



**Division for Sustainable Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Thematic Seminar Series: Chemicals**

**Tuesday 23 February 2010
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Conference Room 2 (TNLB)**

Topic Overview

Chemicals are essential in meeting the social and economic goals of the world. With total output of over \$3 trillion in 2008, the chemical industry provides employment for 7 million people and supports 20 million additional jobs. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation defined the “2020 goal: to achieve that chemicals are managed in ways that minimize adverse effects on human health and the environment”. There has been significant progress against this general commitment, in particular after the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in 2006 and through implementation of other multilateral mechanisms and legal instruments on chemicals, the most important ones being the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, the Montreal Protocol on the Ozone Layer, and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. However, the implementation of the commitments has been uneven and insufficient globally. Mercury and some emerging issues—nanomaterials, electronic waste, chemicals in products, and lead in paint—may also require attention.

Short Videos

Several short documentaries will be shown to highlight the issues in connection with the panel presentations.

Panel Presentations

This seminar will feature presentations by the following panel of experts:

Ms. Kei Ohno
Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
“Global Action towards the Risk Reduction of POPs”

Mr. Klaus Tyrkko
Policy Specialist, Montreal Protocol and Chemicals Unit, UNDP
“Governance and Means of Implementation of Chemicals Management”

Mr. Phil Snyder
Global Manager for Product Stewardship, Shell
Member of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)
“Partnerships in Achieving the Sound Management of Chemicals”

The panel presentations will be followed by an open discussion, which will be moderated by Ms. Tania Valerie Raguz, Vice-Chair (Croatia) of CSD-18.

E-Discussion

Following the Chemicals Seminar, an e-discussion on several key topics will be launched through the Division’s website (<http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/index.shtml>) to enable further dialogue on the issue of chemicals leading up to CSD-18. All are invited to participate.

All interested representatives from Governments, UN entities, IGOs, NGOs and other Major Groups holding a valid UN grounds pass or representing an accredited organization are welcome to participate. For inquiries, please contact Tonya Vaturi, Division for Sustainable Development, phone: 212-963-4704, or e-mail: vaturi@un.org.