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REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON NATECH RISK MANAGEMENT (23-25 May 2012, Dresden, Germany)

Series on Chemical Accidents No. 25

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FOREWORD

This document contains the report of the *Workshop on Natech Risk Management* (Natural-hazard triggered technological accidents). This workshop was held on the 23th-25th May 2012, in Dresden, Germany.

The historical background of the activity is briefly described below.

A project on chemical accidents caused by natural hazards has been included in the 2009-2012 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) of the OECD Chemicals Accidents Programme. The aim was not to initiate a major activity in this area, but rather to identify whether there are specific elements in terms of emergency preparedness and response to chemical releases resulting from natural disasters, which are not part of national chemical accidents programmes or addressed in OECD's Guiding Principles for Chemicals Accidents, Prevention, Preparedness and Response. A Steering Group on Natech (SG-Natech) was established in 2008, led by Germany, to work on the development of best practices for the control of the impact of natural hazards on chemical installations.

The draft report was launched at a Conference held on 23th-25th May, 2012 in Dresden, Germany. The event was sponsored and hosted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment of Germany (BMU) and the Government of Saxony. The workshop report was prepared by Germany in consultation with the SG-Natech and the OECD Secretariat.

The WGCA endorsed this document [ENV/JM/ACC(2012)2], with some amendments, at its 22nd Meeting on 17th-19th October 2012. It then agreed to forward this document to the Joint Meeting with a request for its declassification.

This document is published under the responsibility of the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology, which has agreed that it be unclassified and made available to the public.

INTRODUCTION

1. The OECD Programme on Chemical Accidents works to develop guidance on prevention of, preparedness for, and response to chemical accidents. It facilitates the sharing of information and experiences of OECD members, and non-member economies and other stakeholders. The Programme is managed by the Working Group on Chemical Accidents (WGCA).

2. A project on chemical accidents caused by natural hazards has been has been part of the 2009-2012 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) of the OECD Chemical Accidents Programme. The objectives of the Natech (Natural-hazard triggered technological accidents) project were to: (i) investigate the specific elements of prevention of chemical releases as well as preparedness for and response to chemical releases resulting from the impact of natural hazards, which are not part of the national chemical accidents programmes; and (ii) make recommendations for good practices with respect to prevention of, preparedness for and response to Natech accidents.

3. The work started in 2008 under the auspices of the Working Group on Chemical Accidents (WGCA) with the establishment of a Steering Group on natural-hazard triggered technological accidents (SG-Natech) to work on the development of best practices for the control of the impact of natural hazards on chemical installations. Germany is the lead country for this project. The SG-Natech was composed of representatives of: the Czech Republic, France, Germany (chair), Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, United States, the European Commission, UNEP and the OECD Secretariat.

OECD-EC SURVEY ON NATECH RISK REDUCTION

4. The SG-Natech began its activities by preparing a questionnaire for an OECD-EC survey of Natechs that was conducted in 2009. The purpose of the survey was to collect information to assess: (i) the risk management policies at national and international levels relating to chemical accidents caused by natural hazards; and (ii) the current activities, research and publications on natural hazards, their impact on industrial installations and the related preparedness and mitigation measures. The survey report was prepared by the Joint Research Centre (JRC)- of the European Commission (EC) Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (IPSC)¹.

5. The survey report analysed the responses received and proposed conclusions on the following topics: (i) Natech events data collection and retrieval; (ii) learning from Natechs; (iii) Natech awareness and risk reduction; and (iv) identified needs and limitations in Natech risk reduction. It also presented overall conclusions concerning the need for improvement of existing regulations, the perception/awareness of Natech risk and the implementation of Natech risk reduction measures. Finally it made recommendations for further work in developing a strategy to implement an existing framework for Natech risk reduction in order to make it (more) effective.

6. Under the auspices of the WGCA, the SG-Natech organised a *Workshop on Natech Risk Management* held on 23-25 May 2012, in Dresden, Germany. The event was sponsored and hosted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment of Germany (BMU) and the Government of Saxony.

WORKSHOP ON NATECH RISK MANAGEMENT

Objective and Scope

7. The overall objective of the workshop was to investigate the specific elements of the prevention of, preparedness for and response to chemical accidents caused by a natural hazard or natural disaster – for example, flood, storm, landslide, earthquake, volcanic eruption – and to make recommendations for best practices related to Natechs.

¹ Natech risk reduction in OECD member countries: Results of a questionnaire survey (2009) by Elisabeth Krausmann and Daniele Baranzini, JRC Scientific and Technical Reports, No. 54120, European Communities, 2009 (limited distribution).

8. The scope of the workshop included any fixed chemical installation where hazardous substances are produced, processed, used, handled, stored, transported or disposed of, with potential risk for fire, toxic release, explosion, spill, etc. Other sectors of industrial activity were considered with respect to transfer of knowledge and experience.

Programme

9. The Programme of the *Workshop on Natech Risk Management* is presented in <u>Annex 1</u>. The workshop consisted of five sessions, each with a panel of speakers addressing the topic of the session from different perspectives, and discussing relevant issues as follows:

Opening:	Welcome - Opening speech(es) - Presentation of Discussion Document
Session I:	Natural hazards: risk mapping and warning systems
Session II:	Natech risk management, including emergency planning – Good practices of industry and public authorities
Session III:	Considering climate change in Natech risk management
Session IV:	Application of the Polluter-Pays-Principle to Natech accidents
Session V:	International cooperation on Natech risk management
Closing:	Conclusions and Recommendations

Session I: Natural hazards: risk mapping and warning systems

10. This session addressed the duties of authorities fundamental for Natech risk management, including how to analyse natural hazards and risks, how to communicate about hazards and risks with the relevant people and how to set up effective warning systems. The focus was on natural hazards which can be geographically localised (for example, floods, rock falls and avalanches). The discussion concentrated on the different possibilities to illustrate various parameters relevant for natural hazard maps such as magnitudes (intensity or severity) or frequencies (probability of occurrence or return period) and on how to map resulting risks. These rather technical aspects were complemented by organisational and communication aspects in relation to land use planning and warning systems. An additional topic addressed at this session was the mapping of risks of Natech accidents.

Session II: Natech risk management, including emergency planning – Good practices of industry and public authorities

11. This session examined strategies, approaches and good practice for Natech risk management. This included the consideration of Natechs in "conventional" industrial risk management and existing regulations, technical codes and guidelines as well as the development of dedicated approaches. In addition, the session discussed the raising of awareness on Natechs, clarifying roles and responsibilities, consideration of Natechs in land-use- and emergency-planning, as well as a need for specific training on Natech risk. The final aim of the session was the identification of success stories as well as research gaps and shortcomings in strategies, regulations, codes, guidance and practices for Natech risk management.

Session III: Considering climate change in Natech risk management

12. This session explored: (i) what is known about the effects of climate change on the frequency, intensity and geographical extent of natural hazards which can lead to chemical accidents; (ii) which strategies for adaptation to climate change exist and how far they take changes to chemical safety due to climate change into consideration; and (iii) how climate change adaptation can be integrated into policies on Natech prevention, preparedness and response.

Session IV: Application of the Polluter-Pays-Principle to Natech accidents

13. This session aimed at clarifying the responsibilities of the operators and authorities with respect to Natech accidents. In this regard the OECD Recommendation on the application of the Polluter-Pays-Principle (PPP) to

accidental pollution was considered. This instrument contains an Appendix on "Guiding Principles relating to Accidental Pollution". The issue of liability of operators was discussed in cases of accidental pollution resulting from the impact of natural hazards on chemical installations and the application of PPP to Natech accidents.

Session V: International cooperation on Natech risk management

14. This session took an in-depth look into challenges at the international level concerning the tools, practices and governance frameworks supporting the provision of multilateral assistance to Natechs. It also provided an overview of a number of current initiatives undertaken to address these challenges. The session discussed the various roles that regional and international organisations can play in the emergency response system, as well as those of local authorities and the private sector.

Discussion Document

15. A Discussion Document was distributed to workshop participants. The Discussion Document provided an overview of the Natech topic, identified areas where there appears to be a general consensus and areas where there remains differing opinions or approaches. It also suggested issues for discussion. Moreover, the Discussion Document gave examples of good practices.

Presentations

16. The speakers' presentations are presented in <u>Annex 2</u>.

Participation

17. The workshop brought together representatives of central government (including safety, civil protection, spatial planning and environment bodies), local authorities, non-governmental organisations, international organisations, industry and academia. There were 80 participants from 22 delegations including non-member economies from the Philippines, Romania and Sri Lanka. The UNECE, UNEP and BIAC were also present. The list of participants is provided in <u>Annex 3</u>.

Conclusions and Recommendations

General conclusions and recommendations from the overall Workshop

18. The definition used at the Workshop for Natech accidents – Natural hazard triggered technological accident – was:

A 'Natech' accident is a chemical accident caused by a natural hazard or a natural disaster. Chemical accidents include accidental oil and chemical spills, gas releases, and fires or explosions involving hazardous substances from fixed establishments (such as petrochemical, pharmaceutical, pesticide, storage depot), as well as oil and gas pipelines.

19. Natech accidents have occurred in several OECD member countries. It was recommended that awareness of Natech risks should be enhanced in governments/competent authorities, industry, NGO's, and communities; furthermore that Natech risk communication should be improved.

20. Natech risks should be taken into consideration in the regulations related to chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response. Risk management at hazardous facilities should integrate Natech risks, for example in process risk analysis, implementation of prevention, preparedness and response measures, development of safety documents and emergency management plans. Natech accident data should be collected and used to support the development – or improvement – of regulations and guidance for Natech risk reduction.

21. Due to the predicted increase in severity of some natural disasters (*such as* hydrometeorological events), consideration of Natech risks is becoming more relevant for decisions related to the siting of hazardous facilities and land-use-planning.

22. Methods and tools for Natech risk analysis and risk mapping should be improved and better applied. Guidance on Natech risk management for operators, authorities and communities should be developed or further improved.

Conclusions and Recommendations from Session I

Natech risk mapping

23. It was recognised that natural hazard maps are important tools for the dissemination of information on natural hazard risks. The development of natural hazard maps needs reliable data on the probability and intensity of the natural hazards in the region covered.

24. It was also noted that European regulation and technical guidance on flood hazard maps, the website of natural hazard maps developed in Switzerland and Saxony, and the presented interactive GIS-based systems are examples of good practices.

25. Governments should be aware of their responsibility with regard to natural hazard maps. This includes the collection of data and the development of natural hazard maps including updating as appropriate as well as the dissemination of information they contain. If threatened by the same natural hazard, neighbouring countries should work together in the development of natural hazard maps.

26. Natural hazard maps should address all types of hazards that may cause chemical accidents. In this regard, the data availability and methodologies need to be improved. Natural hazard and Natech risk maps are useful for water management, land use planning, disaster and emergency planning. They also have value for insurers.

27. There is a need for guidance on developing natural hazard maps at national and international level. Stakeholders should carefully consider the types of natural hazard covered by a map. They should also be aware that hazard maps may contain both deterministic and probabilistic information when interpreting it.

28. Adequate training should be provided to those responsible for drafting and using natural hazards maps, for example in siting of installations, land-use-planning, licensing, implementation of prevention, preparedness and response measures.

Warning systems

29. All warning systems are based on the following elements: (i) Instrumentation; (ii) Computer-based analysis and forecasting; (iii) Evaluation of information with dissemination of warnings; and (iv) Response capability.

30. The earthquake forecast and warning systems in Mexico, California, Turkey and Japan are examples of good practices. They are all built on the local geological conditions. Their application to other threatened areas cannot be brought into general use. Therefore adjustment to the local geological conditions is always necessary. In case of earthquakes, for which the warning time is extremely short (typically a few seconds), the risk of false alarm is relatively high. Earthquake forecast and warning systems should be improved in order to increase the warning time and reduce the number of false alarms.

31. The warning time is much longer for tsunamis and floods. Examples of good practices for tsunami forecast and warning systems are established for the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, North Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea and the Caribbean. There are also good examples of best practices on the internet for flood forecast and warning systems in Germany.

32. A good example of a local warning system for extreme hydrometeorological events has been developed in the framework of the 'Safe' research project in Germany. Weather data from global forecasting models is combined with local weather information and translated into local-specific weather prognosis. Warning messages for subscribers are generated by comparing the subscribers' location and their warning request profiles with actual warnings issued by the meteorological component.

33. Warning systems are useful for Natech risk reduction. Member countries and non-member economies should develop warning systems, especially for river basins that have a high industry density.

34. Local forecast systems for hydrological events provide useful input to warning systems and these should be applied in industrial areas such as those threatened by flash floods.

Session II – Natech risk management – Good practices of industry and public authorities

35. Natech risk can be more important than non-natechrisk for example by technical failure. A natural-hazard trigger can have a higher occurrence frequency than the trigger of a "conventional accident" and a natural hazard can affect several installations or facilities at the same time and consequently cause several chemical accidents at the same time.

36. Natech risks should be at an "acceptable level"; which requires an analysis of Natech risks. If there is the same risk level in different facilities, lower probabilities have to be achieved by sites, facilities or groups of them with a larger damage potential in case of a Natech event.

37. Natech risk management should encompass pipelines, on-site transport and transport interfaces.

Risk Analysis and Management

38. Natural hazard considerations should be part of industrial risk management. Operators should include Natech risks in their risk analysis. Operators should perform this analysis before siting a new facility because a decision for another location might be the most effective and less expensive approach to Natech risk reduction. Likewise operators of existing installations should review their risk management in light of natural hazard and climate change aspects. The aim of the analysis is to determine appropriate prevention, preparedness and response measures in order to reduce the risks of Natechs to an acceptable level. It should be noted that the analysis of risks due to technical and/or human failures and the related risk analysis methodology may not cover risks due to natural hazards.

- 39. The analysis of risk related to natural hazards may include the following elements:
 - a) Analysis and characterization of relevant natural hazards including possible effects of climate change.
 - b) Analysis of Natech risks related to process and facility: (i) analysis of lessons learned including local experience from former natural events; (ii) identification of parts of a facility which may be affected by natural hazards; and (iii) analysis of impact of natural hazards, *e.g.*: (a) analysis of hazardous properties of substances and mixtures; (b) analysis of equipment behaviour; (c) analysis of the impact of loss of supply means; and (d) impact on safety measures;
 - c) Elaboration of a safety (protection) plan: (i) definition of safety or protection targets; (ii) definition of prevention measures, *e.g.* required safety barriers; and (iii) evaluation of compliance with the safety or protection targets; and
 - Analysis of remaining risks and definition of preparedness and response measures: (i) analysis of major accident scenarios; (ii) determination of mitigation measures; and (iii) emergency planning (internal/external).
- 40. In this context it should be considered that:
 - a) One natural hazard can cause several kinds of hazardous impacts, for example a flood may cause loading due to strong currents and floating debris;
 - b) One natural hazard can trigger others, for example an earthquake followed by a tsunami;
 - c) Several natural hazards may appear at the same time, for example rain and lightning, heavy precipitation and flooding;

- d) A natural hazard can simultaneously impact several parts of an installation or facility;
- e) One natural hazard can affect several installations or facilities at the same time;
- f) Larger quantities of hazardous substances may be released following a natural hazard than in an accident resulting from technical failure, such as the loss of containment of several tanks at the same time;
- g) The extent to which one natural impact can trigger another impact at another facility, installation or a different part of the same installation should be investigated;
- h) The mitigation barriers established for scenarios developed based on technical causes may not be effective in case of Natechs. The availability of mitigation measures will be limited in case of extreme natural events (because of damage to access routes, disruption of energy and water supply, communication difficulties, etc.). Likewise, the availability of external personnel will be limited; and
- i) In the case of floods, the dispersion of substances in the atmosphere and water has to be taken into account in the accident scenarios including possible secondary scenarios due to reaction with water.

41. Methods/tools for Natech risk analysis – possibly deriving from existing 'conventional' risk analysis methods for industrial facilities – should be developed and implemented; however this is an area where further research and development is needed.

42. The identification and characterization of relevant natural hazards can start with the consultation of natural hazard maps. A scenario-based detailed analysis of all natural hazards that can affect a site should be established. An interdisciplinary approach to the definition of reference scenarios for natural events is needed. Operators should ascertain that they are aware of the full spectrum of natural hazards – including the intensity and probability – that can affect their site.

43. Natech risk analysis should both consider the probability and intensity of hazardous natural events, the timescales of development and the geographical extent (for example, precipitation run-off models and wildfire models).

44. Operators should check carefully for which natural events and their evolution, warning systems are designed, operated and effective. Procedures should be in place on how to react in case of a natural hazard warning.

45. Natural hazards may cause (primary) accidents which are not captured in the 'conventional' risk analysis; Natech accidents can initiate 'cascading effects'. A scenario-based analysis of the propagation of Natech events is useful (for example, by using a bow-tie approach). The analysis should consider the failure of technical and organizational measures for prevention of damage in the case of Natechs.

Safety or Protection Targets

46. Operators are responsible for managing the risks related to their facilities including Natech risks. They should not only rely on protection measures against natural hazards provided by authorities.

47. It is not required that installations remain operational during or after the impact of a natural hazard, except the "critical infrastructure"; the safety-critical parts of an installation, like cooling and fire fighting systems, have to stay operational or their functions have to be guaranteed through other measures. Consequently some (safety-critical) parts of installations may require a higher level of protection against the impact of natural hazards.

48. Industrial facilities may have design requirements different from those of buildings destined for public use. Design criteria for the prevention of damage by natural hazards to 'conventional' (non-industrial) buildings may not be suitable for hazardous industrial installations. Different design criteria may be required to account for the different design objectives (guaranteeing of life safety *vs.* avoiding chemical accidents such as the loss of containment causing releases of large quantities of hazardous substances). Increased minimum criteria for prevention measures like design criteria that may be combined with adequate time for retrofitting of existing installations.

49. The evaluation of compliance with the safety/protection targets should consider that protecting against the worst case is not always too difficult or expensive. Defined safety targets – like in the United Kingdom ALARP principle (As Low As Reasonably Practicable) – have to be applied to Natech risk management.

Preparedness and Response

50. The development of specific Natech major accident scenarios may help to develop adequate preparedness and response measures and establish appropriate emergency planning.

51. A specific Natural Disaster Response Plan may be useful and should be based on the careful evaluation of all possibilities to mitigate the effects of Natech accidents.

52. Special operational procedures may be needed for extreme meteorological conditions, for example, freezing conditions or high wind speeds.

53. Safety documents should consider the aspect of training staff to coordinate all activities in case of an extreme natural event. This includes cooperation with the local authorities, first responders and possible other organisations. If necessary, the authorities should coordinate transboundary activities for example dissemination of information or transboundary aid.

Session III – Consideration of climate change in Natech risk management

54. Companies should be aware that climate change is a business risk. Costs for adaptation can be significant; however costs of not addressing natural hazards can be major and investors are already looking for evidence of adaptation measures. Enterprises should therefore consider climate change projections in the investment cycle.

55. Climate change is likely to affect the intensity, frequency and geographical occurrence of a range of natural hazards, including: extreme temperatures, sea level, extreme precipitations, flooding, coastal/ river erosion, storms, lighting, droughts as well as wild and forest fires.

56. Average and maximum temperatures have increased over the last few decades. Climate change modelers are confident with projections which show there will be a global temperature rise. This does not exclude that in some regions there will be a decrease of average and extreme temperatures. There is less confidence in projections for extreme precipitation events.

57. Facilities already subject to hydrometeorological events may be the most vulnerable. For example, much of the major oil and gas infrastructure is located in low lying areas and is therefore vulnerable to storm surges, flooding and hurricanes/typhoons. Facilities near river basins and large water bodies may be subject to increasing flood loads and associated hazards over the next 50 years. Re-assessment of flood prone zones is therefore required to take account of climate change projections.

58. New national legislation addressing Natechs should take climate change aspects into account. An example of good practice is the German technical rule for process safety: prevention and preparedness related to precipitation and floods hazards.

59. The consideration of climate change in Natech risk management should be part of the climate change adaptation process of an enterprise. This should include: (i) an assessment of (regional) climate change projections; (ii) the development of an adaptation strategy; (iii) the implementation of enhanced measures; and (v) the updating of assessment and measures following climate change projections including updating of Natech risk management.

60. Emergency plans for hydrometeorological events need regular updating. Operators should consider climate change worst-case scenario for their facilities in the same way as they develop worst-case scenarios for 'conventional' accidents. Some enterprises have started to address the climate change issue in developing programmes that include the management of Natech risks.

61. Guidance would be helpful at international level for considerations of climate change in the siting of new installations² for authorities, enterprises and communities.

Session IV – Application of the Polluter-Pays-Principle to Natech accidents

62. Some chemical accidents causing environmental damage are Natechs, that is, they are caused by natural disasters.

63. Damages resulting from chemical accidents triggered by natural hazards fall under the tort law^3 , the Polluter-Pays-Principle (PPP), and the property law. The approach opposed to the application of the PPP is the compensation of damage by governments and financed by taxes.

64. The OECD recommendations related to PPP^4 allow for an exemption from strict liability if accidents are caused by natural disasters, *e.g.* one criterion for the exemption from strict liability is the "uncontrollability" of the impacts caused by the natural disasters (*e.g.* in case of effects due to a strong earthquake). But it is not clear whether this is an argument pro or contra strict liability.

65. There is also liability in the case of violation of standards in force.

66. Addressing gaps in liability is desirable. The exemption related to Natech accidents in the OECD *Recommendation Concerning the Application of the Polluter Pays Principle to Accidental Pollution*⁵ is a case point. The polluter should be responsible even if the causes of a Natech accident were unforeseeable, irresistible and inevitable, however the chemical accident caused was foreseeable and damages should be covered by insurance. However the liability insurance limits often are too low; insurance limits should be sufficient to cover the risk caused by a facility and should take 'pure' environmental damage into account.

67. The OECD should encourage the application of the Polluter-Pays-Principle with a wider scope, and reconsider the exemption related to the application of the PPP in case of Natechs.

68. If OECD member countries apply exemptions in liability for damage caused to the environment in case of Natechs caused by an unforeseeable, irresistible and inevitable natural event, the following rules should apply:

• A Natech was unforeseeable if the kind of underlying natural event was not regarded as possible or if the underlying natural event had a severity above that regarded as possible according to scientific knowledge, especially if the effects of the natural event were above those of the most intense event recorded under similar conditions (for example, same location) or expected change of conditions (such as change in land use, climate change).

⁴ OECD Recommendation (1972) on Guiding Principles Concerning International Economic Aspects of Environmental Policies [C(72)128].

OECD Recommendation (1974) on the Implementation of the Polluter Pays Principle [C(74)223].

OECD Recommendation (1989) Concerning the Application of the Polluter Pays Principle to Accidental Pollution [C(89)88].

² See: Center for Chemical Process Safety: Guidelines for Facility Siting and Layout, Wiley August 2003 (update intended)

³ Definition of 'Tort Law' (as used in the Natech-workshop): The concept of tort law is to redress a wrong done to a person, usually by awarding them monetary damages as compensation.

⁵ OECD Council Recommendation on the Application of the Polluter-Pays Principle to Accidental Pollution [C(89)88/Final], article 7 states: "If the accidental pollution is caused solely by an event for which the operator clearly cannot be considered liable under national law, such as a serious natural disaster that the operator cannot reasonably have foreseen, it is consistent with the Polluter-Pays Principle that public authorities do not charge the cost of control measures to the operator."

- A Natech was irresistible if the underlying natural event had such impacts that it was not possible to foresee the chemical accident caused or to mitigate its consequences.
- A Natech was inevitable if it was not possible to prevent the chemical accident or mitigate its consequences.

Session V – International Co-operation on Natech Risk Management

International projects

69. OECD should encourage the exchange of experience within the OECD member and non-member economies, including the application of good practices for natural hazard identification and natural disaster management.

70. The UNEP's *Flexible Framework for Addressing Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness* is a useful tool that can be applied to Natech risk management. The UNEP Programme on Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) is a useful tool for site-specific Natech risk management.

71. Natech risk management is part of the legally binding UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (TEIA); capacity-building is a key component of the assistance programme.

72. Transboundary impacts of Natechs should be duly taken into consideration, and cross-border cooperation in Natech risk management (including mutual assistance) should be promoted.

73. The main international actors/stakeholders should cooperate more closely and make a better use of one another products. This will include, amongst other things: the EC-JRC Report on *Natech risk reduction in OECD member countries: results of a questionnaire survey*, and information platforms – such as the UNEP-OCHA Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE). Stronger co-ordination and exchange of information should be encouraged.

International assistance

74. With the Intervention in Chemical Transport Emergencies (ICE), CEFIC provides an example of good practice in the cooperation between authorities and industry in response to chemical transport accidents. The potential use of ICE resources for transport accidents outside its members should be further explored.

75. A multi-stakeholder approach, including coordination between governments, is important for Natech risk management.

76. The Hazard Identification Tool (HIT) and the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT), developed by UNEP and OCHA are examples of good practice to respond to Natech accidents. The potential of these tools to assist countries in Natech risk management should be further developed, making the best use of the existing tools and countries' expertise. The UNEP-OCHA Environmental Emergency Center could be used as platform for capacity development and information share.

Recommendations for further work

- 77. The Natech Workshop made the following recommendations on the need for:
 - Development of guidance at national or international level for preparing natural hazard maps so that maps from various sources be properly understood by all stakeholders;
 - Evaluation of good practice in natural hazard forecast and warning systems (for example, forecast and warning systems for local extreme weather, floods or earthquakes) and dissemination of information about their effectiveness;

- Development of guidance on the consideration of natural hazards in the siting of installations and facilities, including the effects of climate change;
- Improvement of Natech risk analysis methodologies as well as guidance on their application;
- Development of guidance on Natech risk management;
- Identification of best practices for Natech risk reduction;
- Revision of the OECD Council Recommendation on the Application of the Polluter-Pays Principle to Accidental Pollution [C(89)88/Final] and in particular, article 7, which states: "If the accidental pollution is caused solely by an event for which the operator clearly cannot be considered liable under national law, such as a serious natural disaster that the operator cannot reasonably have foreseen, it is consistent with the Polluter-Pays Principle that public authorities do not charge the cost of control measures to the operator."; and
- Strengthening international cooperation on prevention of, preparedness for and response to Natech accidents by making better use of all tools available.

ANNEX 1

PROGRAMME

				Tuesday, 22 May, 2012
14:00	16:00			Excursion to the site of Fluorchemie Dohna (site threatened by flashfloods)
16:00	20:00			Registration, distribution of badges and workshop documents
18:00	19:00			Meeting of chairs, speakers, rapporteurs, consultant Roland FENDLER (Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Germany)
				Wednesday, 23 May, 2012
08:00	09:00			Registration, distribution of badges and workshop documents
09:00	10:00			OPENING SESSION: Welcome & Introduction
				Ruth OLDENBRUCH (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany)
		$\left[-\right]$		State Secretary Dr. Fritz JAECKEL (Minister for the Environment and Agriculture, Free State of Saxony)
				Marie-Chantal HUET (OECD)
09:15	09:30			Natech Risk reduction in OECD member countries: Results of a survey Elisabeth KRAUSMANN (EC Joint Research Center)
09:30	10:00			Presentation of the Discussion Document Karl-Erich KÖPPKE (Consultant, Dr. Köppke GmbH, Germany)
10:00	13:30			SESSION I: Natural Hazards: Risk Mapping and Warning Systems Chair: Georg BÖHME-KORN (Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture) Rapporteur: Daniel BONOMI (Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland)
10:00	10:40			Natural Hazard Mapping
			I.1	Hazard and risk maps as a main element of flood risk management: lessons learnt after 2002 flood in Saxony Martin SOCHER (Saxon State Ministry of the Env. & Agriculture)
			I.2	Principles of risk management for natural hazards: The case of Switzerland Hans KIENHOLZ (KiNaRis, Switzerland)
10:40	11:00	\square		Discussion
11:00	11:30			Coffee Break

11:30	12:10			Natech Risk Mapping
			I.3	Use of GIS and conceptual mapping in identification and monitoring of Natech risks
				Aleksandar JOVANOVIC (European Virtual Institute for Integrated RM)
			I.4	RAPID-N Tool for mapping Natech risk due to earthquakes
12 10	12.20	<u> </u> _'		Serkan GIRGIN (EC Joint Research Center)
12:10	12:30	<u> </u>		Discussion
12:30	13:10			Warning Systems
			I.5	SAFE: An example of an extreme weather hazard warning system for communities and
				Industries
			I	Ulrich MEISSEN (Fraunhofer Inst. Open Communication Systems, Germany)
13:10	13:30			Discussion
13:30	14:30			Lunch
14:30	19:00			SESSION II: Natech risk management – Best practices of industry & authorities
				Chair: Christian JOCHUM (European Process Safety Center)
				Rapporteurs: Elisabeth KRAUSMANN/ Agnes VALLEE/
14.20	16:10			Roland FENDLER (EC JRC/ INERIS, France/ UBA, Germany)
14:30	16:10		TT 1	Flood Risks
l			11.1	Natech accidents in Czech Republic: Lessons learnt and related research
l				Pavel DANIHELKA (Tashnical University of Octrovel Czech Depublic)
		+'	П 2	The flood 2002 – Experiences of a hydrofluoric acid producing plant
			11.2	Christian WEISS (Fluorchemie Dohna GmbH Germany)
			II.3	French regulation for integration of natural hazards in industrial safety assessment –
				Choice of reference scenarios to characterise these natural phenomena
		<u> </u> '	TT A	Cédric BOURILLET (Ministry of Ecology, France)
			11.4	Methodology for integration of flood hazard in industrial safety assessment
			'	Agnes VALLEE (INERIS, FIANCE)
			II.5	The German technical rule for process safety: Prevention and preparedness related to
				precipitation and floods hazards
16.10	16.40	<u> </u> _'	'	Karl-Erich KOEPPKE (Dr. Köppke GmbH, Germany)
10:10	10:40	+'		Discussion Coffee Breek
10.40	17.10	\vdash		Collee Dicak
17.10	10.50		11.6	Natech accidents resulting from the 11 March 2011 earthquake and tsunami and follow-
			11.0	in
				Yuii WADA (AIST. Japan)
			II.7	Lessons from the Sendai industrial complex and Chiba's Cosmo oil refinery fires
ĺ			'	following the great eastern Japan earthquake and tsunami
l				Ana Maria CRUZ NARANJO (Consultant, France & Japan)
		\Box	II.8	Cancelled
l			II.9	The Natech events during the 17 August 1999 Kocaeli earthquake: Aftermath and
				lessons learned
		<u> </u> _'	TT 10	Serkan GIRGIN (EC Joint Research Center)
l			11.10	New French seismic regulation for hazardous industrial facilities
				Adrien WILLOI (INEKIS, France)
18:50	19:30	<u> </u> _'		Discussion
19:30		\vdash		Meeting of Consultant and Rapporteurs
20:00	22:00			Dinner – Reception at the Conference Hotel

			Thursday, 24 May 2012	
08:30	11:00		SESSION II: Natech Risk Management – Best Practices of Industry & Authorities (continued)	
08:30	08:50		Other Hazards	
		II.1	Seveso Directive: Plants threatened by bush fires: Analysis of several reported cases and	
			guidelines proposal	
08.50	00:00		Jean-Paul MONET (French Fire & Emergency Management Service)	
08.30	10:20		Methodology	
09.00	10.20	II 1	Proposal of methodology for combined natural and technological risks identification	
		11.1	and assessment	
			Pavel DOBEŠ (Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic)	
		II.1	A bow-tie for Natech: Approach for quantitative assessment of risk associated to Natech	
			scenarios	
		П 1	valerio COZZANI (University of Bologna, Italy)	
		11.1	ndustry	
			Richard GOWLAND (European Process Safety Center)	
		II.1	5 Lessons learnt from natural disasters	
			Charles COWLEY (Center for Chemical Process Safety, USA)	
10:20	11:00		Discussion	
11:00	11:30		Coffee Break	
11:30	13:30		SESSION III: Consideration of Climate Change in Natech RM	
			Chair: Manifed STOCK (PIK, Germany) Rannorteurs: Roland FENDLER/ John BREWINGTON	
			(UBA, Germany / Environment Agency, UK)	
11:30	12:50			
		III.	New results on extreme events Wilfried KUECHLER (Saxon Agency for Env. Agriculture & Geology)	
		Ш	Adaptation measures of the oil and gas industry	
		111.2	Ana Maria CRUZ NARANJO (Consultant, France & Japan)	
		III.3	Engagement of BASF in adaptation to climate change	
			Monika BAER (BASF AG, Germany)	
		III.4	National Grid's climate change adaptation journey	
			Gary THORNTON (National Grid, UK)	
12:50	13:30		Discussion	
13:30	14:30	•	Lunch	
14:30	15:30		SESSION IV: Application of the Polluter-Pays-Principle (PPP) to Natechs	
			Chair: Peter KEARNS (OECD)	
			Rapporteur: Marie-Chantal HUET (OECD)	
14:30	15:10			
		IV.	Polluter-Pays-Principle, Tort law, natural catastrophes and liability insurance Christian LAHNSTEIN (Munich Re, Germany)	
	1	IV.	Role of insurance when the polluter pays	
			Judith GOLOVA (MARSH Insurers, UK)	
15:10	15:30		Discussion	
15:30	16:00		Coffee Break	

16:00	19:00		SESSION V: International Co-operation on Natech Risk Management	
			Chair: Mark HAILWOOD (LUBW, Germany)	
			Rapporteur: René NIJENHUIS (UNEP/OCHA)	
16:00	17:00		International Projects	
		V.1	Needs assessment study on chemical accident prevention and preparedness in region 8	
			of the Philippines	
			Jean C. BORROMEO (Philippine Dep. of Environment & Natural Resources)	
		V.2	APELL process in Sri Lanka: Preparation of integrated emergency preparedness plans	
			for two selected industrial zones	
			Jayavilal FERNANDO (Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka)	
		V.3	Projects of the UNECE Convention of the transboundary effects of industrial accidents	
			to support prevention, preparedness and responses to Natechs	
			Chris DIJKENS (UNECE Chair of the Conference of the Parties)	
17:00	17:30		Discussion	
17:30	18:10		International Assistance	
		V.4	International chemical environment	
			Jos VERLINDEN (CEFIC, Belgium)	
		V.5	The hazard identification tool (HIT): A tool to identify and address secondary	
			environmental risks	
			Dennis BRUHN (OCHA Environmental emergencies section)	
18:10	18:30		Discussion	
19:00			Meeting of Consultant and Rapporteurs	
19:00	20:30		Reception by the Government of Saxony	
			(at the Sächsische Staatskanzlei Archivstr.1)	
			Friday, 25 May 2012	
09:00	13:30		Conclusions and Recommendations	
			Chair: Roland FENDLER (UBA, Germany)	
			Rapporteurs of Sessions I to V	
00.00	00.20		Descentation of CORD from Operion L. Disconsion	
09:00	09:30		Presentation of C&R from Session I – Discussion	
00.20	10.20		Presentation of C&D from Session II Discussion	
09.30	10.50		Discussion	
10:30	11:00		Coffee Break	
11:00	11:30		Presentation of C&R from Session III – Discussion	
11:30	12:15		Presentation of C&R from Session IV – Discussion	
12:15	13:00		Presentation of C&R from Session V – Discussion	
13:00	13:30		Farewell – End of workshop	

ANNEX 2

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

Session I – Natural hazards: Risk mapping and warning systems

The session stated the importance of developing and disseminating natural hazard maps for an effective Natech risk management. It pointed out the responsibility of the competent authorities for hazard and risk mapping. Some examples of good practices related to natural hazard warning systems (local systems for extreme weather, floods, tsunami and earthquakes) which were described in the Discussion Document that was made available for participants.

Risk mapping

Martin Socher (Saxon State Ministry of the Environment & Agriculture, Germany) reported that right after the flood in August 2002, a new interactive online flood forecast system has been established in Saxony. Furthermore, flood hazard and flood risk maps have been elaborated, which consider residential areas as well as industry plants for all main Saxon river catchments. The maps show the effects of flood events with a return period of 20, 100 and more years (extreme events). A new pilot project informs house owners and plant operators via a special internet platform about the risks of flood, heavy rainfall, storm and lightning capable to affect their buildings and plants.

Hans Kienholz (KiNaRis, Switzerland) addressed the integrated risk management approach in Switzerland. The basis for risk management is the presentation of hazard and risk maps for flood, debris flows, avalanches, landslides and rockfall in the Internet. The system provides maps with all locations of possible emissions of chemicals. The maps can be combined with different natural hazards maps (such as earthquake and/or flood) so operators can realize whether their plant can be exposed to two or more different hazards. The time of return can by varied between 50 and 500 years. The map scale can be adjusted by the user to receive exact information with high resolution about potential natural hazards in the location of interest. Furthermore, maps of historical events are provided. In this interactive system special information is prepared for each historical event.

Alexander Jovanovic (European Virtual Institute for Integrated Risk Management) described an innovative concept of use of GIS and conceptual mapping in identification and monitoring of Natech risks and its practical application in large EU and national projects (the EU project iNTeg and the German Helmholtz project "Energy-Trans"). The concept is based on (1) GIS maps, (2) conceptual maps, (3) stakeholders' interaction maps and (4) Influence diagrams & Bayesian networks. These four main types of mapping are used for the early identification, early warning and monitoring of Natech related risks. In the GIS maps the layers of data are usually those about the objects in the layers, such as capacity or age of plants (for example refineries, LNG terminals) types/categories of dangerous materials and similar. The data about natural hazards (such as earthquakes) can be used for superposition and calculation of 'critical risk distances/relations'.

Serkan Girgin (EC Joint Research Center) presented a new probabilistic Natech risk mapping methodology for earthquakes including its implementation in a software tool called "Rapid-N". The primary aim of Rapid-N is rapid Natech risk assessment and mapping by using fragility curves for damage estimation. Simple models for consequence assessment are used requiring a minimum of data on affected facilities. In order to facilitate the analysis, a property estimation framework was developed that can be used to calculate hazard parameters and site, process equipment, and substance properties. The framework has an expert system for selecting the most applicable estimators, based on data availability, validity conditions, and geographic location. Importing of available hazard maps is also supported. Rapid-N can be used for rapid damage estimation following actual earthquakes, as well as for land-use and emergency-planning purposes by using scenario earthquakes.

Warning systems

Ulrich Meissen (Fraunhofer Institute Open Communication Systems, Germany) presented the new local early warning system "SAFE" for hydrometeological events. The approach of SAFE is to use new sensor, system, and telemetric technologies in order to enhance the local quality of weather hazard prognoses and to perform targeted information dissemination for affected persons and systems. The central approach for enabling these new technologies and ensuring sustainability is the strong integration of private stakeholders in the project and in the long-term operation model of the system. The project successfully unites the interests of local authorities, insurances and larger industries, in particular the chemical industry. The new casting system (warning time less than six hours) is characterized by a high resolution in combination with a high reliability of the information, which makes the system useful for the industry.

Session II – Natech risk management – Good practices of industry and public authorities

It was recognised that some methods for risk analysis for industrial facilities and installations could be adapted for use in Natech risk analysis. But the necessity of further research and improvement was pointed out during the session. Some countries presented examples of regulations and guidance related to Natech risks. These regulations can be based on a similar methodological approach while the presentation requirements are adjusted to the local situations.

Pavel Danihelka (Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic). In 2002, a flood disaster has shown that flood protection for industrial plants for events with a return period of 100 years is insufficient. Not only floods but also extreme temperature or lightning triggered Natechs in the Czech Republic. Lessons learned from accidents were evaluated by the Czech Ministry of Environment, followed by recommendations and crisis planning comprising some Natech potential events, especially in the context of potential transboundary accidents triggered by flooding. Between 2007 and 2011, the MoE research project: "Complex interaction between industry and environment with regard to major accidents and emergency preparedness" was conducted with five cooperating research institutions and an important part addressed Natech accidents, and Natech risks mapping and evaluation.

Christian Weiss (Fluorchemie Dohna GmbH, Germany) reported on the flood that took place in August 2002. During this event the Müglitz creek flooded the area of the Fluorchemie in Dohna (Saxonia), where Hydrofluoric acid is produced. Due to the location of the plant – nearby mountains – the flash flood occurred very quickly. High flow velocity and floating debris caused huge damages to establishments, rails and electrical installations. Lessons learned from this event were that the whole risk management has been checked and improved. This includes preparation of the plant site before the flooding, training of the staff, and an early warning system. The elevation of relevant plant parts is a simple method to reduce flood risks. Weiss suggested that natural hazard worst case scenarios should be considered.

Cédric Bourillet (MEDDTL, France). The French regulation requires the consideration of natural hazards in the industrial safety assessment, as well as other internal or external initiating events, as long as they can induce the occurrence of major accidents. The integration of these natural hazards is based on reference scenarios. Natural events whose intensity is higher than the reference phenomenon may be excluded from the safety documents. For the natural reference events, it is necessary to demonstrate the strict compliance with the corresponding regulation in the safety documents. This is particularly true for earthquake, lightning, flooding, snow and wind, for which national specific regulations or good practices for hazardous industrial facilities exist. In case of compliance with these regulations the process of risk reduction at source is considered sufficient (deterministic approach).

Agnès Vallée (Ineris, France) stated that the mitigation efforts of flood-triggered Natech risks have taken two main directions in France; land-use planning in flood-prone areas and vulnerability reduction in flood-prone facilities. A methodology for the integration of flood hazard caused by dam rupture and unusual rainfalls in risk-reduction process for industrial plants is proposed by Ineris. This methodology follows a sequence in four steps: (1) Determination of the location of the plant inside or outside the flood-prone areas; if inside information about flood hazards must be collected. (2) Identification and systematic risk analysis of the endangered areas, facilities and equipments that could cause major technological accidents. (3) Analysis of the safety barriers. (4) Final analysis to assess if all barriers can be implemented at the same time, taking into account the available personnel and time between information on flood threat and the flood itself.

Karl-Erich Köppke (Prof. Dr. Köppke GmbH, Germany) presented the new German technical rule 310 for process safety: "Prevention and Preparedness related to precipitation and flood hazard". The technical rule is based on the following main elements: (i) hazard source analysis for identification of the relevant hazard sources, which could affect the site alone or in combination; (ii) analysis of hazards and threats, in order to realize the effects of a natural hazard on safety-relevant parts of establishments or installations; (iii) drafting of a protection concept; and (iv) review of 'major accidents despite precautions', which leads in particular to the specification of measures to mitigate the effects of major accidents. For the hazard source analysis a climate change factor of 1.2 on the natural hazard intensity shall be applied to describe future events if there is no separate evaluation of the climate change aspect. For the elaboration of a protection concept the climate change factor has also to be applied to all installations which will be operated beyond 2050.

Earthquake risks

Yuji Wada (AIST, Japan) introduced a survey related to the events occurring during 11th March 2011 and the impact of the earthquake and tsunami on chemical plants in Japan. According to the warning levels (tsunami and earthquake) most of the facilities were shut down in time. Nevertheless one third of the chemical plants were severely damaged. Nearly 50% of the plants which were damaged by the earthquake were also affected by the tsunami. These events show that one natural hazard can trigger a second one, which is more hazardous than the first one.

Ana Maria Cruz Naranjo (Université de Bordeaux, France) presented the results of two Natech accidents investigations in Japan: (1) the JX Refinery and neighbouring facilities at the Sendai industrial complex (Miyagi Prefecture), and (2) the Cosmo Oil Refinery and industrial complex in Chiba (Chiba Prefecture). Both sites suffered multiple fires, hazardous materials releases and oils spills affecting several facilities. For each case study the various event trees and failure mechanisms leading to the multiple fires and hazardous materials releases were presented. Furthermore, the risk management and emergency response to the accidents were analysed. Lessons learned from the disaster in 2011 are that not only the normal operation of the plant has to be considered but also operation periods for maintenance. Furthermore transport routes and pipelines should be objects of Natech risk management. This Natech Risk Management should consider that first responders can be hampered to arrive at the relevant locations during or after a natural event.

Serkan Girgin (EC JRC, Italy). The analysis of the 17th August 1999, Kocaeli earthquake – which was a devastating disaster hitting one of the most industrialized regions of Turkey – showed that even the largest and seemingly well-prepared facilities can be vulnerable to Natechs if risks are not considered adequately. The first part of the presentation was a detailed description of the events to emphasize what went wrong. One result is that a building without containing any hazardous chemical can destroy a safety relevant plant (tumbling of a stack). Furthermore, floating roofs, which may not be subject to the earthquake-resistant design of the buildings, can trigger a major accident. In a second part he reported about the recovery, restoration and remediation work completed during the past decade. Moreover, weaknesses in response to and management of the events were discussed and recommendations were derived for better Natech risk management. In this context Girgin suggested to consider realistic scenarios for the design of a plant and an emergency plan based on worst case scenarios.

Adrien Willot (Ineris, France) introduced the new French seismic regulation for hazardous industrial facilities, which divides France into five areas for seismic activity (area 1: very low seismic activity; area 5: high activity). In France industrial facilities are classified based on the types of the handled/ stored chemicals or on their activities ("classified installations"). The classified installations are subdivided in 'normal risk' or 'special risk' installations. For special risk installations the operator must verify that the plant is in compliance with the new regulations for elastic response spectra (vertical and horizontal) in acceleration, representing the seismic movement of one point in the surface. For existing installations, a study to assess the technical measures necessary to protect from earthquakes must be carried out before December 31st 2015, and the implementation of these measures must not be beyond 1st January 2021.

Other risks

Jean-Paul Monet (Fire and Emergency Management Service, France). In the Mediterranean areas, the main concern about natural risks is related to forest- and bushfires. Accidents have threatened high risks plants for many years (*e.g.* nuclear power plants, high risk industrial plants or trading estates). During the last five years, more than

six cases have been reported, introducing a new approach to the art of fire fighting and in the preparedness of the 45 Seveso-sites of this French territorial part. The integration of these new scenarios in the safety report is underway. The fire service has listed some guidelines in order to provide the industrial plants involved with new procedures. During the winter during 2011-2012, the fire service used the prescribed fire tool to decrease the biomass quantity in the area nearby petrochemical plants. During the discussion about this report it was pointed out that due to climate change drought may become more frequent in several countries. This may increase the risks of wildfires for the hazardous facilities.

Methodology

Pavel Dobeš (Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic) presented a methodology for natural and technological risks identification and assessment. The proposed methodology is divided into 10 separated steps. It is mainly oriented on vulnerabilities in the potentially affected areas and integrates several approaches and experiences developed mainly in the European region in the past decade.

Valerio Cozzani (University of Bologna, Italy) presented a Natech risk assessment methodology based on a bow-tie approach. On the left wing the natural hazards have to be considered and on the right wing the consequences like fire, explosion and release of hazardous substances. While for the right wing existing models for conventional consequence scenarios can be used, special Natech models are required for the left wing. Key challenges are the description of the possible impacts, the identification of vulnerable parts of facilities, and the impact/consequence relations. Additional examples were given to illustrate the practicability of the method. The analyzed examples showed that the risks caused by Natechs could be higher than risks during normal operation. Further research is necessary to improve this method and to add further natural hazards.

Richard Gowland (EPSC) reported that the analysis of Natechs shows that natural hazards were often not sufficiently considered in the safety documents. One reason may be that they are not addressed in the usually applied risk analysis techniques. They are often characterized as 'unknown unknowns'. Gowland asked in his presentation, whether natural hazards are really "unknown unknows" or are predictable and should be considered in risk analysis. Therefore, Gowland suggested considering natural hazards in risk analysis, at least in worst case scenarios.

Charles Cowley (CCPS, USA) presented the CCPS-publication (Center for Chemical Process Safety in the US) "Lessons Learned from Natural Disasters". Herein the implementation of a Natural Disaster Plan for endangered plants is suggested. Examples of an on-site consequence analysis and off-site consequences are presented in the booklet. CCPS intends to revise his guidance on plant siting. For this revision recommendations to consider natural hazards could be integrated.

Session III - Consideration of climate change in Natech risk management

In this session it was recognised that Natech risk management should take the consequences of climate change into consideration. A corporate strategy for adaptation to climate change supports this approach.

Udo Mellentin (Saxon Agency for Environment, Agriculture & Geology, Germany) gave an overview of the analysis of climate change. Climate change has altered the intensity, frequency, and geographic extent of some types of extreme events and is expected to continue to increase in the future. New temperature records are examples of such extreme events. Heat waves in particular show a high probability of worsening over most land areas in the upcoming years due to rising global air temperatures. Future trends in cyclone activity and tornadoes were more difficult to assess due to limitations in monitoring records and climate forecasting models. Moreover, global warming is projected not only to increase sea levels but also to intensify the hydrological cycle and increase the magnitude and frequency of intense precipitation and river flood events in many parts of the world.

Ana Maria Cruz Naranjo (Université de Bordeaux, France) assessed the vulnerability of the oil and gas industry to climate change, and discussed available options for mitigation and adaption. Climate change and hydrometeorological events represent a real physical threat to this industrial sector, particularly infrastructure located in low-lying coastal areas and areas exposed to hydrometeorological events. The oil and gas industry will have to identify high risk areas, assess its vulnerability to climate change and take appropriate measures to prevent or mitigate any potential negative effects.

Monika Baer (BASF AG, Germany) reported about the strategy of the BASF group for monitoring of an adaptation to climate change. The focus is more on extreme whether events than on gradual climate change. The activities can be summarized in three steps: (1) Collecting of climate data for major BASF Sites (climate tables, climate trends, extreme weather events, floods of the past): (2) Evaluation of water availability for BASF sites located in water-stressed areas at present and in future: (3) Preparation for the impacts of climate change at BASF sites. This includes heat waves, fluctuating groundwater levels, storms, floods and heavy rain events. The adaption of the BASF sites takes place in regular revisions and includes emergency plan update, review of safety requirements regarding precautions against risks arising from floods or other extreme weather events, and adaptation of plant safety management systems for extreme weather events. The Natech Risk Management is embedded in the overall strategy for adaptation to climate change of the BASF.

Gary Thornton (National Grid, UK) explained that National Grid is an international electricity and gas company in the United Kingdom. The National Grid participates in a climate change adaptation process of the UK Energy Networks Association (Climate Change Journey). Key vulnerabilities in the energy sector are those associated with higher temperatures and an increased intensity of precipitation and therefore flooding. Other possible vulnerabilities may include changes in wind, increased frequency of lightning etc. The evaluation of Natech risks by facilities containing hazardous substances is a part of these activities.

Session IV - Application of the Polluter-Pays-Principle to Natech accidents

The Session shows that gaps in liability exist. The responsibility for consequences of Natechs is still an open debate.

Christian Lahnstein (Munich Re, Germany) explained that causes of catastrophes may be unforeseeable or unavoidable ("Act of God"), but not necessarily their harmful consequences due to triggered chemical accidents. In many countries there are general rules which impose strict liability, independent of negligence, mostly based on the specific danger of certain activities like handling hazardous substances. "Act of God" can be a decisive defence, but not necessarily. It can be argued that natural catastrophes just activate the specific danger of a particular activity, on which strict liability is based. A full insurance cover is possible for consequences of Natechs in case of strict liability. There is an open debate about sense and nonsense of liability gaps in many laws.

Judith Golova (Marsh Insurers, UK) suggested that regulators should encourage the uptake of special Environmental Impairment Liability insurance. An alternative to strict liability of operators is a taxed based compensation to victims or of environmental damage. The later can cause large cost of governments. Best practice in accident prevention, preparedness and response should be applied for events able to foresee or plan for and insurance should cover consequences of events not possible to foresee. Insurance can be enforced as an integral component of environmental permits and operational licenses. Few countries have to this day made environmental cover compulsory for those types of industry that handle or store hazardous chemicals.

Session V - International co-operation on Natech risk management

The Session pointed out the necessity of international cooperation and gave examples of good practices.

Jean C. Borromeo (Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Philippines) reported on a disaster risk management project in Eastern Visayas of the Philippines. The Philippines experience a lot of natural disasters which are able to cause Natechs. In the project details on the quantity, character and location of hazardous substances in industrial facilities in the area, as well as the necessary precautions with respect to chemical accident management, were identified and served as the basis for identifying capacity building needs of the Region in order to strengthen its chemical accident risk management capability.

Jayavilal Fernando (Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka). In the aftermath of the tsunami catastrophe in December 2004 the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through the Ministry of Environment (MOE) came forward to offer assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka to implement a programme on 'Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level' (APELL) in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, it was decided to implement a project at two pilot industrial zones in order to reduce disaster vulnerability and enhance the ability of the national and local level institutions and the private sector to manage natural and man-made disasters.

Chris Dijkens and **Virginia Fuse** (UNECE) introduced projects under the UNECE Convention of the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents to support countries – especially those with economies in transition – in preventing, preparing and responding to industrial accidents, including the effects of such accidents caused by natural disasters.

Jos Verlinden (Cefic, Belgium) presented the ICE (Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies); it is the co-operative programme of the chemical industry. This includes three levels: Level 1: Remote product information and general advice by telephone/fax/email; Level 2: Advice from an expert at the scene of the incident; Level 3: Assistance with personnel/equipment at the scene of an incident. This assistance is given by the ICE members (suppliers of chemicals) transboundary, if required. ICE Emergency Response Intervention Cards are provided in 16 languages (http://www.ericards.net). The scope of ICE is limited to transport accidents at the moment. Some elements may be suitable for international assistance in case of Natechs as well.

Dennis Bruhn (OCHA Environmental emergencies section) stated that natural disasters often have secondary impacts, *e.g.* damage to infrastructure and industrial installations. The Hazard Identification Tool (HIT) was developed by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (Joint Environment Unit/JEU) as a support tool for the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team and other emergency first responders, including environmental experts, to raise awareness of the need to identify and address secondary environmental risks as early as possible in the event of a natural disaster and as a basis for on-site interventions.

ANNEX 3

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