



ISDE Meeting
Budapest September 24, 2006-09-05
Budapest Congress & World Trade Center.
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9.00

Welcome and Introduction

Appoint note taker and time-keeper: Hanns M./ Sylvia A.

Welcome words by Vyvyan

Introduction of participants:

Vyvyan Howard, Peter vd Hazel, Philip Michael, Paul Saoke, Lilian Corra, Veronica Monti (morning session), Hanns Moshammer, Roberto Romizzi, Sylvia Altamira, Mahmood Khwaja (Islamabad, Pakistan), Peter Orris (Chicago, IL), Elena Manvelyan (AWHHE, Armenia)

Attending later: Sarah Janssen (Natural Resources Defence Council, US) (10.00), Peter Rudnai (11.50), Christian Martineus (12.40), Stephan Böse O'Reilley (15.00)

9.45: Report of the regional activities

Paul Soake: Africa:

Malaria control and the use of DDT. Preparation of a book on "Policy implications of DDT Malaria control in Africa" and the Stockholm Convention. (short ppt on contents of the book): "Malaria Belt" is also a region of various other public health and political problems. Symptoms of DDT poisoning: acute symptoms, endocrine disruption, embryotoxicity. Special exposure pathways for children. The successful Mexican experience. WHO malaria roll back strategy. Malaria chemotherapy (combination therapy, new drugs). Vector control and resistance to DDT. (lessons from India and Latin America). Cultural situation: outdoor activities are not covered by indoor spraying. Alternatives to DDT in vector control: other pesticides, insecticide treated nets, indoor residual spraying, sanitation of water bodies. Section on "The Right to Know". – Funding: Still seeking funds to publish the book (in English).

Children's Environmental Health in Africa, contacts to African Pediatrics' Association, Contact to universities (like in Nairobi) to do annual training lessons.

Discussion: Contacts to UNEP not very strong. Membership recruitment in Africa not very successful. (Cultural constraints? Cooperation with medical associations instead. Book might help though.) Environment not perceived as a health problem yet. Special environmental problems in Africa: Indoor air biomass burning: often lack of alternatives. Water sanitation?

Christian Martineus: EU:

(did not come in time)

Peter van den Hazel: South Asia / Vietnam activities:

Money from US-EPA for occupational health training. Local contact person is Michael Wong. Contacts to Vietnam Government. October 2005 training in Hanoi. They want to combine the 2 issues: economic growth and protection of the environment. Cathey Falvo reports back to EPA. Hoping for further support from Asian Development Bank (interested in Health Impact Assessment on Water Treatment Plants, South Vietnam). Michael tries to establish contacts in China via Hongkong but China seems to be very reluctant to let NGOs in. (China is aware of huge environmental problems, does not want to get critics from the outside in.)

Discussion: on the position of Michael Wong in ISDE. Extension of project on water treatment plants to other countries like Pakistan? Sylvia should get in contact with Michael to explore more funding opportunities in Europe for East Asia projects.

Lilian Corra: Latin-America and international update:

Doing work in many countries in LA (except Brazil, only loose contacts to Mexico). Survey in collaboration of national pediatrics' associations and the governments sent out to pediatricians asking them about their perception on environmental influences on the health of their patients. Questionnaire translated into English and used now by WHO in Europe and Asia as well. Project supported by Canadian EPA. Many doctors are mostly not aware of environmental problems (including chemicals, water sanitation, etc.). So they introduced training courses: Train the trainer workshops, provide training material, request feed back from trainers. Set criteria like at least 2 training packages to be organised by year (obligatory feed back on each event).

Also provided teaching materials for schools.

National implementation plans on POPs, working in the framework of SAICM implementation, collaboration with other NGOs like "Green Cross" (created by Gorbatschov: poverty and social problems, sees the link to health and environment now). Pilot project in Argentina and Uruguay (?), maybe to be extended to other regions in the world. Green Cross for example has experience in Bangladesh.

Work on Climate Change: Malaria is now endemic in Argentina. Organising a workshop on this issue.

Discussion: Financial problems in Latin America: You can't request membership fees from individual members. So you must present information (like bulletin etc., meetings) for free.

IFCS and SAICM: opportunities and standpoint of NGOs.

ISDE cooperation with WHO environmental health department and with the regional E&H processes (Europe, Americas).

Peter Orris: WMO (World Medical Association):

Peter seeks international public health structures as a vehicle for environmental health. He tried to contact WMO (hoping to by that influencing also AMA). Originally it turned out to be very difficult. But then he met AMA representative to WMO. WMO is in fact working on a resolution on Environment and Health (which is difficult because of language reasons because the draft is based on a French proposal). Contact options seem to be rather informal. Maybe a way to proceed for ISDE?

Discussion: ISDE contacts to WONCA and international pediatric association. It is a task for ISDE to continuously lobby these organisations. You need a designated focal point to do so (and we need funds to be able to take part in all the international meetings). Could Peter Orris work on WMO?

Invite representatives from other medical associations to ISDE meetings?

11.15: Roberto Romizzi: Report from the Scientific Office:

Many projects realised through SIASS: ISDE school in collaboration with Tuscany Region.

3 proposals / current projects: (1) Health Promoting General Practitioners. Interventions on an individual and on a community level. (History of collaboration between ISDE and WONCA starting in 1993, official relations and joint workshops). Link to WHO projects like "health promoting cities, schools, etc.. Environmental History Taking (EHT) package distributed to Tuscany doctors (all GPs of the region). Adaptation of package for pediatric EHT to the adult situation. International training package (ISDE, WHO, WONCA). Discussion: other examples of EHT (like by CAPE, PSR)

(2) The Ottawa and Bangkok Charters: From Principles to Action. International Conference on the 20th Anniversary of the Ottawa Charter in Florence, November 21-23, 2006. Draft of conference agenda circulated in print. Including a proposal for a renewed international convention for children's rights. Various working groups. Coorganised by ISDE and WHO, supported by Tuscany Region. In relation to the conference a webconference (in collaboration with University of Venice) (Nov. 23-24) will take place: how to initiate an international court on environmental crimes. Highlighting discrepancies between North and South. Topics: Asbestos, Acid Rain, Dirty Industries in the South, Bhopal, Pesticides Use, ... with case studies, affected people invited to participate. Preparation of a declaration. Cooperation with lawyers.

(3) Network between ISDE and universities. Create integrated training courses (pre- and postgraduate) on health, environment, and sustainable development. National ISDE affiliates to identify and contact universities in their countries. First meeting in Florence in 2007 when funding sources are established. Discussion: Dutch universities with other partners proposed to EU an educational outreach program to be extended to other countries. Collect existing

examples of modules on environmental health at universities. Inventory conducted by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA).

Open discussion on project options. (How to support Armenia and similar countries through EU project proposals). Introduction of Sylvia's tasks to the group. Detailed discussion to be held in the afternoon.

How to introduce the training options (from the ISDE School) to the South (Latin America, Africa). Restrictions due to lack of money. Maybe making use of the internet and other technical options?

Cooperation with WHO is essential to be able to transport successful programs from one region to the other.

12.00: Presentation by Vyvyan Howard (ISDE President elect):

Questionnaire on key topics sent out to DB list. Most votes for CC, chemical pollution, and loss of biodiversity. Vyvyan suggests to consider where ISDE could have an impact. He doubts if we could make a change on the CC issue. (Discussion on gaps in knowledge on CC impacts). Vyvyan is in favor of cancer epidemic and children's health. (childhood cancer incidence in Europe is increasing 1% per year, while doctors only see decrease in mortality rates).

How to find a topic that is interesting for experts from all disciplines? Answer: particles as highly reactive catalysts. Vyvyan organised the first conference on toxicology of nanomaterials in the late 1990s. All the others (like Royal Society) followed later. Examples of toxic properties of nanoparticles, mostly highlighting interaction with protein tertiary structure.

Discussion: Vyvyan to write half a page introduction for the ISDE website on nanoparticles including links to further information sources.

12.45: Introduction to proposals and declaration drafts (to be discussed after lunch):

Asbestos (Hariri, Tomatis, Orris)

DDT and Malaria (Saoko): Statement and declaration.

Nuclear Power (Michael)

IPEN declaration for a Toxic Free Future (to be circulated among national ISDE members).

Discussion on CC postponed, because David is not here.

Lindane proposal from PAN: survey on use of lindane in pharmaceuticals. Extend campaign to toxics in pharmaceuticals in general? (pesticides used on children? Alternatives like mechanical methods to get rid of lice?)

13.00- 15.00 Lunch time (joining pesticides side-event)

15.00: Invited speaker: Maryann Lloyd Smith

IPEN Co Coordinator. IPEN International Strategy on Chemical Safety

IPEN would like to integrate ISDE affiliates more strongly in their global campaign for a Toxic Free Future. IPEN formed in 1998 as a network of 400 public interest NGOs in more than 70 countries working on POPs (Stockholm Convention implementation), but also actively involved in SAICM. (IPEN slogan: "Poisons without Passports")

IPEN Declaration: Dubai February 2006: To achieve a toxic-free future by 2020.

Human diseases and environmental hazards. (see IPEN website for details!)

3 working groups: (1) Dioxin, Waste and stockpiles WG: BAT/BEP expert group, relates to Basel Convention, Dioxin Toolkit and other related issues. (2) Pesticides WG: malaria and DDT quite important right now, campaigning for new candidates for the POP-list like lindane or endosulfan. (3) community monitoring WG: POPs Review Committee (POPRC) and associated activities.

POPRC: next meeting Nov 6-10, Geneva. 5 chemicals have completed risk file. Industry is fighting each single candidate listing. Penta BDE, and others (flame retardants, etc.)

SAICM involvement. Example: IPEP = 290 activities mostly in 3rd world countries, contributed to national implementation plans for Stockholm Convention. Example: Egg project / report from 17 countries in 5 continents. Majority of eggs exceeded EU-limit values. Eggs collected near obvious point sources. Raising awareness.

REACH: supported by IPEN. Global opposition because of trade concerns, not environmental concerns.

Global Toxic-Free Future Outreach Campaign: beyond SAICM and beyond the "usual environmental NGO circles". Endorsement of a Civil Society Statement.

Discussion: Where do we desperately need more medical doctors input: POPRC (in Geneva), every approx. 9 months OECD meetings in Paris (setting standards e.g. on new toxicology testing methods). Maryann will circulate dates of important meetings via Lilian.

15.45: Discussion of financial situation. ISDE had agreed to pay 50% of the AIRNET income to the Dutch institution for which Peter vdH works. Only one of three payments have been received by the Dutch. One other payment has been drawn from the ISDE account. Hanns is currently checking where this money has gone. After the remaining money for AIRNET is paid not much money is left on the ISDE accounts. (Hanns to send Lilian a short report on the 2005 budget also. She will meet Stefania by the end of the year and discuss with her how to proceed.)

16.00: Declaration drafts (continued):

Asbestos (Hariri, Tomatis, Orris): Peter Orris to compile inputs to finalise the statement.

DDT and Malaria (Saoke): Statement for the IFCS plenary. (accepted with amendment: do not include the last sentence.) ISDE Declaration on malaria & DDT for general purposes: To be finalised by Paul Saoke.

Nuclear Power (to be finalised by Philip Michael)

Comments to be sent to the DB list until approx. Oct. 8th. Then each of the persons responsible for each declaration will finalise "his" declaration. Endorsement by e-mail.

(I have to put Peter Orris on the list. Also: Mahmood Khwaja and Elena Manvelyan).

16.00: Update from Sylvia Altamira on projects.

How can we provide accounts to show we are able to handle large projects?

3 documents (confidentially) circulated.

(1) list of funding opportunities: pro's and con's

possible partners is CEE? Turkey, Ukraine, Macedonia, Hungary (as ISDE members), other associations: in Croatian nurses.

(2) concrete project proposals

(3) "Toxic Toys"

Does ISDE have an annual work-plan, annual report? Not as ISDE on the whole. Sylvia would need samples of recent reports etc. and projects, publications. Samples for display and an (exhaustive) list of activities.

Full members contact list (including SKYPE) (Hanns to send a short request to the DB list.)

ISDE presentation folder.

Paul S. has a data base of >500 foundations. But partly they are difficult to access. Will pass it on to Sylvia.

Other proposals, discussions:

Send Lilian a list of DB-list members. List of members to send an invoice for membership fees.

Send a mail to DB-list requesting to update contact details. (reply to Lilian, Paul, Sylvia and Christian)

David's CC report: He suggests (1) a steering committee: David, Paul, Elizabeth, Peter vdH, Hanns. (Lilian says: this is fine, but who is going to the various COPs?), (2) ISDE statement: summary of the ISDE declaration, to be drafted by David (?) and discussed by the steering committee, (3) awareness raising: mostly to be done on the national level.

Next meeting (general assembly): only options discussed, no final decision: June 07 in Vienna, Eurotox October in Amsterdam?

ISDE globally will no longer remain HEAL member.

17.45: Closing