



LEAD *Action* NEWS

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Article 2

Friends of the Earth (ADT) Togo Lead Week of Action Event 2017 (English translation)

**LEAD Action News
Volume 18 Number 3**

**Celebrating 5 Years of the
WHO Lead Week of Action**



Friends of the Earth (ADT) Togo Lead Week of Action Event 2017 (English translation)



volonté-force-travail

Written (in French) by Les Amis de la Terre (ADT) / Friends of the Earth (FOE) - Togo FOET «will-force-work», translated into English by Orlanda Aguirre-Lopez, for The LEAD Group.

Event: press conference followed by a debate-conference and mobilization for the creation of a regulation to ban the production, commercialization, and use of lead paint in Togo.

Date, Time and Location: 23 October 2017, from 9am to 1:30pm, Lomé, Entente du CASEF, Togo

Description of the Event:

Activity 1: organization of a press conference

Three statements were raised about:

- The challenges associated with the use of lead paint;
- The aims of the Semaine d'action internationale pour la prévention de l'intoxication au plomb/ International Week of Action for the Elimination of Lead Paint (GAELP);
- The necessity of adopting legislation for banning lead paint in Togo.

After this series of presentations, a debate was opened. The interventions have allowed the organizers to evaluate the level of media mobilization, the pros and cons of compromising Togo in the elimination of lead paint.

Such as the last year, the debates have been long. The problems around intoxication with lead from paint constitute a subject that continues year after year. Different aspects of the question have been analyzed by the journalists; this shows that the theme is not only a question of curiosity, but of interest for the society as well.

After the discussions, the participants decided their commitment to getting together in an alliance in front of the decision makers for the creation and setting of a regulation targeting a ban on the production, commercialization and use of lead paint in Togo.



Activity 2: organization of a debate-conference

One by one, the following themes were the subject of presentations:

- The challenges associated with the use of lead paint;
- The aims of the International Action Week for the Prevention of Intoxication with Lead;
- The necessity of adopting legislation banning lead paint in Togo.

It was a meeting of participants who were very anxious for information about the subject and who have followed attentively the different presentations. The questions allowed participants to lament the deficit of information about such an important subject over such a long time. Being grateful to the organizers, who have the merit of lighting their lanterns about that; the participants are committed to raise the subject inside their respective communities. The documentation that has been put in their hands has allowed them to better understand key aspects of the question. Most of the participants have signed an engagement card (petition), asserting their agreement in favour of a Togo free from lead paint, by 2020.

- This list of signatures from participants supporting a ban on lead paint in Togo by 2020, was the outcome that the event was designed to achieve.

Activity 1: organization of a press conference

10 representatives of press groups are informed about the intoxication with lead from paint and have the idea of presenting the information to the general public.

Activity 2: organization of a debate-conference

One debate, including 12 officials of ministries in charge of the environment and health, 8 economic operators of paint, 3 physicians, 5 university teachers, 6 students of faculties directly concerned, 10 NGOs for the environment and consumers, 6 representatives of SNU [Système des Nations Unies / United Nations] (PMF FEM [Programme de Micro Financement du Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial / Program Micro Finance Fund for Global Environment], OMS [L'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS) / The World Health Organization (WHO)], UNICEF [Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance / United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund]) about the challenges associated with the use of lead paint, were all in favour of setting regulations and other prevention measures against intoxication with lead.



- **Target audience(s)**

Activity 1 (A.1): The newspapers;

Activity 2 (A.2.): the officials of public administration, paint professionals, health professionals, the universities, the media and public interest groups.

Sponsor:

PMF FEM [Programme de Micro Financement du Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial / Program Micro Finance Fund for Global Environment].

Attendees:

Activity 1: seventeen (17) people representing the press organisations have participated in the press conference, i.e: written articles for their newspaper (Union for the Country, Independent Express, The Guardian), written press online (Gapola.net, Togotopnews, Afreepress, Manationtogo.com), television (TV7), or radio (Zephyr, Carre Youngs, Nana FM, Pyramide FM, Victory FM, Kanal FM).

Activity 2: 34 participants, being the officials of public administration (Direction de l'environnement / Environment Directorate, Agence nationale de gestion de l'environnement / National Agency of Environmental Management, Ministère de la Santé / Ministry of Health, etc.), the societies of commercialization of paints (Ets Delta peinture / Ets Delta Paint), the organizations of painters (Syndicat National de Peinture du Togo / National Paint Union of Togo), the professionals of health (Internal medicine, diabetes specialist), the members of university (Université de Lomé / University of Lomé), the media, NGOs and associations (Association Togolaise des Consommateurs / Togo Association of Consumers, Ligue des Consommateurs du Togo / League of Consumers of Togo, etc.) have taken part in the debate-conference.

Prominent People: (the most important people that came and, and why they are prominent or important people)

-The representative of the Direction de l'environnement / Environment Directorate: he is an important person because the director of environment was interested and supposed to attend, given the environmental dimension in the options of development.

-The internal physician, diabetes specialist: this was very important because of the explanations given to the participants in order to show the stakes attached to the intoxication with lead paint. He told the assembly about the cares necessary to take for confronting the potential source of exposition to lead.



- One of the representatives of the Ministère de la santé / Ministry of Health stated his commitment to continuing the dynamism of this conference in making Togo free of lead paint intoxication

Event Agenda:

PROGRAM : 23 October 2017			
Session Number	Schedule	Activities of Press Conference	Actors
1	7h 45-08h 00	Arrival of media women and men	Media women and men
2	08h 05-8h 10	Welcome speech	M. AMEGADZE Kokou Elorm, acting Director, of the NGO Friends of Togo Land, jurist, environmentalist, Coordinator of project « Study of paints in Togo »
3	8h10-8h 25	Statements about <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the challenges attached to the use of lead paint - the right justification of the international action week for the prevention of intoxication with lead and - the need of adopting a legislation suspending the lead paint in Togo 	M. MOUGUE Bibi Pacôme, Environmentalist Jurist, resource Person
4	8h 25-8h 50	Time for questions and answers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. AMEGADZE Kokou Elorm - M. MOUGUE Bibi Pacôme



5	8h 50-8h 55	The taking of commitment of the press in favour of a Togo free from the intoxication with lead.	Media women and men, organizers
6	8h 55-9h 00	Thank you speech	M. AMEGADZE Kokou Elorm
7	9h 00	Snack and departure of media women and men	Media women and men, organizers

Session Number	Schedule	Activities of Debate Conference	Actors
8	9h 10	Entrance of the participants for the debate-conference	Participants, organizers
9	9h 20-9h 25	Welcoming	M. AMEGADZE Kokou Elorm, Acting director of the NGO The Friends of the Togo Land, jurist Environmentalist, Coordinator of Project « Etude de peintures au Togo »
10	9h 25-10h 25	Statements about <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The challenges attached to the use of the lead paint - The right justification of the international action week for the prevention of the intoxication with lead and - The need of adopting a legislation suspending the lead paint in Togo 	Media women and men M. MOUGUE Bibi Pacôme
11	10h 25-10h 45	Brief presentation of the outcomes of the study of paints in Togo	M. MOUGUE Bibi Pacôme



12	10h 45-11h 45	Exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants, Representatives of Ministry in charge of the environment - M. AMEGADZE Kokou Elorm - M. MOUGUE Bibi Pacôme
13	11h 45- 11h 55	Taking the commitments of the decision-making participants in favour of a Togo free from intoxication with lead	Decision-making participants
14	11h 55-12h 00	Thanks speech	M. AMEGADZE Kokou Elorm
15	12h 00	Snack and departure of participants	Participants, organizers

Event Materials:

We have used the materials available at the Web site of L'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS) / The World Health Organization (WHO)

(http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/fr/) and the one sent by Manny Calonzo of IPEN [International Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Elimination Network]

(<http://www.ipen.org/>).



Media Coverage:

All the press organisations that have taken part in the press conference have passed information to the grand public.

Among the online publications we can note:

<http://togotopnews.com/index.php/sante/item/562-l-ong-les-amis-de-la-terre-togo-en-guerre-contre-l-intoxication-au-plomb>



<http://afreepress.info/afreepress/index.php/nouvelles/sante/item/2635-l-ong-les-amis-de-la-terre-togo-contre-l-utilisation-de-la-peinture-au-plomb-au-togo>

<http://www.gapola.net/2017/10/les-amis-de-la-terre-togo-engages.html>

<http://www.manationtogo.com/les-amis-de-la-terre-togo-plaide-pour-linterdiction-de-la-peinture-au-plomb-au-togo/>

<https://lesamisdelaterretogo.wordpress.com/2017/10/23/semaine-daction-de-prevention-de-lintoxication-au-plomb/>

One video about two minutes long will be posted very shortly in the network and the link will be notified.

Evaluation

Turnout of Event

- Activity 1: More than 10 people attended, they were men and women of the media, 17 people have taken part of the event, being a surplus of seven people.
- Activity 2: Over 50 people responded, 34 participated in the debate conference, 16 have not been able to honour with their presence the debate-conference.

In total, given the political climate at the moment, marked by politic demonstrations organized by the opposition, and also counter-demonstrations begun by the government, that has created a tension in the country, the turnout was impressive. The number of participants might have been bigger if it wasn't for that psychosis in the country.

In general the target groups attended. It can be noted that the institutions of the system of the United Nations were invited but were not able to participate in the debate-conference. Nevertheless, the PMF/FEM has provided financial support.

Success of Event and possible improvements

In general we were in the limits of the objectives set. We have not been able to raise the challenge of the number participants attending, nor could we stay on track with the agenda. The media arrived later than expected, which had an incidence on the timing of the two activities. Next time we will not start the press conference so early (7 H 45).

For next time, we would like to make stickers and other handouts that are going to stay with the participants after the act, and will permit them to keep the spirit of the



problematic of the intoxication with lead paint. They will be able of talking about that each time that is necessary to develop the cause of the international action week for the prevention of the intoxication with lead.

In the year 2016, we organized a press conference and this year we organized both a press conference and debate-conference. In 2018, we wish to organize some activities that can stay for several days with the aim that the question gets to be well known and taken into account. The Friends of the Togo-Land could, managing the ways, propose to the government the elaboration of a regulation tending to ban the production, commercialization and use of the lead paint in Togo.

Follow Up Plan

We aim to build on the guarantees that the participants have given to both activities, and we have organized that through obtaining their signatures on the engagement card (petition). These cards will be a great support for us in order to raise a plea to the government for regulatory text about restricting the use of lead paint.

- To do this, we will work with the physician that represents the Ministère de la Santé / Ministry of Health, who is going to be our intermediary between his supervisor in the ministry and his colleagues to advocate.
- We hope to work with the institutions of the Système des Nations Unies (SNU) / United Nations (UN) for their moral and financial support.
- In this mobilization, we can count on the Direction de l'environnement / Environment Directorate and with the Agence nationale de gestion de l'environnement / National Agency of Environmental Management.
- We will collaborate with the media who have already invited us in their broadcastings and who have made the re-broadcastings through the radio (Radio Zéphyr).
- Finally, we will work hand in hand with IPEN and the Semaine d'action internationale pour la prévention de l'intoxication au plomb/ International Week of Action for the Elimination of Lead Paint (GAELP) with their allies in order to find a happy end to this struggle by 2020.

Photos



Partial view of participants.