

The Just Environment (Charitable) Trust



Toxics Link

for a toxics-free world

May 30, 2013

Dear GAELP Secretariat,

Subject - LETTER OF INTENT TO JOIN GAELP

The Just Environment Charitable Trust (also known as Toxics Link) is a non-profit organization based in New Delhi, India, 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 in India 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.

Toxics Link has been involved in lead paint elimination advocacy since 2006. Diligent perusal of the issue with the industry has resulted in major paint brands shifting from leaded to lead free decorative paints and the issue finding place in Parliament discussions.

In 2008, Toxics Link, along with IPEN, proposed a global partnership to eliminate lead from paint to the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) at Dakar, Senegal. The second International Conference on Chemicals Management or ICCM2 further endorsed lead in paints as an emerging issue in 2009. Subsequently, Toxics Link and IPEN jointly conducted a 10 country study "Lead in New Decorative Paints – A Global Study" in 2010.

At present, we are carrying out advocacy and public awareness activities through IPEN Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project, which is funded by the European Union-SWITCH Asia Program.

Through this letter of intent, may we inform you that our government has started working towards setting up standards for lead in paints. The formation of a voluntary certification scheme is also underway. At meetings initiated by our group in the past one year, members from the paint industry (major and small and medium enterprises) agreed to support the formation of the voluntary certification scheme and work towards public awareness, with the intent to promote lead paint elimination.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Agarwal', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ravi Agarwal
Director
Toxics Link