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English - Or. English

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
CHEMICALS COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials

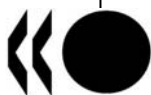
**EVALUATION OF THE OECD DATABASE ON MANUFACTURED NANOMATERIALS TO
INFORM AND ANALYSE EHS RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

**7th Meeting of the Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials taking place at OECD Conference
Centre in Paris, France on 7-9 July 2010, starting at 10h00 on the first day.**

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The Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (WPMN) is a subsidiary body of OECD's Chemicals Committee. The aim of its programme of work is to promote international co-operation with respect to human health and environmental safety related aspects of manufactured nanomaterials.

As part of its programme of work, the WPMN has a project on *OECD Database on Manufactured Nanomaterials to Inform and Analyse EHS Research Activities* that is led by Steering Group 1/2 (SG1/2) which includes delegations from: Australia; Austria; Belgium; Canada; Denmark; France; Germany; Italy; Japan; Korea; the Netherlands; Switzerland; the United Kingdom; the United States; European Commission; Russian Federation; Thailand; Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC); and Environmental NGOs.

At the 6th meeting of the WPMN, the operational plan 2009-2012 for this project was presented by SG1/2 and was endorsed by the WPMN. The agreed operational plan has two detailed objectives: i) to develop a global resource, which details research projects that address environmental, human health and safety (EHS) issues associated with manufactured nanomaterials and; and ii) to identify areas that require further research efforts to address human health and environmental safety issues.

Since 6th WPMN, SG1/2 has worked for the evaluation and development of the OECD Database on Manufactured Nanomaterials. This document is a report on this project, which includes the current Status of the Database as well as a progress achieved by SG1/2. Information on data population in the Database is presented in the Annex.

In addition to this document, SG1/2 will present the result of "Evaluation of the OECD Database on Manufactured Nanomaterials" (Power Point Presentation) at the 7th meeting of the WPMN.

***ACTION
REQUIRED:***

The WPMN is invited to:

- i) take note on progress achieved; and***
- ii) agree to the proposed next steps.***

PROGRESS REPORT OF PROJECT ONE AND PROJECT TWO

OECD Database on Manufactured Nanomaterials to Inform and Analyse EHS Research Activities

Background

1. This joint project builds on work undertaken by two separate OECD WPMN activities, the former Project one (*Development of an OECD database on Human Health and Environmental Safety Research*) and former Project two (*EHS Research strategies on Manufactured Nanomaterials*) which were implemented under the Work Programme on Manufactured Nanomaterials 2006-2008.

2. The *Database of Research into the Safety of Manufactured Nanomaterials* [Project one] is an inventory of information on human health and environmental safety issues associated with manufactured nanomaterials that includes national or regional research projects. It also aims to compliment the work of the other projects of the WPMN by identifying relevant research projects or storing information derived from the projects, including the sponsorship programme on the testing of manufactured nanomaterials. The database was publicly launched at 1st April 2009.

3. The objective of the project *EHS Research strategies on Manufactured Nanomaterials* [Project two] was: i) to exchange information on research activities; ii) to identify common research needs to address human health and environmental safety issues associated with manufactured nanomaterials; and iii) to undertake to meet those research needs. It was neither intended to develop a global harmonised research strategy, nor to actively coordinate existing or future research activities; but rather to provide updated information on the research status quo at national level, while identifying common research needs.

4. These two projects were combined into a single project in March 2009, because the database contains information on available research projects that will facilitate a detailed analysis of current research efforts in order to determine urgent and medium/long term research needs regarding EHS aspects of manufactured nanomaterials.

5. The SG1/2 draft operational plan for 2009-2012 was discussed at the last WPMN and finalised by the Steering Group shortly after the meeting. Based on the agreed operational plan [ENV/CHEM/NANO(2010)11] expected outputs for the period 2009 to 2012 include:

- Ongoing population of the database by DPs with appropriate verification of data and content by DCPs.
- Evaluation of the database for data quality, usefulness to identify research priorities and gap analysis, appropriateness of “administrative rights” of DPs and DCPs.
- Extend functionality of the database by developing keywords for use in analysis of the database, linking to other relevant databases, including other types of information, such as uses and applications of nanomaterials, information on risk assessment approaches, risk mitigation and risk communication related to manufactured nanomaterials.

- Development of a CBI policy, if required
- Evaluate feedback mechanisms associated with the database.
- Develop mechanisms to identify and update future research needs.
- Elaborate and update the information sharing network for “hot spots” research areas for coordinating co-operative work to streamline resources and address knowledge gaps in an efficient way (avoid unnecessary overlaps and duplicative work).

Status of the Data Population

6. At the time of the last WPMN the database included 732 entries of which 412 had been checked and published. Data gaps were identified in 141 entries. The steering group determined that a concerted effort was required to boost the number of entries and the number completed and quality controlled through checking by DCP's. In December 2009, the Chairs of SG 1/2 wrote to 64 individual DCP requesting that they encourage national researchers to use the database and update individual records as they progress and requested suggestion from DCPs for keywords and other databases to which the OECD database may be linked. The response to this request was poor.

7. Analysis of incomplete entries indicated that the vast majority of these were imported from the Woodrow Wilson database. Recognizing that these entries were not included in the database by OECD registered DPs and DCPs reminder letters were sent to 227 project leaders/investigators (researchers) and Heads of Delegations requesting that these investigators update records. The list of DCPs and data entry template was also provided with this letter to assist with updates.

8. The OECD secretariat agreed to extract information on projects that require updating twice per year and post this on the password protected site. DCPs could use this list to identify national researchers within delegations. The OECD secretariat has also posted an updated list of DPs and DCPs on the password protected site. These lists can be accessed directly from the OECD website or can be requested through the OECD secretariat.

9. A data entry template (excel spread sheet) was developed by the steering group to facilitate use of the database by a range of researchers including those from non-OECD economies. The spreadsheet is to be completed and provided to designated national DPs and DCPs who will update the database.

10. Individual comments received from a range of delegations were addressed by the secretariat – these were predominantly technical in nature.

11. At 01 May 2010, the database included a total of 762 entries. Give details here 718 projects have been submitted by 20 OECD member countries; 37 projects have been by the EU; 3 projects have been submitted by 2 non-member economies; and 4 projects have been submitted by BIAC. Of these, 437 projects in total are checked by Designated Contact Points (DCP) to ensure the accuracy of data submitted. 37 projects are saved as draft which means that the projects information cannot be viewed by the public. The remaining 288 “published” projects are at different stage of the checking process, either: i) they have been reviewed and modification needs to be done; ii) currently under revision; and iii) to be reviewed (see Annex for details).

Promote use of database and extend functionality

12. The following supporting material is published on the OECD website to users of the database:
1. Information Brochure and guidance material
 2. Power point presentation for general users
 3. Power point presentation for DPs/DCPs
 4. List of DPs/DCPs (on password protected site)
 5. A list of countries with its number of projects included in the database
13. Since the last WPMN the functionality of the database was improved through:
- Installation of “pop-up” guidance to assist data providers fill in various fields within the database
 - Inclusion of a “comment submission button” to collect general comments from users of the database (on the way)
 - Rectifying technical issues relating to data entry – for example a restriction on the maximum number of words that could be included in certain fields
 - Counting functions (on the way)
14. SG1/2 has discussed mechanisms to promote general access and use of the database. Australia and Germany made poster presentations at recent international conferences like the nanotoxicology conference in Edinburgh that has resulted in increased interest in the database.

Evaluate feedback mechanisms

15. Chairs of SG 1/2 will contact chairs of other steering groups before 7th WPMN in order to investigate their needs for extension of the database and their willingness to encourage their SG members to contribute relevant projects to the database. With regard to the ongoing projects in the context of the sponsorship programme lead sponsors will be asked to introduce their projects at the Sponsorship meeting at July 5-6.

Next steps

16. A preliminary evaluation prepared by SG1/SG2 will be introduced at 7th meeting of WPMN (Power Point Presentation). Suggestions will be canvassed from the meeting to progress evaluation of the database.
17. The Operational plan for projects one and two describes that SG1/SG2 will eventually identify research priorities and gap. The preliminary evaluation of the database shows that the database itself has not been fully developed to fulfil those tasks. Therefore, the WPMN is invited to encourage their DCPs and DPs to update the information in the database. Furthermore, the WPMN is invited to encourage their DCPs to provide keywords and other databases to which the OECD database may be linked.
18. As first step, SG1/SG2 ask participants to the OECD Sponsorship Programme (SSP) to enter their project information with a flag for identifying which projects contribute to SSP. It could be made available to review the SSP, as well as to compare SSP projects with other projects.

19. The promotion of the database would also support further data population. The WPMN is invited to promote the database in events related to nanosafety. Promotional material can be made available by the Secretariat.

**ANNEX. STATUS REPORT OF OECD DATABASE ON RESEARCH INTO THE SAFETY OF
MANUFACTURED NANOMATERIALS**

Table. Status of Entries as for May 2010

Date	Aug-08	1 October 2008	1 October 2009	1 May 2010			
	All status	All Status	All Status	Draft	Published	Checked & Published	All Status
Australia	0	0	3	0	0	3	3
Austria	0	0	3	2	0	9	11
Belgium	1	1	2	0	2	1	3
Canada	12	12	17	0	0	17	17
Czech Republic	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Denmark	12	12	12	0	0	12	12
Finland	3	3	3	0	3	0	3
France	1	1	39	11	0	29	40
Germany	5	6	22	0	0	24	24
Greece	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Italy	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Japan	2	2	9	1	0	13	14
Korea	0	0	9	0	0	9	9
New Zealand	0	0	4	0	4	0	4
Norway	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Spain	0	0	3	1	0	2	3
Sweden	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	24	24	25	0	25	0	25
China	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Chinese Taipei	2	2	2	0	2	0	2
United Kingdom	56	56	72	9	61	3	73
United States	416	416	472	0	184	288	472
EU	18	18	25	12	1	24	37
B I A C	4	4	4	1	0	3	4
SUM	561	562	732	37	288	437	762
Total	561	562	732		762		