CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' PERSPECTIVES ON NANO SAFETY ISSUES

Technical Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region
on Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials:
Safety Issues
Bangkok, 10-11 September 2015

Yuyun Ismawati - yuyun@balifokus.asia
BaliFokus Foundation
Indonesia Toxics-Free Network

About us

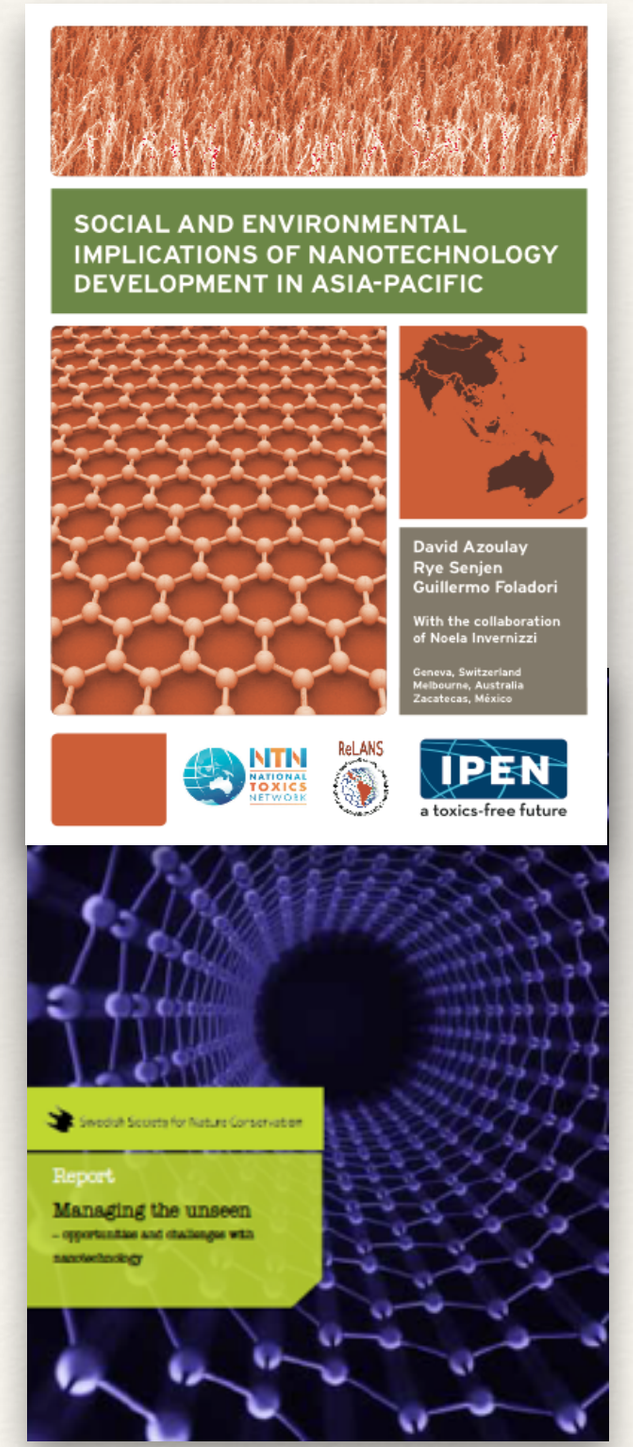
BALIFOKUS

- Established in June 2000
- Mission: to increase the capacity of communities, quality of life and the environment together with all stakeholders in sustainable way
- Working on local problems, global challenges
- Environmental management and Toxics programs
- Sustainable Consumption and Production program
- IPEN Hub for SEA and East Asia Regions
- Indonesia's Toxics-Free Network - co-founder and Coordinator

IPEN
a toxics-free future

- International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), global network of >700 public interest NGOs in 116 countries, working together for a toxics-free future
- Established in 1992
- Priorities: POPs, Heavy metals (Pb and Hg), chemicals in Electronics Equipments, EDCs, Nanomaterials/nanotechnology

Toxics Priorities: POPs, Heavy-metals, Nano

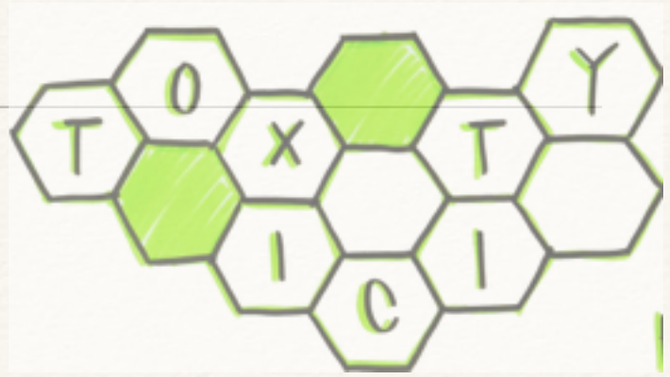


- 2009: Nano working group co-leads: CIEL & Ecological restorations Ghana;
- The IPEN Nano Working Group also has worked to support the ICCM decisions by helping to raise awareness and build capacity among CSOs, as a first necessary step to ensure the safe production, use, and disposal of nanomaterials;
- Social and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology Development in Asia-Pacific (2014), Latin America & the Caribbean (2012) and Africa (2012);

Concerns

- Nanosafety research is significantly behind product development and commercialisation;
- Uncertainty about nanotechnology and its fate;
- Lack of comprehensive policy and regulatory framework; lack of information, mandatory labelling and registration of nano-products, no one knows which products contain nanoparticles;
- Surveys show that many companies do not conduct risk assessment;
- Great uncertainty about social, economic, and legal issues including: liability, intellectual property, countries' right to reject nano-applications, the capacity to control nano-risks, etc.

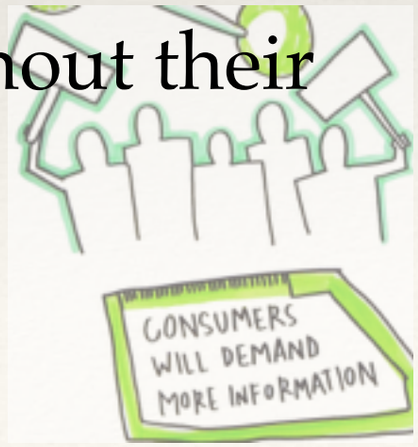
Concerns.. continued



- Workers who may experience routine occupational exposure to nanoparticles and not well informed;
- Evidence that some nanoparticles can cross the placenta, posing particularly significant risks to developing embryos;
- Potential biomagnification and bioaccumulation in the environment;
- Most nanotechnology risks remain effectively unregulated;
- Nanotechnology could intensify social and economic inequity;

IPEN Call on Governments and Industry

- To apply the precautionary principle throughout the life cycle of manufactured nanomaterials;
- Adequately engaging all sectors of civil society for the establishment of coherent regulatory frameworks and research strategies;
- Labelling and publicly available information registers available throughout the supply chain;
- Adequately funding and conducting research on the human health and environmental risks of nanomaterials throughout their life cycle before nanomaterials can be sold commercially.



IPEN POs Work on SAICM Global Plan of Actions 2012-2015

- SAICM's overall objective: to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle;
- One of SAICM key pillars: establishes the inherent link between chemical safety and sustainable development;
- More than 120 POs in 65 countries implemented >500 activities in 8 regions, includes work on 228 of the 299 items (76%) in the SAICM Global Plan of Action (GPA);
- Many of the recently added items related to nanomaterials and electronics;
- The work includes all 5 principal Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) Objectives: risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity building, and illegal traffic.

IPEN POs Work on SAICM Global Plan of Actions 2012-2015

- Knowledge sharing, awareness, seminar, discussion, booklet and fact sheet development, participated, engaged and provide contributions in every meeting or relevant forum;
- GPA items: 2, 3, 4, 43, 44, 80-87, 154-155, 163-164, 181-188, 206, 208, 236, 257
- Nano appendix to Annex B activities: 1 - 12

Thank you