



जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्र

Center for Public Health and Environmental Development

Bridging people with science and technology for healthy living and environmental development

PRESS RELEASE

ELIMINATION OF LEAD PAINT REQUIRES EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT'S LEAD PAINT STANDARD

International Chemical Safety Group Backs Global Phase Out of Lead-Containing Paints by 2020; Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) Nepal, Pushes Concerted Efforts to Meet 2020 Elimination Goal.

25 October 2015, Kathmandu, Nepal, CEPHED, a research based public interest NGO, marked a historic decision by the international community affirming the global phase out of lead paint by 2020 by organizing series of events : Press releases, Orientation and mounting of paintings flexes in schools, raise awareness through mass dissemination of lead-related information and **government mandatory standard of 90 ppm in lead in paint to protect health and the environment** through wide dissemination of customised Global Alliance campaign materials; Popularisation and mass dissemination of the mandatory standard; Radio and TV public service announcements and organizing a day-long seminar programme on lead paint elimination with all concerned to realize such goal."

Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), pressed for local measures to complement the global goal during **International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action from October 25 to 31** globally called jointly by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

About 10 million (32 % of total population) of Nepalese children are under high risks of exposure to lead as more than 70 % of paints by numbers manufactured, imported and sold in Nepalese market contains more than 90 ppm of lead, the well above than mandatory standard of lead in paints newly enacted by Government of Nepal required urgent effective implementation by all concerned specially government agencies.

Moreover, children toys, dust in schools and household and even cosmetics and artificial jewelries imported, marketed, sold in Nepal also contained very high level of lead in absence of required responsible government agencies and legislative framework to regulate these sectors are proved to be the additional sources of exposure to lead of Nepalese people especially children. Despite of the fact that Nepal being party to United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) since 25 years and Right to Safe Environment, Right to Health and Rights of Child recognized as fundamental rights ensured under new Constitution, Nepalese children are deprived to stay and study in lead safe home and school as well as deprived to play with safe toys.

Use Paints fully complying Government of Nepal's Lead Paint Standard of 90 ppm while painting your Home, Furniture, Toys and Schools

सिसायूक्त पेन्टहरु उन्मूलन गरौं
ELIMINATE LEAD PAINTS CEPHED



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Preventive measures, the group stated, include the promulgations and effective implementations of national mandatory standard that will phase out the manufacture and sale of paints and other products containing lead, a major source of childhood lead poisoning along with lead-contaminated dust.

While more than 90 % of Nepalese children have detectable level of lead in their blood, 65% have concerned level blood lead ($>5\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$) as per the new study of blood lead level by Government of Nepal, Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) required immediate attention from all. "It's essential for our society to respond to this global challenge and make the phase out of lead paint, a top public health priority. We must act with urgency as the health of our children can be permanently and irreversibly damaged even at very low exposures to lead," said Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director and Environment Scientist, CEPHED.

WHO, which considers lead as one of the "ten chemicals of major public health concern," has stated "there is no safe level of exposure to lead." Lead causes physical, mental and intellectual damage to people.

"Safe, cost-effective alternatives to lead in paint have been in use for more than 40 years in the United States, the European Union and other high income countries. There is no good reason that lead paint continues to be sold," said Dr. Sara Brosche, International Lead Paint Elimination Project Manager at IPEN, a global civil society network pursuing safe chemicals policies and practices.

At the recently-concluded International Conference on Chemicals Management, government, industry and civil society delegates from over 130 countries affirmed the global consensus to eliminate lead paint by 2020. The multi-stakeholder conference is the implementing body of the **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**, which is managed by UNEP. Lead in paint was banned and eliminated from paint in most industrialized countries decades ago, but continues to be widely sold in many developing countries, including Nepal.

Children are most likely to be exposed to lead from ingestion of flakes and dust from decaying lead-based paint, according to WHO, affecting children's physical, mental and brain development and their measurable level of intelligence (IQ).

About 143,000 people died annually due to lead exposure and Childhood lead exposure is estimated to contribute to 600, 000 new cases of children with intellectual disabilities every year, of which overall 99 % live in low and middle income countries, the WHO said. **Thus in order to eliminate lead paints to protect our children, public health and environment, there is an urgent need to increase effective implementation of our newly enacted LEAD PAINT STANDAD in Nepal.**

With best regard.

Ram Charitra

Ram Charitra Sah
Executive Director/Environment Scientist
Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED)
Tel/Fax: 00977-1-5201786, Mobile: 00977-9803047621
Email: ramcharitra@gmail.com
Web: www.cephed.org.np