Introduce yourself (name, job title, organization and country) in the chat section. Only the presenter and facilitator will speak. Any comments or questions from attendees should be typed in the chat section.

Please kindly keep your microphone muted and cameras off during the discussion.

NOTE: If you are having technical issues, please join the WhatsApp group for assistance: https://chat.whatsapp.com/BKTKGwt5cnNCg9BOzYK1i

Discussion 4

- **Topic:** Environmental Injustice Issues to Consider for Chemical Risk Management
- **Date:** 23 November 2022
- **Time:** 14h00 – 15h30 (GMT + 2)
- **Presenters:** Mr. Rico Euripidou, groundWork
- **Facilitator:** Prof Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town
Chemicals and Sustainable Development Goals
Community of Practice

Mr. Rico Euripidou
groundWork
Introduction

Air pollution in SA: Sasolburg Skyline
Environmental Injustice

- The rich receive the major benefits of development while the poor bear the brunt of environmental degradation caused by development. E.g., industrial development near communities.

- Environmental problems are also reproduced in the design, or neglect, of sanitation and waste systems and the results thereof are most felt by the poor.

- Can be industrial development of linked to service delivery (water and sanitation).

- More stark in the developing world.
What is environmental justice?

- Relationships between people
- Relationships between people & environment

“Empowered people in relations of solidarity and equity with each other and in non-degrading and positive relationships with their environments.”
It is about power!

I worry the corporates have too much say...
Environmental Racism

- Origins in the USA
- South in the North
- Environmental injustice is the abuse of power!
- Ignoring the environment is one way of ignoring the poor
Environmental injustice

- Externalisation
- Enclosure
- Exclusion
Poison on a plate: Outdated agrichemical legislation means your avocado-topped pizza could be hazardous to your health
The Link!

- Social justice, economic justice and environmental justice
- Unbalanced world, therefore:
  - Pollution (industry and community)
  - Health impacts
  - Unemployment
  - People living on landfill sites
- Role of global greed by capital and business???
Section 24 of the South African Bill of Rights

Environment
The environment section reads:
24. Everyone has the right
a. to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
b. to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that:
   i. prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
   ii. promote conservation; and
   iii. secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.
"When we breathe the air of freedom, we do not wish to choke on hidden fumes."

Judge Albie Sachs (Justice of the South African Constitutional Court)
Question 1

In your country, are there polluting industries or practices that impact people’s health? If so, which industries or practices cause pollution and where are they more likely to be situated?

What are the impacts of these polluting industries on the health and well-being of the communities they are in? (List your country in your response.)

This question will be discussed for 20 minutes.
Please use chat only, mute your microphone, and turn your video off.

Thank you!
What role does the chemicals industry have to play in the just transition to a resource efficient and low-carbon economy?

- Need to be part of the discussions and need to attend regulation and surveillance on the process.
- Open and transparent movement to better living environment and crop management.
- Access to health services and notifiable conditions and easy access to record these and training or health staff at clinics.
- Yes, there are, most of textile industries have the impact on human health and they are located around the capital city of the country which have more population density.
- The chemical industry, including the pesticide industry, feeds on fossil fuel/oil production. Under the human rights instruments businesses have an obligation to address the harmful effects of their actions and protect human rights that are affected.
- HOC and elimination of HHP’s and recognising that some pesticides need to be eliminated and substituted by safer pesticides, removal of fossil fuel based pesticides and adequate training of workers (SA).
- More regulation and monitoring on impact in health and environment.
- Chemical industry is the biggest industrial user of fossil fuel for both feedstock and energy purposes, and it is third largest industrial emitter of CO2. The chemical industry.
- A meaningful execution of plans on shifting from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy, not just paying lip services like the industries have been doing for a while.
What role does the chemicals industry have to play in the just transition to a resource efficient and low-carbon economy?

- Supporting innovation of less toxic molecules and alternatives
- Develop / come up with innovations to replace the carbon reliant
- Chemical industry can play a big role in minimizing the carbon emissions through available and innovative technology thereby minimizing the negative impacts on the people and their environment.
- Chemical Industry should: 1. implement good manufacturing practices and adhere to public health regulations within each country 2. allocate funds for programs to mitigate against health impact and also to fix the existing problems
- The chemicals industry should come on board and participate in the policy making processes; they should play their part and raise awareness on their products and steps they plan to take towards resource efficient and low-carbon economies.
What are the impacts of these polluting industries on the health and well-being of the communities they are in? (List your country in your response.)

Upper respiratory diseases from inhalation in humans and economic losses from the destruction of farmlands from oil spillage - Nigeria.
Question 2:

In your experience, which conditions that support informed decision-making for chemicals, are linked to environmental justice?

How can environmental justice considerations in chemical risk management fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? List the SDGs in your response.

This question will be discussed for 20 minutes.
Please use chat only, mute your microphone, and turn your video off.

Thank you!
Are there national initiatives in your country to disclose information on chemical identities and hazards?

1. Yes, voluntary hazard labelling according to GHS
2. Yes, voluntary hazard labelling according to national or industry standards
3. Yes, binding hazard labelling according to GHS
4. Yes, binding disclosure schemes for chemicals in materials and products
5. None of the listed types of initiatives
6. I do not know

Total responses: 13
Is disclosure of information on chemical composition of materials and products outside the supply chain important for environmental justice?
Question 3:

What conditions are missing in your country, or multilaterally, to fully enable informed decisions for chemicals? How can these be included in chemical management strategies? Who are the leading sectors to do this? (List your country in your response)

This question will be discussed for 20 minutes.
Please use chat only, mute your microphone, and turn your video off.

Thank you!
If only the identity of a chemical in materials and products is disclosed and not concentration, is this in conflict with the principle of CBI?
Please click complete the evaluation question on the screen – thank you!

THANK YOU
for attending the LAST discussion of 2022!

All resources and discussion summaries from the CSDG CoP 2022
Discussions are available at the following link:
https://saicmknowledge.org/topic/community-practice

This activity is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project ID: 9771 on Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
What value have you gained from this and other CSDG CoP discussions? (Check all that apply)

1. Being part of a community of others doing similar work
2. Explored and exchanged on chemicals along their lifecycle
3. Support for my efforts to draft, implement or enforce chemical guidance documents
4. Other (please specify in the chatroom)
5. Learned information to help me manage the use of chemicals of concern in the supply chain

Options:
- 1
- 0
- 1
- 5
- 0
- 0