



APELL in Action



Port Area APELL Seminar in Santos - Brazil - 2002



Emergency Drill Bahia Blanca Argentina - 2001



National APELL Center Mumbai - India - since 2002

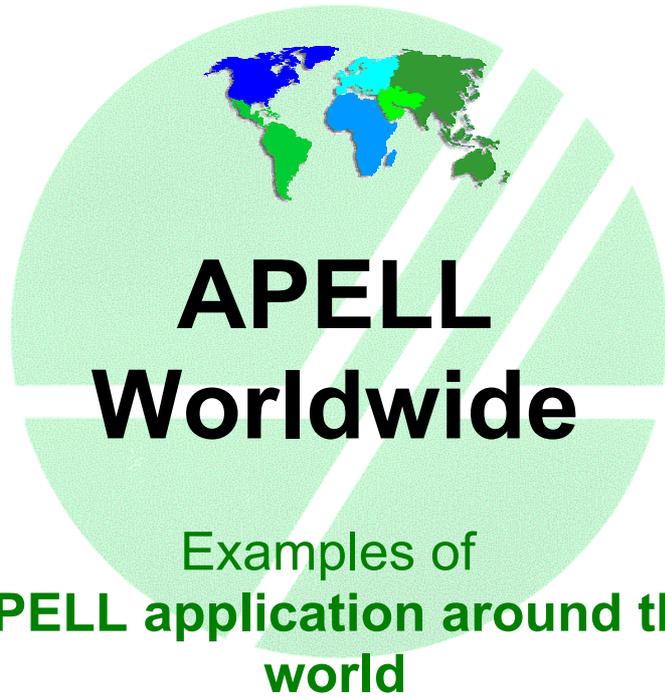


APELL Cooperation in the Barents Sea - since 1997



APELL introduced in the Croatian Legislation "Environmental Emergency Response Plan"

Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level



The APELL process has been used successfully in many situations around the world.

APELL is a process "owned" and implemented by local communities and their representatives. UNEP's role is to enlist other international partners to make APELL widely known, and to assist in its application by providing information and advice.

APELL is suitable for diverse situations in different cultures and sectors where technological and natural hazards may occur.

The APELL programme has produced numerous technical publications and guidelines, raised awareness of the APELL process at workshops and seminars, and assisted national authorities and industry bodies to put the principles into practice

UNEP welcomes additional partners joining the programme to work towards a society where an informed public and well co-ordinated emergency services have greatly reduced risks to the community.

This brochure describes examples of APELL actions and implementation around the world, and gives an overview of current activities that continue to expand its application. Some notable achievements are highlighted in boxes.

Details of the various actions and activities can be found on the APELL website: <http://www.uneptie.org/apell>

UNEP and APELL

UNEP developed APELL in 1988 assisted by an international expert group and guided by decisions of UNEP Governing Council.

An APELL Handbook and technical guidelines were published for worldwide use.

Technical assistance is given to national authorities and industries that wish to start APELL in their communities.

UNEP also promotes APELL as a means of implementing other international/national disaster management programmes.

UNEP monitors selected cases of local or national implementation.

Periodic APELL seminars are held to allow all stakeholders to share experience and contribute to the further development of APELL

The APELL website has been created to provide easy and accessible information on APELL. New features include major publications available on-line, APELL programme description, worldwide implementation, latest developments, upcoming events, and a much visited Disasters Database. Please visit: <http://www.uneptie.org/apell>

Major APELL partners

Inter-governmental

- **EC** – European Commission
- **ECE** – Economic Commission for Europe
- **IAEA** – International Atomic Energy Agency
- **ISDR** – International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- **IMO** – International Maritime Organization
- **OCHA** – Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- **OECD** – Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development
- **PAHO – WHO** – Pan American and World Health Organizations

Industry

- **CEFIC** – Conseil Europeen des Federations de l'Industrie Chimique
- **ICCA** – International Council of Chemicals Associations
- **ICMM** – International Council on Mining and Metals
- Other National chemicals associations (**VCI**, **ABIQUIM**)

Governments

- **SEPA** – China State Environmental Protection Administration
- **SRSA** – Swedish Rescue Services Agency
- **US EPA** – United States Environmental Protection Agency

Institutions

- **IEAT** – Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand
- **NSCI** – National Safety Council of India

APELL in Asia

UNEP provided support in the establishment of the first APELL Center, in Mumbai, **India**, hosted by the National Safety Council. The Center will promote and assist the application of APELL especially in industry. India has already adopted APELL principles in national legislation, and has held a series of national and regional seminars, also on TransAPELL. A network of "safety -cells" has been set up in various communities.

Two large industrial estates in **China** are now adapting and implementing APELL ideas in their management plans. After a series of workshops for the estates, UNEP is continuing to give advice on implementation.

The Bang Poo and the Map Ta Phut industrial estates in **Thailand** are adapting the APELL process in industrial zones. Other estates have attended seminars and are expected to benefit from this experience.

APELL in Africa/Middle East

The APELL implementation in Durban, **South Africa** was slowed down pending resolution of social divergences. It is expected to restart in 2003 when the remaining difficulties are overcome. New mining legislation has incorporated APELL processes in its text and implementation should soon commence.

Egypt has requested a re-activation of APELL at one of its large industrial complexes near Cairo. Following recent meetings, work is ongoing in order to develop a pilot-case-study of APELL implementation in an Industrial City. The cornerstone of this initiative is an agreement between UNEP and Egypt to jointly organise a workshop to bring key partners together.

Following on-site visits from foreign experts and seminars, several **Gulf States** countries (UAE; Oman, Bahrain) are now considering further development of APELL applications, including the option of a future APELL center.

APELL in Latin America

A **Regional APELL Expert Network** was established for Latin American Countries with a first meeting organised by ROLAC (UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean) in November 2001 in Mexico City. The members of the Network act as advisors and consultants to organisations wishing to start APELL at local level.

Important port cities in **Brazil** have adopted the APELL process in their jurisdiction (São Sebastião, Macéio) and are continuing in the implementation. UNEP is helping national partners to establish a National APELL Center in Sao Paulo to facilitate implementation also elsewhere.

Ecopetrol, **Colombia**, has developed a comprehensive APELL programme across the entire company, including internal training and implementation manuals. Extensive manuals have been prepared to assist such training

Also in **Colombia**, APELL was introduced in 1990 in Barranquilla by several chemical industries. Today 30 companies are affiliated with the APELL project and in 2002 they updated their APELL/Barranquilla Emergency Plan and created a risk map of the area.

The interest in APELL in **Venezuela** has been reactivated. Together with the Ministry of Labour and PEQUIVEN, APELL workshops were held in 2002 in communities of the Carabobo and Zulia States.

In **Argentina**, APELL has been implemented since 1997 in Bahia Blanca by several industries, local civil defense and the community.

APELL in Europe

A mechanism has been established for cross-border emergency co-ordination in the arctic region based on APELL process. After the most recent seminar in August, 2002, EMERCOM, in St. Petersburg, **Russia** has requested UNEP to assist in establishing an APELL center there. Conversations with EMERCOM and the Barents Sea Working Group are currently taking place in order to support this initiative

Croatia has incorporated the APELL process into its national disaster legislation (see page 1). Further training through national workshops is needed. UNEP is prepared to help identify suitable experts.

The Rotterdam port authority in **The Netherlands** has a sophisticated emergency response system including information to local communities that incorporates a number of the APELL components. This is an example of an 'APELL-like' programme.

CYPRES in southern **France** has developed a comprehensive hazard mapping programme and community information to improve local planning and community protection against various risks. The programme is a partnership between various community, governmental and industry bodies, and has achieved a much higher awareness of and preparedness for residential hazards from industry in the local community.

Following disastrous floods in 2002, the Czech ministry has requested UNEP to help establish an APELL demonstration at one of the major refineries, and use this also as a way of implementing the public communication provisions of the SEVESOII Directive of the EU.

Ecomaires, a **French**-based association of town mayors concerned with environmental quality and hazards, has developed an APELL-like process of communication, dialogue and co-ordination.

The **Toulouse explosion** in 2001 triggered a major concern about land-use planning in **France** (and elsewhere). The French government has approved a new legislation in 2003 to improve planning procedures where APELL-like principles have been incorporated.

APELL Global

Several major mining companies have upgraded their emergency preparedness procedures after the publication of APELL for Mining. The **International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)** has included APELL as a high priority in its forward work programme for member companies.

UNEP is discussing with the **International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA)** the preparation of a new technical guide on APELL in Fertilizer Production.

Seminars and discussions are ongoing with the EU and UN ECE concerning APELL as an implementation mechanism for **SEVESO II** and the **ECE Transboundary Accidents Convention**. A Polish-Russian Transboundary Response Exercise - KOTKI 2002 took place in June in Ketrzyn, **Poland**. A recent workshop in Odense, **Denmark**, in October 2002, included a 1-day seminar on APELL.

APELL has been incorporated in the second edition of the **OECD Guiding Principles on Chemical Accidents Prevention, Preparedness and Response** Publication, released in early 2003.

The Baia Mare accident in **Romania** which contaminated the Danube with cyanide, led to major initiatives to improve accident prevention and preparedness in the mining industry. This included the preparation and adoption of an international code for management of cyanide, the publication of **APELL for Mining**, the holding of workshops with government regulators, and guidelines to improve safety standards at tailings facilities.

Why APELL?

"The APELL Programme is the key to making all stakeholders aware of industrial risks and to be ready to mitigate the adverse effects of a major accident. One of the most important aspects of APELL is that it takes account of the whole community, local authorities and industrial interest."

- Nestor Sposito, Expert at Bahia Blanca, Argentina

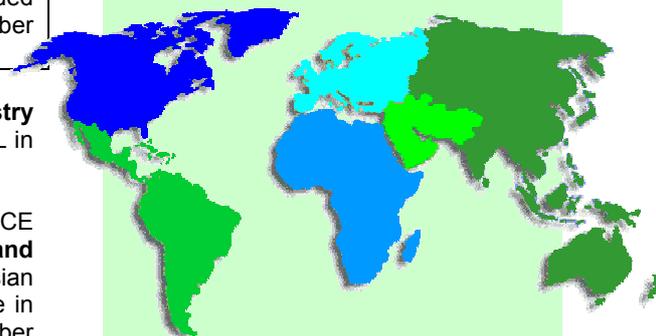
"APELL helps estate management to develop a strong bond between the tenants, management, and the community. These stakeholders therefore work together with a common understanding of the risks and responsibilities. They are therefore capable of dealing successfully with many issues jointly and immediately!"

- Kasemsri Homchean, manager of Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate, Thailand

"Co-operation between stakeholders should be developed before an incident, not after. That would give a chance to establish roles and responsibilities, action plans, etc. and also to build trust between parties"

- Lars-Åke Lindahl, Swedish Mining Association

"... APELL is a "hands on" tool, pragmatic and practical to use, especially in developing countries."



For more information on APELL, please download the brochure "Explaining APELL":

www.unepfi.org/pc/apell/publications/pdf_files/explaining_apell.pdf

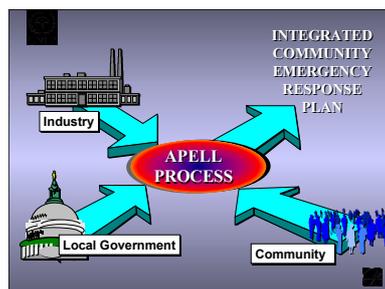


APELL is both a process and a programme.

APELL gives local people the information and decision-making process to address potential hazards in their community.

It is a **local process** of hazard communication and co-ordination 'owned' by the community and its rescue services.

UNEP and national and international bodies have **programmes** to promote and facilitate this local level process.



The Role of UNEP

UNEP plays a catalytic role to promote adoption of APELL by:

- defining APELL, and co-ordinating the programme;
- disseminating information on APELL;
- seeking commitment from industry to participate;
- promoting regional workshops to help local authorities and leaders understand and implement the APELL process;
- supporting the creation of national APELL centers;
- maintaining a regional/international APELL network.

In this UNEP is assisted by many partners (see Page 2), with the chemical industry playing a lead role also.

How to start APELL?

APELL can be started by any of the individuals or organizations affected by local hazards. Most often it is a company or an emergency response organization that takes the first step. A national APELL promotion and support programme is often initiated by a government ministry in association with industries and industry associations. The APELL Handbook gives details of the procedures to follow.

Further information from:



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The mission of UNEP DTIE is to encourage decision makers in government, industry and business to develop and adopt policies, strategies and practices that are cleaner and safer, make efficient use of natural resources, that incorporate environmental costs, ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals, reduce pollution and risks for human and beings and the environment, and enable implementation of conventions.

APELL Key Publications

