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SEACHEM NEWSLETTER

P61 Resumes Training in Region

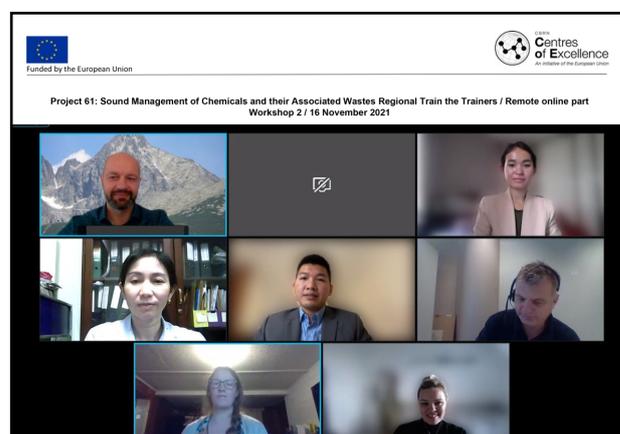
Return to In Country Training After 2 Year Suspension

In April 2020 all in person training on Project 61 came to an abrupt halt following the onset of the global, COVID-19 pandemic. This has necessarily led to the extension of the project to allow for all planned activities to be delivered.

Despite the hibernation of traditional training, seminars and workshops for the past 24 months, the project team have continued to deliver results for Project 61. The use of online communication platforms and training resources have enabled delegates from the beneficiary countries to continue to access development activities. More details on the online interventions delivered in the past 24 months are included below.

In addition to online training and workshops significant progress has been made on the legislative aspects of chemicals management across the SE Asia region. This has been led by the implementing partner VERTIC and details of their work are highlighted later in this update.

With the easing of travel restrictions in many parts of the SE Asia region the project team have now recommenced the delivery of in person training with missions in the SEA region being delivered in May 2022 and further delivery planned throughout 2022.



The Project Implementation Consortium:

Project leaders: Sustainable Criminal Justice Solutions (SCJS, UK)
United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) (previously known as Public Health England or PHE)
International Security and Emergency Management Institute (ISEMI, Slovakia)
The Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC, UK)
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM, Netherlands)

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Regional Train the Trainer, Phnom Penh, Cambodia May 09 – 13, 2022



Project 61 Regional Train the Trainer Courses were held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia between the 09th and 13th May 2022. The one week training programme was opened by General Phorn Nara, Secretary General of the National Authority for the Prohibition of Chemical, Nuclear, Biological and Radiological Weapons, Mr. Andrew Proudlove, SCJS Team Leader for Project 61, Mr. Tihamer CZIKA, Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Cambodia and Dr. Marian Kolencik, PhD from ISEMI.



Delivery of both the Regional Train the Trainer SEACHEM course and the Regional Chemical Recovery and Remediation Course (Teaching skills) received excellent feedback from the attending delegates.



P61 consortium member ISEMI was responsible for delivering the event. Delegates from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam were invited to participate.



The objectives of this training were to teach future trainers how to plan, prepare, conduct and assess training and exercises for the detection and decontamination of chemical agents, PPE donning and doffing procedures and multiagency response to chemical incidents. The courses took the format of a mixture of lecture-based sessions together with interactive activities, group discussions, practical demonstrations and practical chemical scenario exercises. All events were delivered successfully with significant participation and interaction from the delegates. Feedback from all delegates confirmed huge value of this training for their future work.

Keeping the Momentum Going with Online Training

The sudden cessation of in-country delivery on Project 61 resulted in the need for alternative training and communication methods to be employed. Online Regional Train the Trainer (TtT) workshops on Sound Management of chemicals and their associated wastes for Cambodia and Lao PDR were conducted between 9th November and 7th December 2021 and for Viet Nam from 18th November to 19th November 2021. Regional TtT SEACHEM workshops were originally intended to be conducted in-person. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the training materials were adapted for remote delivery. The all workshops sessions were delivered via the Webex platform by International Security and Emergency Management Institute (ISEMI) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), who were formerly known as Public Health England (PHE).

Workshop content was developed for the following topics: Potential chemical threats and hazards, chemical management and chemical risk assessment, Chemical waste and chemical emergencies, Chemical transport, Detection of chemical agents and Personal Protective Equipment, Decontamination of chemical agents and Multi-Agency response to chemical incidents. For every session one of these topics were presented by consortium experts in combination with interactive exercises to test learning and assist delegates to further understand the potential challenges for Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam. All participants were very engaged throughout the online training.



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Philippines National Training 16th May – 27th May 2022



Left to right: Mr Allister Gittins (UKHSA), Prof. Raquel Duarte-Davidson (UKHSA), Atty. Florentino Manalastas, Jr. (Head of Secretariat (Alternate) / Director IV of the Anti-Terrorism Council - Programme Management Center (ATC-PMC), Office of the President of the Philippines), Mr Andrew Proudlove (SCJS), Dr. Haydn Cole (UKHSA), Dr. Marian Kolencik (ISEMI), Mr Ľuboš Trudič (ISEMI)

After the successful delivery of the training in Cambodia the team moved on to Manila in the Philippines. The training, workshop and seminar programme for the Philippines, lasting over 2 weeks, is listed below and was led by Mr. Andrew Proudlove, the P61 SCJS project leader, and delivered by a team of P61 experts from ISEMI, RIVM and UKHSA.

- The National SEACHEM course, 16th – 20th May 2022
- Train the trainer course, 23rd – 24th May
- Sound Management of Chemicals Seminar, 26th May
- Responding to Chemical Incidents Workshop, 27th May
- Recovery and Remediation course, 23rd – 25th May
- National Laboratory Training Course 30th - 31st May



The SEACHEM course was delivered by experts from UKHSA and ISEMI during the first week. The courses comprised a mixture of lecture-based sessions together with interactive activities, group discussions and practical demonstrations, and covered aspects of chemical safety, the management of chemicals and chemical waste, emergency preparedness, risk assessment, security, transport, and multiagency response. Practical training on safety equipment, detection and decontamination equipment was also provided.



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Concurrent courses to Train the Trainer (TTT), and on Recovery and Remediation were delivered in the second week. On the TTT course, selected delegates were provided with an overview of how to carry out sensitisation and education campaigns in the management of chemicals and associated wastes amongst different sectors of civil society and response to a chemical incident.

On the Recovery and Remediation course, delegates were provided with an overview of recovery and remediation, multi-stakeholder coordination, and also guided through the process of developing recovery and remediation strategies for chemical events. The course culminated with a group exercise where delegates worked cooperatively with their colleagues from other agencies to develop a recovery strategy in response to a complex



chemical waste incident.

Following the delivery of the National TTT, four delegates delivered presentations to 70 colleagues on chemical hazards, chemical risk assessment, management of chemicals and raising awareness strategy at the Sound Management of Chemicals Seminar, demonstrating their capability to successfully implement P61 National training.

The courses were well attended by delegates representing a wide range of organizations, including first responders and government agencies with responsibility for the safe management of chemicals or chemical incident response.

Delegates from all sectors demonstrated excellent pre-course preparation and contributed enthusiastically to the course activities, which created a welcome opportunity for experience sharing and discussion between trainers and delegates, as well as between delegates and their national colleagues. The success of course and partnership was felt by all and supported by the positive feedback from all delegates, with requests for further support received.





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Attendees included Senior representatives from EU and UNICRI: Usec. Camilo Pancratius Cascolan, Executive Director, ATC-PMC; Mr. Rafael de Bustamante, Deputy Head of the Political, Press and Information Section Delegation of the EU to the Philippines; Mr. Alexander Hamilton, Regional Coordinator, UNICRI; Dr. Irma Macalinao, UP Manila College of Medicine.

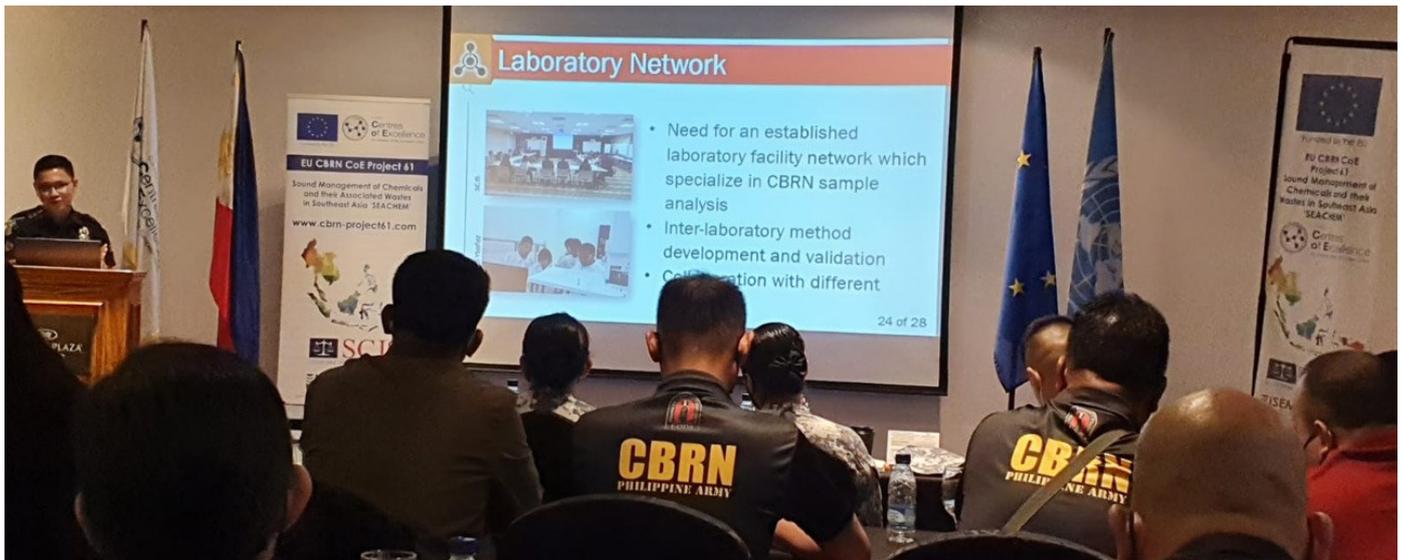
UKHSA- Development of facilities and recovery databases

UKHSA has now produced a facilities database to enhance the preparedness to chemical incidents for partner countries. The database is designed to enable the storage of details of large scale chemical sites with the potential to cause significant public health impacts on a central database for governments in case explosions or large scale chemical releases should occur. The database can be used to store information on the chemicals on site (and quantities), nearby public health and environmental receptors and emergency measures that may be undertaken by the operator.

The database has now been shared with NFP’s for input and will be finalised later this year. Similarly, the UKHSA has developed a recovery database for countries to store information on recovery (cleanup) methods that can be used following chemical releases to remediate the environment so that their effectiveness and constraints can be determined.



National Laboratory Training Course 30th - 31st May



For the last in country delivery on this mission, the Philippines held their national laboratory workshop. The workshop lasted two days and was held on 30 and 31 May. The workshop was a great success facilitated by excellent organisation. Even after the delays in delivery due to Covid, delegates Mujib and Manolito, who were trained in Singapore in 2019, were able to build and enhance on the learned materials.

The program was varied and the process was well anticipated. During the first day, there was time remaining at the end of the prepared training material and Mujb and Manolito came up with a fun and active quiz for all participants.



The added value of both days was in getting to know each other and networking. There is a lot of knowledge in the field of CBRN available within the Philippines.

However, this knowledge is still fragmented within and across some organizations. The organizers of the workshop succeeded very well in inviting relevant 'players' and creating an ... aha-experience. ... *"we can help you with that question because we have this expertise"*.

All participants felt that the training and opportunity to network was extremely valuable.





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Significant Progress on Legislative Analysis

Since the last newsletter VERTIC has made significant progress with implementation of the legislative aspects of chemicals management. VERTIC has completed work on legislative analysis under the project, collaborating with Partner Countries on country-specific analyses of legislation and regulations to identify potential gaps and areas for improvement.

The team has completed legislative analyses in relation to implementation of the Chemical Weapons, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Minamata and Basel Conventions, as well as the GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals), the UN Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods and the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. All of the analyses have been finalised, incorporating relevant national feedback.



In addition, VERTIC has developed a number of reports, guidelines and manuals under Project 61. In collaboration with the Partner Countries, VERTIC has completed reports on lists of high-risk chemicals and engagement with the SDGs on chemical issues. We have also completed guidelines on legislative enforcement, regulating chemical waste, and a manual of best practice on the legislative control of chemicals.



P61 is an EU funded project delivered with and to support the Partner Countries of:

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia

Indonesia, Lao PDR

Malaysia, Myanmar

Philippines, Singapore

Thailand, Vietnam



Local Support Team Members

The team of Project 61 would like to express our sincere and well deserved praise for the locally based individuals assisting with the organisation and facilitation of the project deliverables.



In particular we would like to mention the excellent assistance provided to the project by Dr. Sat Chansovannary (Cambodia), May Mangaya (Philippines) and Nguyen Thi Thuy (Vietnam), who are pictured above from left to right.

In addition to the official support team members special thanks also goes to Xaybandith Xayavong (Laos) and Dang Huy Hiep (Viet Nam) who whilst participating in training events have also assisted greatly with the coordination of delegates from their respective countries.

Please follow Project 61 online for up-to-date news and information:

Project Website: www.cbrn-project61.com

P61 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cbrnproject61/>

