficient base of data about the economic calculation of environmental management.

Session 3: Implementation II: Concepts for Cooperation

Ms. Steinke, BMZ 312, opened the session with some remarks about the political signals and the action plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Political declarations and a number of conventions are available. It is important now to focus on the implementation. Chemical safety is not a stand alone issue in development assistance, but is an important tool to promote sustainable development by ensuring that chemicals are produced and used without harming people's health and the environment. Emphasis must be laid on precautionary measures, but if necessary we have to tackle disposal of obsolete chemicals and contaminated sites, too, to protect the people living close to or in polluted areas and to restore the people's living environment. Chemical safety must become an integral part of all related development assistance projects and programmes, e.g. in agriculture, health, industry, transport, and use of natural resources. Cooperation of the respective projects is encouraged. Poverty eradication is possible only in a healthy environment that is not threatened by improper use of chemicals.

Mr. Breyer, BMZ 300, described the Programme of Action 2015: Poverty Reduction - a Global Responsibility and the German government's contribution to halving extreme poverty worldwide (presentation details see Annex). After naming the eight international development goals as well as the ten priority areas of the German Programme of Action that were defined in consequence of the Millennium Summit in 2000, he explained the objectives of the Programme of Action. They are: to outline the German government's contribution to halving extreme poverty worldwide by 2015, to form an alliance with the industry, academic communities, NGOs, German state and local authorities and international organizations, to deepen the German public's understanding of poverty reduction, and to strengthen autonomous processes in the developing countries. The Programme defines the strategic thrust of development policy as being the achievement of the overarching goal of poverty reduction. Its definition of poverty is broad: global structural policy is supposed to shape an environment conducive to poverty reduction. It defines poverty reduction as a common task and puts focus rather on output than input. The Programme was adopted by the entire German government: it promotes coherence of the German government's entire policy

agenda. There are three levels for action, the international structures, the structures in partner countries and the structures in Germany, Europe and other industrialised countries.

Mr. Matschinsky, DED, focussed his presentation on small and medium sized enterprises (SME). The German Development Service (DED) supports economic development and increase in employment rate particularly in SME. However, sensitisation and motivation of local partners is very difficult with external experts. It is important to involve local trainers who speak the local language and are socially accepted in the community to convince the employees in SME to implement e.g. protective measures when handling chemicals. Project activities can only be implemented successfully if the target groups are reached and motivated in the context of their living conditions.

In the discussion it was mentioned that as a consequence toxic chemicals must be kept out of reach of unaware and improperly trained people like e.g. small farmers, if it cannot be assured that the farmers understand the danger associated with the pesticides and have the means to apply protective measures when necessary.

Ms. Gordon, EED, presented the FLO (Fair Trade Labelling Organizations) International and the standards of fair trade (presentation details see Annex). For producers, fair trade labelled products represent a fairer deal in a globalised market and an effective tool for autonomous development through trade. For consumers, they represent an informed choice in shopping behaviour and taking responsibility. The principles of fair trade standards have generic standards for small farmers / hired labour situations, product specifications as well as minimum and progress requirements. There are three sections of fair trade standards: social standards (democracy, ILO conventions), environmental standards and trade relationship standards (guaranteed minimum price, fair trade premium for development, pre-financing). The FLO has an open structure: it is a member of the fair trade movement (FINE); it has a board for direct participation, certification and appeals committees, standards and policies working groups, a fair trade forum and marketing meetings. Its functions are to define fair trade standards, guarantee the standards, facilitate business and support producers. The FLO certification unit is an autonomous unit within FLO International which follows the ISO standards. To guarantee sustainability, FLO strives for cooperation on three levels, i.e. in producer countries, in consumer countries and politically.

After the presentation, it was discussed that for the implementation of the standards multi-stakeholder meetings are useful to foster co-operations with governmental institutions. Nevertheless, the sensitization of the public is essential. Concerning the sales of fair trade products, it was said that there is little domestic demand in the developing countries themselves, as the products are definitely too expensive for the domestic sale and the product conditions were formulated from industrialised countries. In addition, it was stated that not all producers interested are able to join FLO, as there is not sufficient demand for fair trade products. Regarding the prices of fair trade products, it was mentioned that the fluctuation of the prices in the producer's country are balanced out by fair trade, and that it is important to understand that sustainability and a fair trade system of course cannot be for free.

Mr. Lossack, GTZ Rioplus, gave a presentation on National Strategies for Sustainable Development (presentation details see Annex). He summarized the international process from the adoption to the implementation of National Strategies on Sustainable Development (Agenda 21, OECD, UNGASS, WSSD). NSSD are supposed to create a balance between short and long-term, as well as between environmental, economic and social aspects of development. In addition, they should promote a shared responsibility of all stakeholders in government and society. After that, he pointed out the inter-linkages with other Strategy

Processes. On the one hand, sustainable development strategies represent framework strategies for sectoral or issue strategies. On the other hand, sustainability criteria sideline other strategy processes (mainstreaming). Development cooperation rather supports and facilitates processes than gets involved into the contents of the strategies. The role of the GTZ Pilot Project Rioplus is to support the BMZ in the WSSD follow-up-process and with the German National Sustainable Development Strategies. Focal areas of the project are monitoring of impact of strategies and measures, mobilizing financial resources, negotiation mechanisms, strategic environmental assessment, communication and awareness raising, integrating environment into PRSP (crosscutting issue).

Session 4: Technical Assistance I

Mr. Tomowski, GTZ 44 Division Environment and Infrastructure, gave a presentation on Chemical Safety in Environmental Protection Strategies, from the perspective of the GTZ division 44 (presentation details see Annex). Chemical safety is connected to different environmental aspects. Chemical safety projects, solid waste projects and hazardous waste and contaminated sites projects all consider international conventions in national policies and regulations and aim at avoidance, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste, and at awareness raising. With eco-efficiency programmes chemical safety is connected by the objective improvement of chemical management in SME and production chains and of the legal situation concerning the use of chemicals. Social and ecological standards consider also chemical safety aspects at the standardization of trade and industrial production regarding materials and chemicals in production and at standards concerning health and safety at the workplace. Chemical safety is also connected to water-related projects, as the low water supply in developing countries implies that the scarcer water resources are, the more they are threatened by impurities, such as pesticides, insecticides and toxic chemicals. Future challenges of chemical safety are the development of know-how sources, increased networking, mobilization of additional partnerships with the private sector, development of modules for implementation, consolidation of cooperation and experience exchange with development projects, increased public relations activities, promotion of best practice in avoidance and handling procedures, and coordination with other conventions.

Mr. Hasse, GTZ PROKLIMA, presented the international programme on phasing out of the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances (presentation details see Annex). GTZ PROKLIMA has been providing technical and financial support for developing countries to implement the provisions of the Montreal Protocol, a convention on substances that deplete the ozone layer (chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, halons and methylbromide). Those substances are used as refrigerants, solvents, detergents, propellants, fire protection agents and as soil pesticides. The aim of GTZ PROKLIMA is to support the partner countries in seeking environmentally friendly alternatives to ozone-depleting substances and technologies. PROKLIMA implements projects from the planning stage to the ultimate phasing out of ozone-depleting substances. Other services include international policy consultations, advising partner governments, supporting the conversion of companies to ozone friendly technology and providing training for occupational groups.

Mr. Fleischer, GTZ Division Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (45), gave a presentation on Chemical Safety in Agriculture and Rural Development Programs of German Technical Cooperation (for presentation details and background information see Annex). The predominant challenges are the following: many agricultural pesticides are not suitable for use by small-scale farmers in developing countries; the increasing presence of generic

pesticides implies additional risks; agricultural interest groups are often positioned against environmental groups; service delivery in rural areas is weak; there is a lack of incentives for sustainable agriculture due to market imperfections and a lack of information about alternatives to toxic chemical use. The share of toxic compounds in total pesticide use in developing countries is high, but the use of more pesticides does not necessarily lead to higher agricultural yields. On policy level dialogue among stakeholders should be promoted. The sustainable agriculture paradigm should be firmly embedded in national policy and strategies. On institutional level services delivering unbiased information on crop protection should be strengthened. On micro level priorities should be economic incentives for avoiding toxic pesticide use and education on integrated pest management strategies.

Mr. Roettger, GTZ Costa Rica, Regional Central America, presented the initiatives for the substitution of highly toxic substances in agriculture in Central America (presentation details see Annex). In Costa Rica and Honduras the amount of importations of highly toxic pesticides has increased from 2002 to 2003 and the number of intoxications by pesticides has tripled in Costa Rica since 1987. On the other hand, the situation in Nicaragua has improved. Actions of the international community promote integrated pest management, pesticides and health, the substitution of methylbromide, the substitution of toxic pesticides, and Agenda 21, Chapter 9 and 19. The multinational pesticides industry has developed alternatives, but it is not ready to put them into the market. Globalisation brought the Safe Food Act, EUREPGAP on fruits and vegetables, the development of organic agriculture in Central America and the use of generics. Three case studies demonstrate successful introduction of non-toxic pesticides: the substitution of chemical by biological pesticides in the health sector of Nicaragua decreased the number of new malaria cases, the substitution of pesticides in the coffee sector in Nicaragua and Costa Rica led to less applications, and methylbromide was substituted in the environmental sector of Costa Rica. In Central America, non-chemical crop protection products are promoted through the private sector, the market of bio-pesticides is growing slowly but steadily (e.g. Honduras 2000: 4,1% of the pesticides are biological ones, 2002: 6,5%), also due to raising consumer awareness.

Session 5: Technical Assistance II

The first presentation of the session was given by Mr. Pluschke, GTZ Morocco, on Industrial Environmental Protection - the Approach in Mohammedia / Morocco (presentation details see Annex). The objective of the GTZ Programme of Environmental Management in Morocco is to improve the living conditions of the population in the pilot cities Rabat, Tanger, and Mohammedia, and to strengthen the environmental management on a national level. In Mohammedia, an industrial centre of Morocco, the programme is building a consulting structure for the industrial companies, strengthening the local capacities for environmental management and technology transfer, informing the industrial sector about the requirements of environmental protection and carrying out pilot projects for the improvement of the company management in selected companies. Approaches for cooperation with the Convention Project on Chemical Safety could be the introduction of the chemical management guide to the industrial sector. On national level possible cooperation points could be supporting the implementation of international environmental conventions and building a national centre for the disposal of hazardous wastes.

Ms. Kuerzinger-Wiemann, GTZ P3U, gave a presentation on promotion of chemical management to gain cost savings, reduce hazards, and improve safety (presentation details see Annex). The GTZ Profitable Environmental Management (PREMA) Programme is

applied in Central and Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia. It reflects the three dimensions of sustainable development, i.e. economic, environmental and social sustainability. For companies it means an economic, environmental and organisational win: they save costs and increase productivity, produce less waste, toxicity, air emissions and effluents, and learn how to effectively implement organisational changes. PREMA is delivered through various network meetings, a resource management, a good housekeeping and a cost management module. There are synergies between PREMA and chemical management, as selling profitable management means getting chemical safety. The Convention Project on Chemical Safety has developed in close cooperation with P3U a Chemicals Management Guide for SME. Analysed case studies of carpentry, tannery and paint manufacturers showed that about one third of cost savings can be achieved by applying the Chemicals Management Guide without any investment. P3U offers the Chemicals Management Guide to interested partners through their network.

Mr. Maurer, GTZ Thailand, described the development and the effects of the new plant protection policy, in Thailand (presentation details see Annex). The Thai-German IPM-Project had to face several problems. Many pesticides on the market do not fit into the IPM programmes. It is difficult for farmers to identify the appropriate pesticide, because farmers lack the knowledge on pesticides and their proper use. Some of the major problems in legislation and registration of pesticides in Thailand are that there are too many WHO 1a/1b pesticides used, and that there are too many brand names for the same or similar substances. The control of pesticide dealers is inefficient, and in many cases the quality of the pesticides is not according to the specifications. However, achievements of the project include the ban of several pesticides, the development of new curricula for training measures, a better control of pesticide dealers and the approval of a New Master Plan on Pesticide Policy by the Royal Thai Cabinet. Thailand is now heading for the implementation of a new pesticide policy towards the different target groups manufacturers/ distributors, farmers/ users and the general public.

Mr. Kern, GTZ Convention Project Chemical Safety, gave a presentation on the implementation of the PIC procedure and phasing out of POPs chemicals (presentation details see Annex). Workplace accidents and poisoning, costly clean-up and disposal measures, and the rejection of exported products due to chemical contamination jeopardize the sustainable development of a country. The aim of the Convention Project Chemical Safety is to indicate ways of improving chemical safety in developing countries and to implement integrated chemical safety measures in accordance with internationally accepted standards. Activities are capacity building for the technical implementation of chemicals related conventions and testing tools for sustainable chemical safety under the conditions prevailing in developing countries. As examples some project activities were described, i.e. the strengthening of import and export control of chemicals in Zambia, the establishing and networking of poison control centres in Latin America, measures to reduce the dioxin emissions in Thailand, and the disposal of obsolete chemicals. The most challenging part of the project is to find the right partners for the implementation of the PIC and POPs Conventions in the different countries, to raise awareness and attract interest of the relevant partners for active cooperation and mediate between the different interests of the partners.

Session 6: Final Discussion

In the sixth and last session, some key issues relevant for the planning of the 3rd implementation phase of the GTZ Convention Project Chemical Safety were resumed

(summary of the key issues relevant for the project planning as identified during the symposium see Annex).

The project activities must comprise environmental and development aspects. It is essential to integrate the chemicals issues into the mainstreaming processes of technical cooperation by the BMZ as well as the GTZ. The project has a special potential for PPP-approaches. In this context the Global Compact Initiative initiated by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 1999 should receive more attention.

The PIC and POP Conventions will both come into force in the course of 2004. Special technical assistance is required in this regard, in particular for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. The project should identify possible means for coordinating deviating interests between relevant ministries in developing countries. Health and environment are equally important, however, health aspects receive insufficient attention.

Focus should be put on the reduction of the use of toxic chemicals in order to avoid necessary safety measures. Focus of chemical safety should be put on the introduction of alternative, risk-free products and procedures, rather than on the substitution of one chemical by another.

Awareness raising and training in developing countries are of utmost importance – key actors in developing countries should be the main addressees. Improvement of the cooperation of state bodies, private sector, NGOs and other parts of the civil society is required, e.g. fair trade approaches and chemical safety initiatives should be linked. Chemical safety aspects should always be connected to national strategies for sustainable development.

In addition, the following main challenges for the Convention Project Chemical Safety were identified:

- Increased networking, i.e. consolidate cooperation and experiences exchange with other development projects, and mobilise additional contracts from the private sector
- develop „modules“ for implementation
- promote best practices in avoidance and handling procedures

Closure

The symposium was closed by Mr. Kern, GTZ and Mr. vom Kolke, BMZ. They thanked all the participants for the interesting presentations and the constructive discussion. They emphasized the usefulness of the ideas and suggestions developed during the symposium for the planning of the third project phase of the Convention Project Chemical Safety.