

Awareness Raising and Scientific Information Exchange

Thank you Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of our organization CEPHED, Nepal

Participating organization of IPEN, GAIA and HCWH global Network.

The NGO role is most often limited to the awareness raising despite a history of involvement in research in the area of environment and public health widely documented and referenced. For example the country Nepal where I come from NGOs have carried out much scientific research in the area of Environment and health. NGOs are often more equipped in terms of human resources and infrastructure such as scientific laboratories than governments. This strength of NGO has been often and heavily used by our focal Ministry of Environment. Therefore, I propose, specifically mentioning the example of NGO work here. The HCWH - WHO partnership in mercury issues in health care sector, Global study of Lead in Paints of IPEN widely cited in almost all MEA and especially in the ICCM and SAICM.

With those references, I sincerely remind this body that we have great interest in playing a role in any initiative toward raising awareness. We are committed as well as continuing to contribute to the research and exchanging scientific information with the affected or potentially affected people in a timely manner and in the language they understand in the area of environment and public health. To accomplish this NGOs will need to be aware as well as capacitated with due and special consideration.

Finally, we are fully committed to continue to raise awareness, carry out research and **information exchange as and when required in understandable language** in the respective area and increased our constructive engagement in the process.

I am happy to inform that our organization has been already engaged in the awareness raising and capacity building of all concerned stakeholders in the area of heavy metals including mercury.

Thank you,

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