

EcoWaste Coalition

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21 May 2013

Dear GAELP Secretariat,

LETTER OF INTENT TO JOIN GAELP

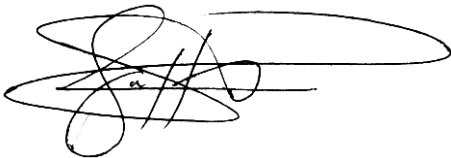
The Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines, Inc. (EcoWaste Coalition) is one with the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP) in preventing children's and workers' exposure to lead via paints. We are one with GAELP in seeking the phase out of the manufacture and sale of lead-containing paints and consequently in eliminating the health and occupational risks from these paints. Through this letter, we signify our intent to contribute to the attainment of GAELP's objectives to the best of our ability and within our available resources.

The EcoWaste Coalition has been involved in lead paint elimination advocacy as early as 2008 and our General Assembly in 2010 adopted a resolution (*please see the text below*) outlining our broad aims and plans in response to this important public health issue. At present, we carry out this particular advocacy via two major endeavors of ours: 1) IPEN Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project, which is funded by the European Union-Switch Asia Program and 2) People's Responding and Organizing against Toxic Chemical Threats or "Project Protect," which is supported by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.

Through this letter of intent, may we inform you that our government is finalizing a "Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds" (with strong participation from the civil society through the EcoWaste Coalition and the industry through the Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers) that will, among other provisions, prohibit the use of lead in the production of architectural/decorative paints above the proposed threshold of 90 parts per million. At a meeting initiated by our group last 23 March 2013 and held at the Environmental Management Bureau, various stakeholders agreed to form an informal collaborative set-up to promote lead paint elimination involving the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Health, Philippine Association of Paint Manufactures, Philippine Institute of Architects and the EcoWaste Coalition. The Philippine Medical Association (Environment Committee), Philippine Pediatrics Society and the Philippine Society on Clinical and Occupational Toxicology have also expressed support for this timely initiative.

We thank you for your consideration and we look forward to being accepted as member of GAELP and to contributing further to its mission.

Sincerely,



Von Hernandez
President
EcoWaste Coalition

RESOLUTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF LEAD PAINTS

Adopted by the 2010 General Assembly of the EcoWaste Coalition

Quezon City, Philippines

Whereas, the EcoWaste Coalition joined in a global study conducted by the International POPs Elimination Network [IPEN] on lead in new decorative household paints that detected alarming levels of lead in paint samples from 10 participating countries;

Whereas, lead is one of the oldest known poisons, and is determined to be a neurotoxin, a carcinogen, and could cause an assortment of severe health problems such as decreased bone and muscle growth, speech and language difficulties, hearing loss, behavioural issues, and lower intelligence quotient or IQ;

Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO) Healthy Environments for Children Alliance warns that “there is no known safe blood lead level but it is known that, as lead exposure increases, the range and severity of symptoms and effects also increases”;

Whereas, lead is as present in old chipping paints as it is in fresh paints, and that lead-contaminated dust from decaying paints is one of the main causes of lead exposure;

Whereas, children, due to their hand-to-mouth activities, are most vulnerable to lead-poisoning;

Whereas, the Philippines has prohibited the sale and use of lead gasoline, but has yet to act on lead-added paints;

Whereas, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) held in May 2009 endorsed the formation of a Global Partnership to Eliminate Lead in Paint, providing impetus for parallel advocacy at the country-level;

RESOLVED, that the Coalition:

1. Sustain its participation in the IPEN’s “Children’s Health First, Eliminate Lead Paints” campaign.
2. Pursue the establishment of a Lead Paint Elimination Network that will campaign, in cooperation with other stakeholders, for lead-free paints.
3. Explore more testing of paints and children’s articles such as toys for lead.
4. Contribute to the development of an adequate policy (i.e., Department Administrative Order) to eliminate lead in paints.
5. Sustain awareness-raising efforts on the health and environmental hazards of lead paints, and the practical measures to prevent lead exposure.

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