

April 2021

IOMC Webinar Report

Chemical accident prevention,
preparedness and response

28 April 2021

Prepared by: UNITAR



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



Webinar Report

The SAICM Global Plan of Action (2006) in paragraph 11 indicates: “...Other measures under the governance category would include the development of systems for emergency preparedness and response in the case of chemical accidents, the consideration of chemical use in protected areas, training in liability and compensation schemes in relation to damage to human health and the environment caused by the production and use of chemicals and action to prevent and detect illegal trafficking of chemicals and hazardous wastes”.

The third IOMC webinar in support of the process for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 took place on 28 April 2021. The webinar provided information on the current initiatives being undertaken by different organizations, the perspective of national governments on aspects of chemical accidents, prevention, preparedness and response.

The webinar included a first session with presentations from some of the IOMC Participating Organizations; the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The second session included the participation of national governments and a UN regional commission (UNECE), with three questions to the panelists (see document on questions and answers on the website). The session also included a series of open questions and answers with the panelists and the participants.

The webinar was moderated by Mr. Jorge Ocaña from UNITAR.

Presenters and panel experts

Presenters

Brenda Koekkoek
SAICM Secretariat

Halshka Graczyk
International Labour
Organization (ILO)

Bertrand Dagallier
Organization for
Economic
Cooperation and
Development
(OECD)

**Kersten
Gutschmidt**
World Health
Organization (WHO)

Panelists

Franziska Hirsch
United Nations
Economic
Commission for
Europe (UNECE)

Rachel McCann
Health and Safety
Executive, United
Kingdom

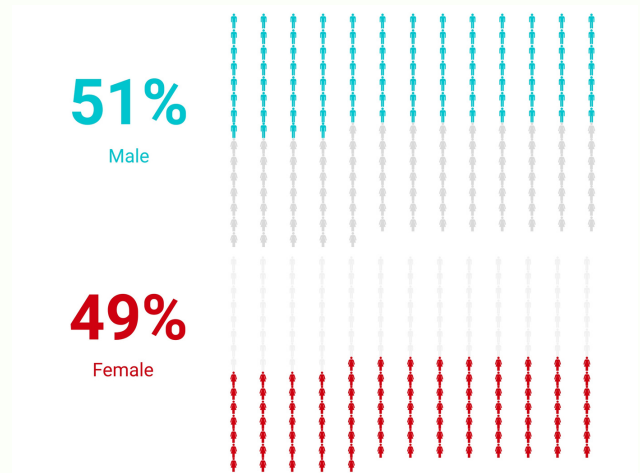
Hazlina Yon
Department of
Occupational Safety
and Health (DOSH),
Malaysia

David Russell
Public Health,
England

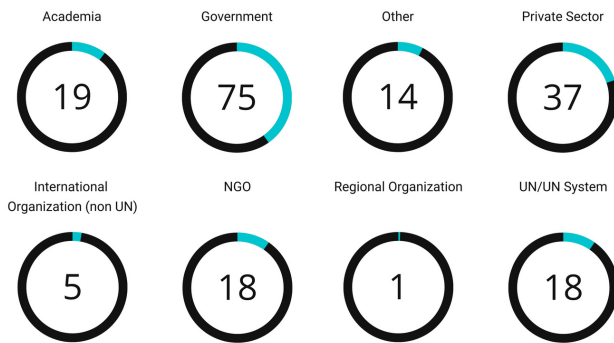
Attendance breakdown and representation

A total of 187 people participated in the third IOMC webinar

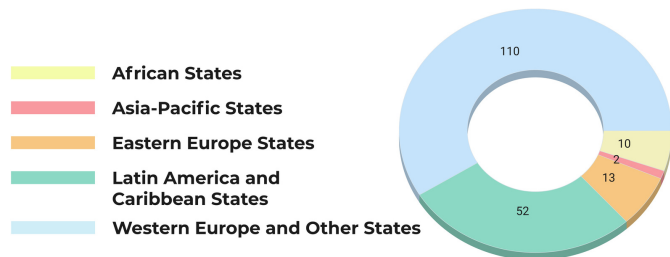
Gender Distribution



Sector



Regions



Key Messages

- Chemical accidents is a particularly important area to consider in the Beyond 2020 process, bearing in mind that chemicals are going to be in demand and risks are and will be present. The global chemical industry is expected to double by 2030 and management practices need to be put in place.
- Prevention is at the center of the different programmes from national and international entities.
- In order to prevent a chemical accident, it is crucial to assess risks and to update risk assessment information, particularly in light of climate change and natural disasters
- IOMC organizations have developed a variety of tools, strategies and materials to assist countries on chemical accidents prevention and preparedness. For example;
 - WHO has developed the International Health Regulations, and the Chemicals and Waste roadmap;
 - ILO has developed more than 50 legal instruments to address chemicals accidents and prevention.
- The implementation of GHS is a first step to consider when developing a Chemicals accidents
- Many developing countries would need resources to establish solid chemicals preparedness and response systems. Chemical accidents prevention, response and preparedness is an investment that will result in economic, social and environmental benefits.
- Communication and cooperation (nationally and internationally) are essential. It is important to learn from past experiences and to share lessons-learned. Many accidents would have been prevented if sharing of experiences had happened in a systematic manner.