



Announcement of Second WHO Meeting on Global Collaboration in Chemical Risk Assessment – Strengthening Capacity Building and Networking –

Meeting Date: 29-30 March 2012, in conjunction with workshops to be held 28 March

Meeting Venue: WHO European Centre for Environment and Health
Bonn, Germany

Background

In March 2010, the World Health Organization convened a Meeting on Strengthening Global Collaboration in Chemical Risk Assessment (hereinafter referred to as the “Risk Assessment Meeting”) to discuss common interests, activities and needs in the field of chemical risk assessment and help shape future activities of the risk assessment community internationally. Participants identified a number of key issues and priority actions to address these needs, such as in the areas of:

- capacity building/training,
- chemical risk assessments/sharing knowledge,
- risk assessment methodology and
- research.

Meeting participants also discussed means of strengthening collaboration globally to support chemical risk assessment, including the recommended option of establishing a WHO International Risk Assessment Network.

A Second WHO Risk Assessment Meeting is being convened to further facilitate and follow up on actions aimed at strengthening global collaboration that were recommended by the first meeting. The objective of the first day of the two day Meeting is to provide an update on tools developed to increase capacity globally in chemical risk assessment and propose strategies to enhance uptake of risk assessment methodologies. The objectives of Day 2 of the Meeting are to

further explore interest in participating in a WHO Risk Assessment Network, to discuss the Network design in terms of vision, goals and objectives, structure and function, as well as to propose options for its implementation

In keeping with one of the key areas identified at the March 2010 Meeting, in conjunction with the Second WHO Risk Assessment Meeting, WHO will also offer one day of short workshops on WHO chemical risk assessment methodologies, which will take place on 28 March.

Invitation

WHO is inviting expressions of interest in participation in the Second WHO Risk Assessment meeting from representatives of institutions involved in risk assessment. Interest in participating in this meeting may be indicated on the attached "[Expression of Interest](#)" form, to be returned to WHO at ipcsmail@who.int prior to 5 December 2011. WHO will determine the list of potential participants as soon as possible and inform those who indicated interest in attending.

WHO is seeking further input on the issues of capacity building and a potential WHO Risk Assessment Network to help focus discussion at the meeting and invites submission of responses to the attached [questionnaire](#). Please forward the completed questionnaire, along with any expression of interest in attending the meeting, by 5 December 2011 to ipcsmail@who.int.



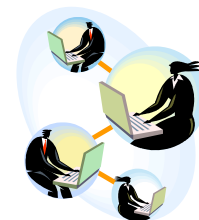
Draft Workshop and Meeting Outline

(to be refined following feedback from the survey responses)

Pre-Meeting Workshops on Specific Topics for Interested Parties

These short workshops are planned to feature the latest developments in emerging risk assessment methodologies including the following topics:

- WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit
- Setting Early Life Age Groups for Chemical Risk Assessment: Geographical and cultural factors
- Risk Assessment of Combined Exposures to Multiple Chemicals



General principles and illustrative case studies will be presented. Participants will be given opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

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DAY 1

Day 1 of the WHO Risk Assessment meeting will focus on tools and implementation strategies to increase global capacity in chemical risk assessment. The morning of Day1 is planned to involve plenary presentations followed by discussion on the following topics:



- Overview of needs from different countries/regions
- Training and capacity building activities.
- Development and implementation of recent methodologies

In the afternoon, it is planned that there will be parallel breakout discussion groups to address issues such as the following:

- Training and capacity building for risk assessment approaches (*targeted audiences, enhancing dissemination and support for implementation*)
- Methodology development (*enhancing uptake and implementation*)
- Information sharing (*development of practical tools, methods to increase sharing*)

It is planned that the breakout groups would report back to the plenary and potential actions to address these issues would be discussed.

DAY 2

Day 2 is planned to focus mostly on the recommendation of the March 2010 meeting concerning the potential creation of a WHO Risk Assessment Network. The session would likely start with a plenary presentation on some possible ideas for the function of a Network and how it might operate in order to stimulate discussion.



Parallel breakout groups may be formed to discuss various aspects of a potential WHO Risk Assessment Network, such as:

- Role/function of RA Network
- Practical considerations for RA Network (*funding needs, commitment requirements from members, membership*)

The breakout groups would then report back to plenary. It is planned that the session would end with a general discussion on proposed next steps for a WHO Risk Assessment Network.