



## Towards the Sound Management of Chemicals

National Profiles (NP) for the sound management of chemicals allow assessing and diagnosing the existing infrastructure for the management of chemicals. This is an important step towards building national capacity in a systematic way. UNITAR, in particular, provide guidance, training and technical support to assist countries in assessing their relevant legal, institutional, administrative and technical infrastructures. At the country level, all ministries concerned with chemicals management, as well as industry and public interest groups, should be involved in the NP preparation process. To date over 150 countries, including several OECD Member States, have prepared or are preparing a NP following the UNITAR/IOMC National Profile Guidance Document. At the regional level, National Profiles provide a good understanding of the existing capabilities of countries, as well

as their needs. **Bangladesh** prepared its first NP in 1997; **India:** 'Mini Profile' in 2000, updating in 2006, sponsored by Canada; **Indonesia:** 1997, sponsored by Australia and EC/DG XI; **Sri Lanka:** 1997, updated in 2002, sponsored by Switzerland; **Thailand:** 1998, updated in 2003, sponsored by The Netherlands; **Nepal:** In preparation. (More at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwg/np/index.html>).

A presentation was made by the WHO representative on the advantages of having a national system to manage chemicals from cradle to grave, throughout all the key stages of the life cycle, from import to use and final disposal. The participants agreed on the need to update their country's National Profile for the sound management of chemicals. **Bhutan**, will ask WHO/ SEARO for support.



Source: <http://www.fao.org>

