Center for Public Health and Environmental Development
Bridging people with science and technology for healthy living and environmental development

Press Release

The Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) has launched a new program titled "Janswaasthya Tatha Vataarvan Prabhandhak Kendra" (JNVK). The program is focused on bridging people with science and technology for healthy living and environmental development.

JNVK aims to provide training and support to health professionals, community leaders, and environmentalists to improve public health and environmental awareness. The program will cover topics such as disease prevention, environmental conservation, and sustainable living practices.

"We are excited to launch this program to promote public health and environmental sustainability," said Dr. Gautam K., the director of CEPHED. "This program will empower people with the knowledge and skills they need to make informed decisions about their health and the environment."
मानव स्वास्थ्यको लागि लेडको बुनै पानी मुर्खित निम्न नहुने कुरा विश्वस्वास्थ्य संगठनले स्थापित गरीसकेको बालबालिका लगायत आम जनताको स्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण संरक्षण गराउनुको लागि पेन्टमा तेकेसम्बन्धी सरकारी माध्यम प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयन र सम्बन्धित अन्य ऐन, कानून, नियममात्राली र नियोजनातिहारी जसले विनियमकोड बनेको गरेका हरीत विनियमका, नेपाल गुणसूत्र चिन्ह (NS MARK) प्रदान गर्दै र अन्य सामाजिक सुचकको सेवा लेड पेन्ट सम्बन्धी माध्यमको अनिवार्य परीपालन गर्ने गराउने गरी भरपुर व्यवस्थाले सुनिश्चित गर्नुपर्नु कुरामा जोड दिनुभए।

पेन्टस उद्योगीहरुले आफ्नो पेन्टसमा लेडको मात्रा घटाउँदै लागि नेपाल सरकारले लागाई लेडको माध्यम ९० ख्रिश.सं.बन्धन नबिदने गरी पूर्ण परीपालन गर्नु पर्दछ भने पेन्टस डिलर एवं खुदा व्यवसायीहरुले पानी मुर्खित पेन्टसहरू मात्र विशिष्टक रूपमा गर्नु पर्दछ। आम उपभोक्ताहरूले बजारमा लेड नसिंगको लागो अर्कित पेन्टसहरूले खरेदी गरी उपयोग गर्नु पर्दछ।

साथै स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्रबाट राष्ट्रिय स्तरमा बालबालिकाको रगतमा लेडको परीक्षण कार्यक्रम (National Blood Lead Level Screening Program) लागि आवश्यक पहल हुनुपर्ने नितान्त जरुरी रहेको ठुला विशेषज्ञहरुले बताउँदै भएको छ।

अन्तमा साथै मिलित लेडयुक्त पेन्टमा प्रतिनियत लगाउनुभएको लेडको विभाग बच्चावटका लागि अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय संचेतना सन्दर्शको गृह्य संवेदन आम जनता समक्ष सबैले पुरातात्त्विक नियोजनको लागि विभागको छ। धन्यवाद।

बिस्तृत जानकारीको लागि

राम चरित्र साह,
कार्यकारी निदेशक एवं वातावरण वैज्ञानिक,
मोबाइल न. ९८०३०४७६७२, ०५ ५२०१७६६

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Call for Effective Implementation of Lead Paint Standard and Harmonization of Sectorial Laws

Global Lead Week of Action Calls for Ban on Lead Paint

October 26, 2018, Bharatpur, Chitwan, Nepal: Environmental health and child health advocates, government officials, development agencies, and paint industries are uniting this week (October 21-27, 2018) to celebrate International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2018.

Lead is one of 10 major toxic chemicals of public health concern. Lead paint, a major source of childhood lead exposure, can cause permanent and irreversible brain damage in children. Lead exposure globally accounted for 5,40,000 deaths and 13.9 million years lost to disability and death due to long-term effects on health, with the highest burden in developing regions. 857 million children worldwide are at the risk of lead exposure (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, 2016). 65 - 100% of 10,150,770 young people under 15 years old (34.6%) of total population 29,362,095 (2018) are under high risk of lead exposure in Nepal (2017 Dhimal et al. & 2017, Gautam, K. et. Al).

Calling for protections for the 857 million children ages 0-9 years old who live in countries with no protective lead paint regulations, organizations in 30 countries, coordinating with the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (a voluntary partnership hosted by the UN Environment Program and the World Health Organization), urge governments to adopt and effectively implement legislation to protect children’s health.

The ongoing weeklong program for the sectorial commitment towards enhancing effective implementation of lead paint standard aims to harmonize the sectorial laws through inclusion of lead paint standard provision in building code, green building guideline, Nepal Standard Mark (NS Mark) criteria, colour code for school and other infrastructures as well as envisioning national blood lead level screening plan.

Series of lead paint studies in Nepal clearly revealed that the amount of lead content in the paint produced, imported, marketed, and used in Nepal has heavily decreased over the years. The compliance monitoring of lead paint standard carried out by Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) in the year 2016 showed only 30% paints comply with the standard. However, similar study carried out by CEPHED in a year latter in 2017 with the support of World Health Organization (WHO) showed increased compliance of lead paint standard by 60 percent of paints. “This is very remarkable achievements by the paints industries in Nepal and needs to be continued improvement towards achieving 100% compliance to eliminate leaded paints from Nepal thus protecting public health and environment”, said Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director and Environment Scientist of CEPHED.

Though the compliance of lead paint standards increased over the years, some of the paint products mainly from the domestic paints industries were still found extremely very high up to 50347 ppm (CEPHED 2017). Lead in paints products produced by paints industries eastablished in Chitwan districts have been found extremely very high. Therefore, a regular monitoring of lead paints marketed in Nepal has been planned by the Department of Environment said by Environment Inspector Bhupendra Sharma. Research indicates that legislation alone is not enough to keep children safe. Not only should regulation set total lead limits below 90 ppm in all paints, but enforcement and monitoring are essential.
Five different technical papers on status of lead paints, status of blood lead level among Nepalese children, compliance and regulatory monitoring initiatives of government agencies, and national as well as international initiative towards prevention and control of lead exposure has been presented in the one-day workshop by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director, CEPHED; Mr. Manoj Nidhi Wagle, Director and Sr. Chemists, Department of Custom; Mr. Bhupendra Sharma, Environment Inspector, Department of Environment; Mr. Him Bahadur Thapa, Chemist and Teacher from Chitwan. Participant’s stakeholders also elaborated on how they will tackle the problem in their respective field of work: health, education, environment, and infrastructure.

“There are no safe levels of lead exposure” has been established by WHO, and thus urgently called for effective implementation of lead paint standard and harmonization of sectorial laws such as proper inclusion of the mandatory provision of lead paint standard in NS Mark criteria, building codes, green building guidelines and color coding guidelines of school and other infrastructure including school building bus, toilets, and even public vehicles.

Paints industries should improve their products and should fully comply the national lead limit 90 ppm whereas all the paints dealers and retailers should only sell and distribute safe paints. Public and consumers should for the paints with NO ADEDED lead labeling while painting their house, furniture and school.

Health sector emphasized that there is utmost need of envisioning the National Blood Lead Level Screening among all children of Nepal.

Finally, the major goal of this ongping Global Lead Week of Action is working together to BAN LEAD PAINT by raising awareness via workshops at Kathmandu and Chitwan, broadcasting radio jingle, and TV PSA throughout the week and beyond.

For more details, please contacts.

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