

APEC CHEMICAL DIALOGUE
VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON DATA EXCHANGE
TERMS OF REFERENCE 2018

Background

In keeping with APEC priorities Chemical Dialogue has committed to facilitate trade in the chemicals sector and enhance integration and sustainable development of the industry in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The Virtual Working Group on Data Exchange (VWG DE) was established in 2012 in order to facilitate the CD's contribution to the APEC agenda for advancing of these goals through information sharing, fostering cooperation between business and governments on voluntary initiatives, enhancing synergy and complementarities with other regional and international institutions and fora on the issues of mutual concern (e.g. OECD, UN, SAICM, CSD etc.).

Objective

The Virtual Working Group on Data Exchange will provide for the advancement of the abovementioned goals by undertaking activities within three work streams:

- 1) **Information sharing** - information and knowledge sharing on chemical management practices;
- 2) **Voluntary initiatives** - enabling cooperation between business and governments to improve chemical product stewardship and safe use (voluntary initiatives promotion);
- 3) **Cooperation with international fora** - cooperation and coordination with other international and regional organizations on the issues of mutual concern (e.g. OECD, UN, SAICM, CSD etc.).

Scope of work for 2018

The following activities are to be undertaken in 2018 by the VWG DE based on the previous and ongoing work in line with the work streams identified.

Information sharing

- 1) Developing of a proposal on the creation of an electronic interactive guide on chemicals regulations worldwide;
- 2) Coordination of the development of Technical design specifications for the creation of the interactive guide on chemicals regulations;

Voluntary initiatives

- 3) Brainstorming of ideas for possible future activities on voluntary initiatives for the following years;

Cooperation with international fora

- 4) Developing of a proposal on a new possible format of the annual APEC report on the GHS implementation appropriate to the UNSCEGHS reporting format;
- 5) Coordination of the revision and submission of the 2017 APEC report on the GHS implementation to the UNSCEGHS through APEC CD Secretariat;
- 6) Coordination of APEC CD contribution to the UNSCEGHS activity on risks information sharing;

7) Informing on the progress of the UNSCEGHS project on the global list of chemicals classified according to the GHS;

8) Informing on the outcomes of the UNSCEGHS investigation of existing practices regarding presentation of the information in the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) around the world

Intersessional work/meetings

Intersessional work of the group will be carried out via correspondence and teleconferences hosted by the Co-Chair using VWG DE Communication Platform, which was launched to enhance information exchange of publicly available resources, tools and discussions.

Before the end of each year the VWG on Data Exchange should review its work plan of activities for the following year which should be presented to the CD at Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) 1.

Review

The CD should consider the VWG DE progress report presentation at SOM1 and determine, whether the VWG on Data Exchange should continue its work plan activities during the year, or provide guidance to future work.

Membership

There will be a government Co-Chair and industry Co-Chair reflecting the APEC dual approach to governance of the working bodies. The membership is open to all economies (both government and industry members).