Lead paint elimination: its significance for SAICM progress and implications for the Beyond 2020 Framework

Side event hosted in the Restaurant, Tuesday 26th September, 18:15-19:45.

Lead paint is still one of the most widespread sources of lead exposure today. There are no safe levels of lead exposure for children and increasing evidence shows that even low levels of lead exposure are harmful for adults. IPEN studies show that countries where no enforced regulations are in place to prohibit the use of lead in paint, it is likely be available for use in homes, schools and on playgrounds. This means continued lead exposure to children, workers and consumers from paint.

Much has been accomplished since lead in paint was adopted as an Emerging Policy Issue (EPI) in 2009. The independent evaluation of SAICM concluded that “delivering on the Lead in Paint EPI is one of SAICM’s greatest successes”. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, formed by WHO and UNEP, has been a key partnership to move this effort forward. An increasing number of countries have adopted legally binding controls on lead paint and many paint manufacturers in all regions have removed lead from their paint production and shown the feasibility of replacing leaded compounds in their paints.

Still, more works needs to be done under the Beyond 2020 Framework to meet the goal of eliminating lead paint globally.

This side event aims to highlight the progress made towards eliminating lead paint, that much work still needs to be done, and the path forward towards global lead paint elimination.

The event will be moderated by Dr Tadesse Amera, IPEN Co-Chair. The following panel of speakers will provide perspectives from their experience of preventing lead exposure and eliminating lead paint:

- Joel Maleon, Senior Environmental Management Specialist at the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-DENR), Philippines
- Lesley Onion, Head of the Chemical Safety and Health Unit of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health at the World Health Organization.
- Dr. Halshka Graczyk, Technical Specialist on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)
- Yuyun Ismawati, Senior Advisor and Co-Founder, Nexus for Health, Environment and Development Foundation (Nexus3)
- Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh, Poison Information Coordinator for The Caribbean Poison Information Network, Jamaica

The panel interventions will be followed by an opportunity to provide questions and remarks from the floor to further provide insights into the importance of eliminating lead paint globally.