



# Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Newsletter

September 2015

## Don Cheadle, Lead Paint Alliance Speak on Dangers of Lead Paint

**A**t the April 18 Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance), co-led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), announced the goal of eliminating lead paint around the world by 2020. The event in Washington, DC, was organized by the Global Poverty Project and Earth Day Network to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the first Earth Day.

UNEP's Goodwill Ambassador, Don Cheadle, joined by UNEP's Regional Director for North America, Patricia J. Beneke, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Walker Smith, Pan American Health Organization's Dr. Ana Boischio, and International Paint and Printing Ink Council's Marie Clarke, announced the goal in front of thousands of attendees gathered on the National Mall.

"We are pleased that UNEP's Goodwill Ambassador Don Cheadle, who has consistently demonstrated his deep commitment to amplifying the need to move towards a more inclusive and greener sustainable development path, has lent his voice to the issue. The campaign calls on all stakeholders to commit to significant action to eliminate lead in paint for the benefit of the health of people and the planet," stated Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

"UNEP is working with partners in the Alliance supporting national efforts to establish a regulatory framework to control the manufacture, trade and use of lead paints, informing the public about the hazards of lead exposure, and encouraging manufacturers to eliminate lead compounds from their paint formulations," concluded Mr. Steiner.

Cheadle further expanded, saying "lead poisoning still remains a significant environmental health concern for children globally, and lead paint is one of the major contributors to this health threat. But shockingly, over half of the countries in the world still allow lead in household paint, so let's work together to keep poison off our walls, out of our homes, out of our schools and out of our kids."

According to the World Health Organization, each year childhood lead exposure contributes to an estimated 600,000 new cases of intellectual disabilities. Walker Smith stated, "The EPA is proud to be the Chair of this important global initiative working with the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health organization, national governments, the paint industry, and citizen groups and organizations around the world to eliminate lead from paint by 2020".

The goal to eradicate lead in paints was among other commitments made at the celebration, and the Lead Paint Alliance can draw on the success of phasing-out lead in fuels in its work towards reaching this goal. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon joined other high-level officials and prominent artists at the event in voicing a commitment to resolving the pressing environmental issues of our time.

For more information about the Global Citizen Earth Day, visit: <http://rona.unep.org/node/78>

Questions or comments about the LEAD PAINT ALLIANCE and newsletter? Please send your feedback and questions to:

[noleadinpaint@unep.org](mailto:noleadinpaint@unep.org)

### IN THIS EDITION

- Lead in Paint Laws in Asia
- New Alliance Advisory Group Forms
- New Partners Join Alliance
- Regulatory Toolkit Rollout
- Week of Action 2015



LEAD PAINT ALLIANCE

## Goals of the Lead Paint Alliance

As part of the larger effort to eliminate lead from all paint, the Lead Paint Alliance is pursuing a 2-year Action Plan with special attention to paints contributing to childhood lead exposure. The goals of the Action Plan are:

Encourage **governments** to establish national legal limits on lead in paint, where legal limits are not currently in place.

Encourage **industry activities** to voluntarily stop the manufacture and sale of lead paint, focusing on residential and decorative paints containing lead additives in countries where legal limits are not currently in place.

Increase **awareness** of the health and environmental risks posed by lead paint, to help prompt actions by governments and manufacturers to stop the production and sale of lead paints.

Increase and diversity the number of **Alliance partners**.

## LEAD PAINT ALLIANCE ADVISORY GROUP INAUGURAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 2015

The newly-formed Advisory Group for the Lead Paint Alliance met on Sunday 27th September 2015 and agreed on the Alliance's Action Plan 2015-2016. Replacing the interim advisory group that had been in place since 2012, the current Advisory Group consists of 10 members and the European Commission as an observer/co-opted member. The representatives will serve the Advisory Group for 2 years.

### The Advisory Group membership for 2015-2017 includes:

- **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
Environmental Protection Agency (Advisory Group Chair)
- **COLOMBIA**  
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
- **REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**  
Ministry of Health
- **THAILAND**  
Ministry of Public Health
- **KENYA**  
Ministry of Trade and Industry
- **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE (HEAL)**
- **UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)**
- **INTERNATIONAL PAINT AND PRINTING INK COUNCIL, INC. (IPPIC)**
- **INTERNATIONAL POPS ELIMINATION NETWORK (IPEN)**
- **AKZONOBEL - COATINGS COMPANY**
- **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
(OBSERVER/CO-OPTED MEMBER)

### NEW PARTNERS IN THE LEAD PAINT ALLIANCE

In 2015, Germany, Republic of Moldova, Thailand, AkzoNobel and the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) joined the Lead Paint Alliance. We are pleased to welcome them as new partners.

## RONA stakeholder forum in Ottawa

The United Nation's Environment Program Region of North America hosted a two-day Stakeholder Forum in Ottawa, Canada, on May 26. Representatives from the U.S. government, the Canadian government, NGOs, academia, and industry participated in the high-level event that focused on regional environmental goals.

Agenda items included implementing the UN Environment Assembly's Air Quality Resolution, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Walker Smith, Director of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Office of Global Affairs and Policy, helped open the Forum, delivered opening remarks, and served as a panelist for the discussion of the Lead Paint Alliance. She was joined on the panel by Steve Sides, President of the International Paint and Printers Ink Council. The presentation raised awareness of the problems posed by lead paint in the developing world, and highlighted actions of the Alliance to get countries to enact laws prohibiting on the sale of lead paint for use in homes and schools.

**JOIN THE LEAD IN PAINT ALLIANCE**  
[WWW.UNEP.ORG/NOLEADINPAINT](http://WWW.UNEP.ORG/NOLEADINPAINT)

## Lead Paint Alliance regulatory toolkit

As part of efforts to assist governments in establishing national legal limits on lead in paint, the partners to the Lead Paint Alliance launched a regulatory toolkit in September 2015.

The toolkit will be central to future regional and national workshops focused on the development of laws and regulations limiting lead in residential paint.

A highlight of cooperation among Alliance partners, the toolkit features modules and case studies developed by a number of Alliance partners, including UNEP, WHO, USEPA, CDC, IPEN, and IPPIC. UNEP will host the toolkit on the Lead Paint Alliance website at:

[www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadinpaint/toolkit](http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadinpaint/toolkit) for unlimited stakeholder access.





## PHILIPPINES, NEPAL, SRI LANKA ESTABLISH NEW LIMITS ON LEAD IN PAINT

Federal and state-level regulations and laws limiting lead in paint are considered one of the most effective means of eliminating lead in paint and creating a level playing field for the paint industry. Through the work of Alliance Partner IPEN and its partners in its EU-funded Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project, several countries in Asia have enacted or are planning to enact new limits on lead in paint. In December 2013, the Philippines' enacted a regulation that states "the use of lead and lead compounds is prohibited in the manufacture of paints (whether as pigment, drying agent or for some intentional use) with a concentration of more than 90 ppm (0.009%) of total dry weight beyond 2016 for architectural, decorative and household applications and 2019 for industrial applications. Precautionary labelling is required."

In Nepal, a similar regulation limiting lead in paint in decorative and industrial uses went into effect on June 20, 2015, stating, "Limit of 90ppm (0.009%) lead content for any paint imported, produced, sold or used. Precautionary labelling is required stating the lead concentration of and an occupational safety notice.

Sri Lanka also enacted legislation that came into force in January 2013 stating, "manufacture, import and use, storage, distribution and sale of paints that do not conform to the corresponding Total Lead Content specified by the Sri Lanka Standard Institution is prohibited." These standards limit lead content in Paints for Toys and Accessories for Children, Emulsion Paints for Exterior use, and Emulsion Paints for Interior use at 90 mg/kg with the limits for enamel paints and floor paints at 600 mg/kg." Sri Lanka has also taken steps on product labelling for industrial paints requiring labelling for building industry paints containing, including the amount of lead content.

Progress toward better lead paint regulation is also being made in the four other Asian countries participating in the Project. A voluntary limit of 1,000 ppm was reduced to 90 ppm in India. Both the Indonesian government and the Thai government have developed regulatory language, but it hasn't been adopted yet. Support for mandatory lead regulation has been growing in Bangladesh and now includes the Bangladesh Paint Manufacturers.

Perhaps most importantly, paint market leaders in most of the seven countries participating in the Project no longer sell paints with more than 90 ppm lead. (India – companies with 70% market share; Bangladesh – 85% of market share; Sri Lanka – 90%; Nepal – 70%; Philippines—70%)

The Lead Paint Alliance commends the governments of the Philippines, Nepal, and Sri Lanka for taking this critical step to eliminating lead in paint.

### Asia partners working together with the Lead Paint Alliance:

- Philippines: the EcoWaste Coalition
- Nepal: Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED)
- Sri Lanka: Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ)
- India: Toxics Link
- Bangladesh: Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO)
- Indonesia: BaliFokus
- Thailand: Ecological Alert and Recovery Thailand (EARTH)

### International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action Coming

October 25-31, 2015

#### GET INVOLVED!

- Increase awareness using customized print materials.
- Engage the general public through social media.
- Participate in technical webinars and learning sessions.
- Take part in national conferences and meetings to engage key decision-makers.

#LPPW2015 #LeadFreeKids #StopLeadInPaint

The WHO helps to facilitate these efforts by providing multilingual, customizable campaign materials, including posters and fact sheets for people to use in their campaigns.

Want to learn more about the 2015 Week of Action? Please visit the website at: [www.unep.org/noleadinpaint](http://www.unep.org/noleadinpaint) or [www.who.int/ipcs/lead\\_campaign/en/](http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/en/)

Interested in conducting an event during the next Week of Action? Please send an email to [noleadinpaint@who.int](mailto:noleadinpaint@who.int) for additional information.

Have an update you want to share in our newsletter? Please send any information you would like us to include in our next update to: [noleadinpaint@unep.org](mailto:noleadinpaint@unep.org)