

*Capacity building through regional institutions*  
*Chemical Management Training for PICs*  
*The USP experience*

Strengthening National Capacity in  
Chemical Management

Partners: SPREP, UNEP and National Governments

**Clean Pacific Roundtable, Suva, 20 August 2018**

**Establish Best  
Practice**  
(Manuals/Toolkits)

**Chemical  
Management**

**Disseminate  
Best Practice**  
(Training)

**Implement Best  
Practice**  
(Action Plans)

## Aim of the Project

- ▶ **A major objective of the Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project is to enable regional Parties to the Stockholm Convention to meet their national obligations to improve the management of chemicals**

# Project Key Objectives

- To increase PICs capacity to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention
- And to meet their national obligations to improve the management of chemicals and chemical waste, through the provision of an integrated chemical management training programme

# Target Audiences

- ▶ **Government employees with responsibilities for the regulation of chemicals**, or for related aspects such as environmental protection, worker health and safety, or public health.
- ▶ **Managers and technical staff of chemical laboratories**, including from government agencies (eg. Health, Agriculture, Environment), local authorities and related bodies (eg. water supply authorities), and the private sector.
- ▶ **Education sector** representatives with specific responsibilities for school laboratories.
- ▶ **Customs** personnel, especially those involved in administration or enforcement of the chemical and waste MEAs, or imports of dangerous goods.

# Project Team

- IAS-USP staff and partners
- Good mix of technical expertise and teaching experience
- Training modules (31 modules) and resource materials - prepared by the Technical Team
- In-country training – conducted by the IAS project delivery team

# Topics

- Chemical classification and labelling
- Best practice chemical management
- Chemical inventories
- Safe handling, use and disposal
- National, international and regional obligations, including those under the Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel and Waigani Conventions

# Outcomes

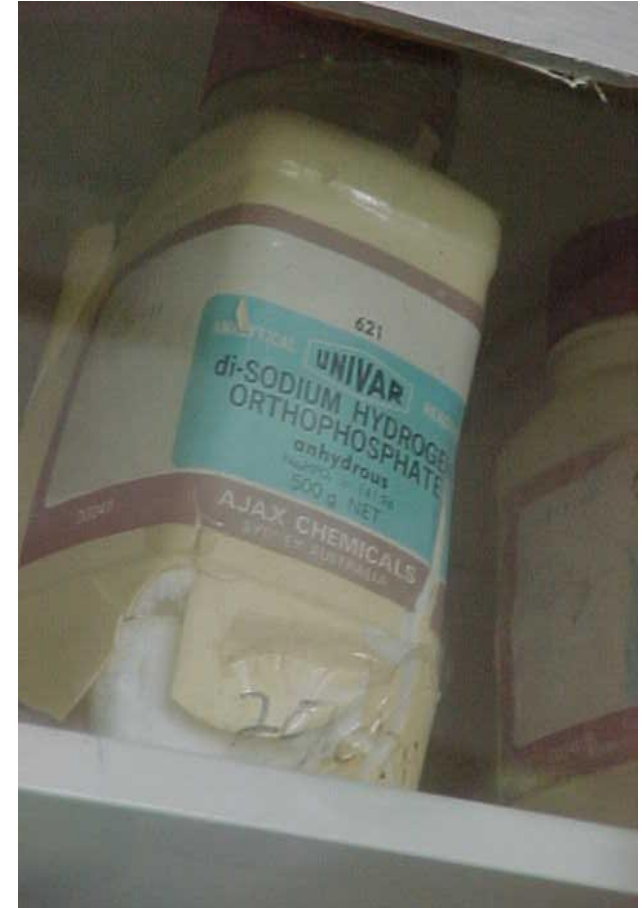
- Greater awareness of the range of potential hazards associated with chemicals and chemical wastes
- Increased understanding how chemicals can act on people or enter the environment
- Enhanced ability to describe the most appropriate ways of working with those materials, including generally recommended procedures for safe storage, handling, use and disposal
- Understanding the steps involved in preparing a chemical inventory, and the ways in which this information should be used
- Appreciating the national and international controls currently in place for managing specific groups of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes



# Our learning

- Lack of chemical management knowledge and competencies was evident
- Chemicals are poorly managed in almost all countries, e.g no proper inventory, storage and disposal facilities
- Eye-opener for most participants about OHS issues, e.g. school and hospital labs
- Lack of PPE
- Custom officers unaware of and unequipped to deal with chemical hazards
- Training was highly needed and needs to be systematised and formalised
- Over 450 people trained

# Chemicals poor storage



# Chemicals poor storage



# National Priorities Identified – Summary 1



- **Inventory and Disposal issues for laboratories** in government, health and education sectors in particular
- Appropriate collection, storage and disposal of waste
- Identification of unknowns (especially surplus chemicals in education and health labs)
- Need for appropriate PPE and signing
- Development/maintenance of a national chemical inventory

# National Priorities Identified – Summary 2

- Strengthening information sharing and cooperation between agencies (including Customs) to enable enforcement (e.g. in regard to SC, Basel and Waigani)
- Registration of pesticides to be made mandatory
- Specialised and detailed training on the conventions
- The need to conduct refresher training

# Participants feedback

- Positive feedback has been received from the participants on the in-country training
- Initiative of in-house training has been taken up by some of the participants
- Positive interaction during group work and site visits – led in enhancing learning
- Participants have found that all Topics to be very relevant and could easily relate to the many aspects of chemical management in their workplace
- Important follow-up aspects that Participants have commented:
  - Development of national inventories
  - Actual removal and disposal of hazardous waste from their countries
  - Quick implementation of the National Action plan
  - Regular/refresher training and for this training to be made available to more people

# Trainers with Participants of Cook Islands



# Site visit – Cook Islands





# Site visit - Vanuatu



# Spill Response Demonstration - Kiribati



# Inventory Exercise - Kiribati



# ChemTrain – Solomon Islands



# Interactive Group Discussion – Solomon Islands



# RMI Participants



# Acknowledgement

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- National Governments
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Vinaka