

Prospects for sound chemicals management of cadmium, lead and mercury – an industry perspective

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- Introduction
- Production and use patterns
- Abandoned mines and artisanal mining– a broader perspective
- Occupational exposure
- Beyond chemicals policy

“A viable mining, minerals and metals industry that is widely recognised as essential for modern living and a key contributor to Sustainable Development”



- **Aims:**
 - Engagement with industry stakeholders
 - Continued access to land, capital and markets
 - A platform for sharing experience (best practice)
 - Build trust and respect
- **Members:**
 - 14 leading companies
 - 24 industry associations

A meaningless term

- No sound terminological or scientific basis
- No relationship between density and hazard
- “Metals” of international concern include metalloids
- Sound chemicals management should have a sound foundation.

- Depletion of high quality reserves in developed world
- Privatisation and globalisation
- Asian use of base metals exceeds European levels
- High economic growth benefits sustainable development in the metals sector
- Sources of production and use vs sources of pollution



- Definition and historical context
- Passive or aggravated impacts?
- Rehabilitation
- Cultural and governance issues

Integrated Mine Closure Planning

- Integration of both social and environmental considerations
- Integration of closure considerations into an operation's lifecycle planning and engineering processes
- Financial assurance



- The informal route to poverty reduction?
- Negative impacts – not just about pollution
 - Land degradation
 - Disease
 - Cultural damage
 - Corruption
- Multiple causes
 - Lack of knowledge and access to good practice
 - Poor governance

Figure 1: Mining and Poverty Reduction



Sustainable development

- Protection of worker health across a global industry

Difficulties

- Different OELs in different jurisdictions – affect capacity building and reliance
- Which OEL is right?
- Differences amongst the experts
- Socio-economic factors influence the process

Our Aim

- Harmonised approach to the determination of OELs

-many problems relating to hazardous chemicals in developing countries, and in countries with economies in transition, are often related to inappropriate handling practices and a weak enforcement of existing laws and safety standards. Problems may also arise from insufficient import controls, and/or a lack of education and training among workers and the general public concerning chemical risks. Thus, it is important to understand and consider the broader context in which a problem is encountered....
 - [Extract from UNITAR Guidance Document on Developing a Risk Management Plan for a Priority Chemical]

- We need to look beyond the ‘command and control’ paradigm
- Government, Industry, Worker Representatives and Civil Society need to share a common proactive approach of introducing more flexible and practical situation-orientated risk management techniques.
- Spirit embodied in SAICM?
- Metals pollution is a symptom

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