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Canada



The Elimination of Lead in Paint: *How Countries Can Take Action*

*Hosted by the Embassy of Canada
October 29th 2015, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
501 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001*

Event Report

Welcoming Remarks

- Government of Canada, *Sheila Riordon, Minister (Political), Embassy of Canada*

Minister Riordon welcomed the participants to the Embassy of Canada, stating that Canada is proud to be part of the Alliance and to host the event. There were about twenty members of the international community registered for the event, including four ambassadors. She noted that she had heard about the Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action on the radio while driving and was glad that there was so much publicity for such an important issue. She pointed out that children are most at risk from exposure to lead, and that the loss of IQ alone costs \$ 977 billion dollars in lost economic productivity annually on a global basis. Minister Riordan closed her remarks by noting that today's event will hopefully advance the thinking on this issue, and she thanked the Alliance for seeking out the Embassy of Canada to host the event.

- Government of the United States, *Anne Hall, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State*

Ms. Anne Hall outlined the risks from lead globally, citing WHO estimates that lead is responsible for severe health issues and is a leading cause of burden of disease globally.

She outlined the efforts the US has taken to reduce lead exposures, including to address risks from lead in paint. USEPA reaches out to building renovators to increase awareness of requirements to use lead-safe work practices during renovations in residences or schools that have lead paint.

Despite the work of the US and other countries, exposure to lead is still a problem, Ms. Hall stated. The Alliance is taking action to address lead in paint through the

implementation of a regulatory toolkit. The Alliance is poised to accomplish for lead paint what the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) accomplished for leaded fuels – a global phase out. The government of Canada led the way on the PCFV toolkit, which has served as a model for the Alliance toolkit on lead paint.

Ms. Hall closed by saying that the Lead Paint Alliance is a voluntary, collaborative partnership with an ambitious but achievable goal of a global ban on lead in paint by 2020.

- United Nations Environment Programme, *Patricia Beneke, Director, Regional Office for North America (RONA)*

Ms. Beneke stated that she was honored to have the distinguished guests from all over the world at this event. She works closely with Canada, which is one of the countries in the UNEP RONA region. She showed a video with statements about the importance of eliminating lead paint from UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, WHO Environmental Health Director Maria Neira and US EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and then outlined the goals and activities of the Alliance.

Ms. Beneke highlighted the following information:

- No level of lead exposure is safe. With the successful removal of lead from gasoline around the world, lead in paint is now a principal remaining source of lead poisoning.
 - Lead paint is a global problem. More than 100 countries still do not have laws restricting lead additives in paint, and paint testing has shown very high lead levels in paint being sold in the developing world.
 - The Lead Paint Alliance is a voluntary partnership jointly led by WHO and UNEP, with partners from governments, NGOs, industry and academia. The primary action goal is for all countries to have national lead paint laws in place by 2020.
 - During 2015 there has been a great deal of activity that supports the Alliance goal to eliminate lead paint. Nepal and the Philippines have passed new lead paint laws, and Thailand's new law is coming soon. UNEP has just published a regulatory toolkit to help countries develop national lead paint laws. A UNEP workshop on developing lead paint laws is being planned for countries in East Africa in December 2015. And of course this week is the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, with a special focus on the problem of lead in paint.
- Moderator: *Walker Smith, Director, Office of Global Affairs and Policy, US EPA*

Ms. Walker thanked Canada for hosting the event and all the participants for attending. She noted that by adding lead to paint we are affecting the IQ of kids. However this is a health problem with a practical solution. We need national laws to remove the risk from lead in paint, because consumers do not control the paint in their environment. Governments need to take action by establishing laws to limit lead in paint. She provided an outline of the agenda and introduced the speakers.

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action

Dr. Ana Boischio, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization

Dr. Boischio provided information that children are especially vulnerable to lead exposure due to their behavior and biological susceptibility. She outlined the health effects of exposure to lead and explained that there is no safe level of lead in children.

She described the activities of the 2015 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA) to raise awareness of the dangers of lead. This year there have been 90 events in 35 countries and she showed examples of the types of events that occurred. This forum for embassies in Washington is one of the events occurring during the 2015 Week of Action.

She also showed information that was provided in previous ILPPWA events, including a UNEP-IPEN paint testing report, and awareness campaign materials.

Lead Paint Regulatory Toolkit

Christina Wadlington, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Wadlington explained that the toolkit was developed because we found that many countries did not know anything about lead and how to get lead out of paint despite the abundance of existing information. The Alliance has created an overarching toolkit with information that will be helpful in developing lead paint laws. The toolkit is designed so that it can be either printed or viewed on the web, and its modular structure allows the user to view a targeted set of information if desired. The toolkit can also be customized for certain regions – for example, information about paint formulation could be added to help users in a certain region. Modules are written by experts in each topic area and include contacts and references.

Ms. Wadlington showed the various modules of the toolkit, which cover how to understand the lead paint problem in a country, identifying the paint market and taking action. For each of these areas there are modules containing detailed information. For example, today's event includes presentations of case studies that are in the toolkit. The cornerstone of the toolkit is the module which outlines elements to consider when developing legal limits on lead in paint.

It is a living document and will be updated with information that countries need.

Experiences in Developing and Enacting Lead Paint Legislation: Case Studies from Canada, Kenya, the Philippines and Uruguay

Canada *Duncan Stewart, Program Officer, Environment and Energy Section, Embassy of Canada*

Mr. Stewart presented the lead paint program of the government of Canada which was prepared by Health Canada. He noted that in 1976 there was a 0.5% (5,000 ppm) total lead limit for interior household paints. There were many documented lead poisoning cases in the 1980s. In 1991 voluntary measures set a new 0.06% (600 ppm) limit on lead in paint and then in 2005 this limit became mandatory. In 2010 the mandatory limit was reduced to 90 ppm to align with the US standard. Exemptions include agricultural purposes, art, touching up of metal coating. Enforcement is crucial to ensure compliance, and is conducted through sampling and testing. Stakeholders are involved in regulatory development and kept informed through the Canadian regulatory process.

Republic of Kenya *Kipkosgei Toroititch, Second Secretary (Protocol), Embassy of the Republic of Kenya*

Mr. Toroititch presented information about lead exposure and the development of a lead paint law in Kenya and the East African Community. Kenya is part of East Africa and has a \$ 65 billion dollar economy, much of which is fueled by the national parks and tourism. Kenya's regulations do not address specific pollutants. In 2010 a new constitution with a general bill of rights was passed and includes the right to a clean environment.

Mr. Toroititch indicated that lack of enforcement of existing regulations is a barrier. He outlined the key institutions involved in the development of a lead paint regulation. He noted the importance of this kind of regulation, as imports of chemicals have doubled in the last six years (from 7,000 to 15,000 tonnes). Lead exposure is due to lead plumbing, lead paint, lead acid batteries and recycling. Studies in Kenya by the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute KIRDI showed levels of lead that exceeded recommended international levels in blood and air. During the Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, KIRDI has found that many people in Kenya thought lead was no longer a problem anywhere after lead was phased out of gasoline, and did not realize lead is still being used in paint. Legislation is needed to restrict lead in paints because there is a cost to manufacturers involved with reformulating. Kenya, working with the East African Community, has developed a draft regional standard for lead in paint, limiting lead levels in roofing paint, and paints and varnishes to 100 ppm. He noted that small businesses will need technical assistance to meet that standard.

The Philippines *Atty. Jose Victor Chan-Gonzaga, Minister for Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Philippines*

Minister Chan-Gonzaga indicated that the lead paint law in the Philippines, and the presentation he is giving today, was developed by a multi-stakeholder group headed up by the environment ministry and it included industry and NGOs. He noted the three takeaways from his presentation: (1) government leadership is needed, and a multi-stakeholder approach is most effective; (2) the importance of leadership from the paint industry;; and (3) the key role of the vigilance of NGOs in monitoring compliance and enforcement activities. Minister Chan-Gonzaga went over the legal framework in the Philippines starting in 1998 and culminating in 2013 with enacted lead limits. He then explained how the regulations are implemented through Chemical Control Orders. In 2013, the Philippines issued a CCO on lead compounds establishing a 90 ppm limit in paint, which allowed a three year phase out period for architectural/household paints by 2016; and established a longer phase out for industrial paints ending in 2019. CCOs also ban the use of lead in packaging, fuel, pipes, toys, and cosmetics

The impetus for passing lead paint laws was both global, through the identification of lead paint as an emerging policy issue and the launch of the Lead Paint Alliance by the International Conference on Chemical Management, and locally through a government-initiated lead policy and multi-stakeholder consultations for regulatory development between 2010 and 2013. Civil society was instrumental in raising awareness with help from donors, including an EU-SWITCH Asia project. The paint industry was driven by green innovation policy and they were very active in consultations. The involved stakeholders included the Philippines Association of Paint Manufacturers, IPEN, and the local NGO, the EcoWaste Coalition. Two Philippines paint companies, Boisen and Davies, are now participating in the first international, third party lead paint certification program. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and NGOs are working together to monitor lead in paint and other products. Through the EcoWaste

Coalition a children's book on lead paint was written by a medical doctor, which he promotes in book stores in Manila.

In 2015 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources started a new round of stakeholder discussions to ensure that phase outs of lead in paint occur on time (2016 for household, 2019 for industrial).

Uruguay *Cecilia Otegui, Minister, Embassy of Uruguay*

Minister Otegui outlined the lead poisoning incidences that resulted in the development of lead paint laws in Uruguay and described the regulations. Lead poisoning occurred in 2001 in industrial neighborhoods where children had symptoms – 4,500 cases in one area, 80% with levels over 9 microgram/dl. (NOTE: in the US 5 micrograms/dl is the reference level used to identify children who need case management). As a result of these incidences, people were concerned and wanted response from government authorities. The government put together a group of stakeholders from government and other sectors to develop regulations. There was also a growing number of cases of lead poisoning in upper class neighborhoods, due to lead in paint. The government passed a law controlling occupational exposure to lead in May 2004, and in 2011 set a maximum limit for lead content in paints and varnishes. The following are some of the components of the law:

- 600 ppm limit dry basis – reached through stakeholder agreement with government, industry and NGOs. This stakeholder partnership is very important.
- Applies to architectural paints, varnishes, paints for children, graphic inks
- Prohibits of manufacture, import, commercialization
- Registration of paint importers is required in a National Register of the National Environment Directorate
 - Mandatory affidavit update every three years
- Manufacturers/importers must present paint samples
- Stocks return strategy – must return those stocks with levels above the limit to manufacturers and importers who must dispose of them
- Labelling provisions
- Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment established an advisory committee to develop a plan for the reduction of lead in paints and varnishes. The committee consists of government agencies and public and private entities
- Sanctions and fines

One of the key drivers for the regulation of lead paint was that there was a national crisis which required a response from government. The crisis raised general awareness that stimulated debate and led to the development of an inter-institutional committee. The private sector and civil society are active. Recent paint testing by NGOs has shown that paint is under the limit of 90 ppm.

Open Discussion

Ms. Smith kicked off the open discussion by noting that the country case studies highlighted the various reasons why governments decided to enact lead paint laws. Lack of awareness of the dangers of lead in paint seems to be the biggest barrier to change, or people think lead paint is an old issue that has already been solved. She highlighted the importance of finding effective ways to share ideas about how we can raise the awareness of ministers in countries where there are no lead paint laws. She opened the discussion by inviting participants to pose questions of the presenters or to share any ideas of how the Alliance can achieve its goal of national paint lead limits in all countries by 2020.

A question for the presenters was about their experience with enforcement, which is important to ensure effective laws. Canada indicated that enforcement is a massive challenge due to the large number of products that may contain lead, and the government can only randomly test so much. Ms. Smith pointed out that for new paints the US compliance is ok, but the difficult issue is legacy paint. Given the growing paint and chemicals markets in developing countries, the Alliance needs to encourage the prevention of potential legacy issues by encouraging the phase-out of lead in new paints. The Philippines indicated that one challenge is that industry is waiting until the last minute to comply with the standard for new paints. The manufacturers in the Philippines are taking the lead on addressing the legacy issue.

A member of the audience noted that most governments do not respond to a problem unless there is a clear impact on people in their own countries, and thus encouraged the development of human biomonitoring studies. She also encouraged working with home decorating television shows to say something about the dangers of lead paint, because these shows are popular with viewers in developing countries. Another participant noted that it is important to monitor and quantify outcomes of interventions to show in a certain time period how much lead levels were reduced through certain interventions. An additional attendee observed that in his experience local evidence of a problem is needed to drive local policy.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Smith closed the meeting by encouraging participants to spread the word about the dangers of lead in paint and the fact that it is still an existing problem. Encouraging governments to take actions to limit lead in paint or to become an active partner in the Alliance would be helpful and could gain enormous rewards in improved health around the world.

Meeting Web Site

For presentations from the meeting and other relevant information, such as on the Lead Paint Alliance Regulatory Toolkit, please following link:

<http://www2.epa.gov/international-cooperation/elimination-lead-paint-government-briefing>

Attachments

- Agenda
- List of participants



The Elimination of Lead in Paint: *How Countries Can Take Action*

*Hosted by the Embassy of Canada
October 29th 2015, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
501 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001*

Agenda

- 3:00 – 3:20 Welcoming Remarks
- Government of Canada, *Sheila Riordon, Minister (Political), Embassy of Canada*
 - Government of the United States, *Deputy Assistant Secretary Anne Hall, U.S. Department of State*
 - United Nations Environment Programme, *Patricia Beneke, Director, Regional Office for North America*
 - Reasons and Goals for the Alliance
 - Introduction of Meeting Moderator - *Walker Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
- 3:20 – 3:30 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action
Dr. Ana Boischio, Pan American Health Organization
- 3:30 – 3:40 Lead Paint Regulatory Toolkit
Christina Wadlington, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 3:40 – 4:40 Experiences in Developing and Enacting Lead Paint Legislation:
Case Studies from Canada, Kenya, the Philippines and Uruguay
- 4:40 – 4:55 Open Discussion
- 4:55 – 5:00 Closing Remarks



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List of Participants

October 29, 2015

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION
Tainá Guimarães	Alvarenga	Embassy of Brazil
Patrick	Andrews	Embassy of Belize
David	Attlmayr	Embassy of Austria
Ahmed	Awad	Embassy of Somalia
Angela	Bandemehr	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Patricia	Beneke	UNEP RONA
David	Best	Embassy of Switzerland
Ana	Boischio	Pan American Health Organization
Patrick	Breyse	CDC, National Center for Environmental Health
Mary Jean	Brown	CDC, National Center for Environmental Health
Jose Victor	Chan-Gonzaga	Embassy of the Philippines
Kimberly	Cochran	U.S. Department of State
Charlie	Darr	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hilary	French	UNEP RONA
Anne	Hall	U.S. Department of State
Sammia	Hodgson	Embassy of Nicaragua
Patrick	Huber	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fuller	Laura	UNEP RONA
Aye Sanda	Lwin	Embassy of Myanmar
Michelle	Mahoney	Embassy of Canada
Renox William	Maluwa	Embassy of Malawi
Benjamin	Manirakiza	Embassy of Burundi
Evonne	Marzouk	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ellie	McCann	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ahdi	Mohammed	UNEP RONA
Tarun	Mohindra	Embassy of India
Elizabeth	Moses	World Resources Institute
Cecilia	Otegui	Embassy of Uruguay
Chinmoun	Oumarou	Embassy of Cameroon
Sooroojdev	Phokeer	Embassy of Mauritius
Leah	Pillsbury	U.S. Department of State
Donald	Shriber	The World Bank
Walker	Smith	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Duncan	Stewart	Embassy of Canada
Evelyn	Swain	Global Environment Facility
Armand	Tientore	Embassy of Burkina Faso
Kipkosgei	Toroitich	Embassy of Kenya
Christina	Wadlington	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Christine	Wellington-Moore	UNEP RONA
Dr Nomonde	Xundu	Embassy of South Africa
Mugendi	Zoka	Embassy of Tanzania