



Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

Website: <http://www.who.int/ifcs/documents/forums/forum4/children/en/index.html>

IFCS CHAMPION

Children and Chemical Safety

Report on Activities

May 2006

The primary objective of the activities of the IFCS Champions Group on Children & Chemical safety is to promote awareness of and advance progress on IFCS Forum Iv recommendations.

Action undertaken aimed to:

- (1) Ensuring that different groups in the community, especially parents, caregivers and the children themselves receive clear and concise messages and information about children chemical safety (how to protect children of different age groups from chemicals threats).
- (2) Raise awareness of decision makers in the areas of health, environment and education ensuring that children's susceptibility to hazardous chemicals is taken into consideration in policy making and in country action. E.g., information, plans, advocacy and briefing authorities.
- (3) Involve different professional bodies in children and chemical safety activities and implementing training and information dissemination on the subject. E.g., working with paediatric, toxicology, environmental and agricultural groups and in special with teachers.
- (4) Explore different mechanism for cooperation with sectors such as private enterprise and industry, ensuring that children's health and chemical safety issues will raise the consideration they deserve. E.g., raising awareness and agreed action and recommendations among global industry, coordinating to disseminate information, and others.

MATERIALS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Children & Chemical Safety Champions Group has prepared material for raising awareness of and promoting action on the IFCS recommendations. Materials and publications have been made available on the IFCS website and announced to over 3500 contacts in the IFCS Chemicals Management Contact Database. In printed versions, they have been distributed to IFCS National Focal Points, the Forum Standing Committee and at a wide range of stakeholders at national, regional and international meetings. The materials include:

Protecting Children from Harmful Chemical Exposures

Forum IV recommendations and agreed action items on children and chemical safety

Brochure presenting the IFCS Recommendations - available in Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish



Chemical Safety and Children's Health Protecting the world's children from harmful chemicals exposures: a global guide to resources

Published in English, French, and Spanish



A listing of selected resources has been compiled by an IFCS Champion Work Group. It is intended to provide information and guidance for implementation of the Forum IV Recommendations.

The publication is intended to:

- Alert a variety of potential stakeholders to the problem of hazardous chemicals in the global environment and the reasons that children are particularly vulnerable;
- Describe recent international recommendations intended to guide efforts to protect children from harmful chemical exposures; and
- Suggest strategies and available resources that can help government officials and other stakeholders to prevent harm to children.

An additional resource listing has been prepared as a "living document" and maintained on the IFCS website. Additional and new resources will be added as information becomes available. Suggestions of additional resources for listing on the website may be submitted to the IFCS Secretariat.

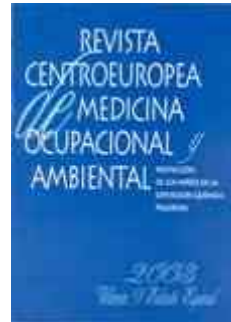


Central European Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Protecting Children from Harmful Chemical Exposures

2003

Volume 9 Special Issue



Revista Centroeuropa de Medicina Ocupacional Ambiental

Protección de los niños ante exposiciones químicas peligrosas

2003

Volumen 9 Edición Especial

Journal publications (English and Spanish) of IFCS Forum IV decision document on Protecting Children from Harmful Chemical Exposures, companion information paper providing background information and scientific rationale for the decision paper, and Forum IV recommendations.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS



Children's Health and Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Protecting our Most Precious Resource

Sponsored by: Government of Uruguay, PAHO, WHO, IFCS

4 May 2005 - Punta del Este, Uruguay

Stockholm Convention COP1

One of the main objectives of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from the harmful impact of persistent organic pollutants. In Articles 7 and 10 the Convention refers to the potential effects on vulnerable population groups, especially for children. In view of the above, the Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment of Uruguay, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), organised a special event on the vulnerability of children and on the need to take concerted action. The programme, photo gallery and video (available in Spanish with English subtitles) - POPs Protecting Children, our most precious resource - are available on the IFCS website. Following the special event, the video was shown in the COP plenary and has been presented at numerous national, regional and international meetings and events.

Forum IV requested the IFCS President to convey its recommendations to other meetings and fora.. On behalf of the IFCS, members of the Champion Group have presented the Forum IV recommendations at a wide range of meetings in all regions of the world including:

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) PrepCom1
Bangkok, Thailand - 9-13 November 2003

EU Sustainable Chemicals Conference, Brussels, 23-24 November 2003

Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health
'The future for our children'
Budapest, Hungary, 23-25 June 2004

Technical consultation on national profiles on status of children's environmental health in the
WHO Africa Region
Cape Town, South Africa - 4- 6 February 2004

European Parliament

3rd International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment
London, England - 31 March - 4 April 2004

Children's Health and the Environment
International Pediatric Association / World Health Organization Workshop
Cancun, Mexico - 14 August 2004

Meeting of the ministers of Health and Environment of the Americas (HEMA)
Mar del Plata, 17 June 2005

Children's World Summit for the Environment
Japan, 26 to 29 July 2005

WHO/Europe: Building up a 'Train the trainers' network
Rome, Italy - 8-10 June 2005

Protecting children from established and uncertain chemical threats: Tools and mechanisms for
information towards prevention
Geneva, Switzerland, 17-19 October 2005

Second International Conference on Children's Environmental Health: Healthy Environments
Healthy Children: Increasing Knowledge and Taking Action
Buenos Aires, Argentina - 14 to 16 November 2005

8th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC)
Technical Sessions: Children and Environmental Health Impacts
Islamabad, Pakistan - 7-9 December 2005

Scientific Conference on Asia Pacific Environmental Health
Bangkok, Thailand - 8-11 December 2005

2nd High Level Meeting on Health and the Environment, ASEAN and East Asian countries
Bangkok, Thailand - 12-13 December 2005

Occupational and Environmental Health: Emergencies in Developing Countries
Quito, Ecuador - 28 February - 3 March 2006