

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 257

Establishing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Task Force.

WHEREAS, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a landmark initiative in international cooperation that provides a policy framework to ensure that chemicals will be produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau has not adequately developed and implemented the chemicals management measures necessary to address the threats to human health and the environment posed by increased chemical importation, use, and waste management; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request by the Government of Palau for assistance in implementing adequate chemicals management, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has awarded the Government of Palau, represented by the Environmental Quality Protection Board, a grant to support a project entitled "Establishing an Institutional Framework and Strengthening National Capacity for sound chemicals management and implementation of the Strategic Approach in the Republic of Palau." (Project); and

WHEREAS, the overall goal of the Project is to strengthen Palau's institutional framework and capacities for implementation of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; and

WHEREAS, the key activities to be undertaken as part of the Project design and implementation include, but are not limited to:

- a. Development of a National Chemical Profile to be updated regularly;
- b. Development of a National Chemicals Policy, including, when necessary, enactment of new statutes and regulations;
- c. Conducting a SAICM National Forum to adopt the National Chemicals Policy and identify priorities for SAICM implementation;
- d. Development of a National Strategic Approach Plan with specific action and implementation plans based on priorities identified in specific sectors;
- e. Integration of chemical management in national development projects and plans;

- f. Development of guidelines for sound management of chemicals;
- g. Organization of a National Awareness Raising Workshop for policy/decision makers; and
- h. Organization of a National Training workshop on integrating sound management of chemicals into development planning.

WHEREAS, an essential component of the Project is the establishment of a Task Force to serve as the Project Steering Committee whose role will be to ensure national project coordination and guide project design and implementation; and

WHEREAS, strategic chemicals management requires the involvement of many sectors of the society;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau, I hereby order that a National Task Force on Chemicals Management (Chemicals Management Task Force) be, and hereby is, established with the following characteristics, functions, and responsibilities:

1. Composition

The Chemicals Management Task Force shall be composed of representatives from the following:

- The Ministry of Finance
- The Ministry of Health
- The Ministry of Justice
- The Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism
- The Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries, and Commerce
- The Ministry of State as SAICM Political Focal Point
- The Senate and House of Delegates of the Olbiil Era Kelulau
- The Environmental Quality Protection Board
- The Governors' Association
- Palau Community College
- Non governmental organizations
- Representatives from the business, agricultural and transportation sectors

2. Role of the Task Force

The role of the Task Force shall be to ensure national project coordination and guide project design and implementation.

3. Reporting

The Task Force shall report to the President on a quarterly basis on the status of the Project implementation.

4. Meetings

The Task Force shall meet at a minimum on a quarterly basis. The first meeting shall be held within 14 days after the signing of this Executive Order. The Members of the Task Force shall elect their officers during the first meeting of the Task Force.

5. Administrative Support

Administrative support for the Task Force and Project coordination will be provided by the Environmental Quality Protection Board and such other appropriate agencies as delineated by the Task Force.

6. Duration

The Task Force shall remain in existence for the duration of the grant or until terminated by the President.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 9th day of April, 2009 at Ngerulmud, State of Melekeok, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau