



# ILPPWA 2019 report - Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP), Malaysia

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA) 2019

Name of NGO: Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP)

Address: 10, Jalan Masjid Negeri, 11600 PENANG, Malaysia

Website: [www.consumer.org.my](http://www.consumer.org.my)

Contact person for project: Mageswari Sangaralingam

Time period activities were undertaken: August - November 2019

Title of project: Lead paint hazards in children's playgrounds

Project funded by IPEN (International Pollutants Elimination Network)

## List of activities undertaken for ILPPWA 2019

Taking of samples and testing of lead content and concentration on toys and playground equipment

Produce publication titled "Lead in Playground Equipment in Malaysia", assisted by IPEN

Press conference to release statement titled "CAP Finds Outdoor Play Equipment Coated with Dangerous Levels of Lead" conducted on 23 October 2019

Programme and exhibition on 26 October 2019 in Seberang Jaya, Penang

Meeting on 1 November 2019 with city council officers regarding lead in playground equipment

Letters to city councils in Penang and Local Government Department regarding issue of lead in playground equipment sent out in October and November 2019

## 1. Main Event Report

Name of Event: Press Conference in Conjunction of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action 2019

Date, Time and Location: 23 October 2019, 11am - 12 noon, CAP office at 10 Jalan Masjid Negeri, Penang, Malaysia

Description of the Event:

Press Conference titled "CAP Finds Outdoor Play Equipment Coated with Dangerous Levels of Lead" which was targeted for the media for wider public outreach.

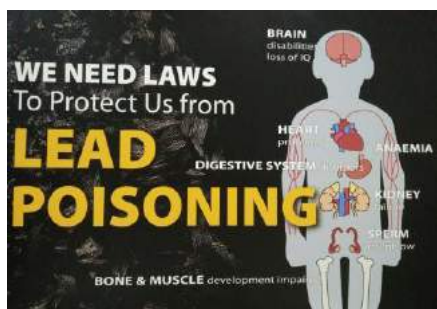
<https://consumer.org.my/cap-finds-outdoor-play-equipment-coated-with-dangerous-levels-of-lead/>



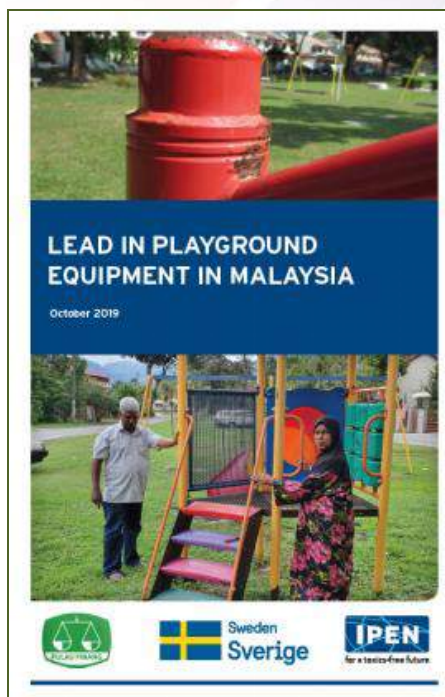
### Event Materials:

Poster used as props for the press conference.

Soft copy of book titled “Lead in Playground Equipment in Malaysia” (<https://ipen.org/documents/lead-playground-equipment-malaysia>)



Poster used at Press Conference



Cover page of book

### Media Coverage:

The media coverage was encouraging with Malay, English and Chinese language media carrying CAP’s press release. The authorities were made aware of the matter as online and print media carried the test results which exposed the seriousness of the situation of lead paint due to high concentrations in some of the tested play equipment. The Penang Island City Council called CAP to arrange a meeting to discuss the way forward after the media exposé.

Overall there was coverage in seven media outlets as follows:

#### Articles in English media

- i. Study finds Penang playgrounds contain dangerous levels of lead

<https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/497285>

- ii. Danger of lead lurks in playgrounds

<https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2019/10/28/danger-of-lead-lurks-in-playgrounds>

#### Articles in Malay media



iii. Peralatan taman permainan guna cat berplumbum tinggi

(Playground equipment use paint with high content of lead)

<https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2019/10/510222/peralatan-taman-permainan-guna-cat-berplumbum-tinggi>

iv. Hati-hati alat permainan mengandungi cat plumbum (Careful of lead paint in playground equipment)

<https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/53784/EDISI/Utara/Hati-hati-alat-permainan-mengandungi-cat-plumbum>

**Articles in Chinese media**

v. China Press

vi. Sin Chew Jit Poh

vii. Nanyang Siang Pau

**Event Photos:**

The journalists who had attended the press conference took pictures and for the rest of the media, we had sent pictures that CAP officer took and these were used by the media



Pix 1



Pix 2

Pix 1: Mr Mohideen Abdul Kader, CAP President presiding at the Press Conference, flanked by Ms Hatijah Hashim, CAP research officer.

Pix 2: Picture taken at the Playground in Taman Sir Hussein, opposite CAP office.

Sinar Harian (24 October 2019)





The Star Metro (28 October 2019)

8 News

STAR METRO, MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2019

# Danger of lead lurks in playgrounds

## Tests show high levels of heavy metal in peeling paint of play equipment

By ARNOLD LOH  
arnold.loh@thestar.com.my

IF YOUR children chewed on playground equipment, they might be at risk of lead poisoning.

Consumers Association of Penang (CAP) revealed that tests on the paintwork of the equipment in 10 playgrounds in Penang and Kedah contained a lot of lead.

The highest reading came from the yellow paint in the playground next to Fort Cornwallis, Georgetown, at 620,000 parts per million (ppm), based on CAP's analysis using a handheld x-ray fluorescence spectrometer.

According to Ministry of Health's food safety guidelines, no more than 2ppm of lead can be allowed in food, cookware or ceramic ware.

The other playground paintwork all around Penang Island that CAP tested - red, orange, yellow and green - also registered lead by the 10s of thousands ppm.

The one Kedah playground in Bandar Baharu tested only registered 112ppm (yellow).

"CAP sounds the alarm over lead-painted play equipment as the UN-backed International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action is being observed from Oct 20 to 26, with focus on eliminating lead paint," said CAP president Mohideen Abdul Kader in a press statement.

He said CAP is pushing for the banning of paint containing more than 90ppm of lead.

"Over time, the paint will deteriorate. This will cause the paint to peel and get into the dust and soil, which can be ingested by children through common hand-to-mouth behaviour," Mohideen added.

If children orally took in flakes or chips of such paint, they would be in trouble, said Universiti Sains Malaysia chemist Dr Lim Gin Keat.

Lim, who does research on natural product chemistry and food analysis among others, said children who swallowed a substantial amount of the paintwork would develop health problems associated with lead poisoning.

"But it is no problem if they come into bodily contact with the paintwork. The lead is not transferable that way," he said.



A child playing on the slide in the playground at the Esplanade in George Town where CAP has found the highest reading of lead in the yellow paint. — Photos: ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star

While he did not see a high risk for children, Lim pointed out that it would be a different story if environmental pollution was the issue.

He said lead paint is not allowed to be used for indoor walls since decades ago but its use was allowed for outdoor paintwork.

As the paintwork ages, however, he said the lead could leach into the ground.

"Lead is a naturally occurring metal everywhere in world. There is lead even in our food. We just have to make sure we don't take too much.

"There shouldn't be any problems for children unless they actually eat the paint," he said.



A girl playing with a rocking chair at the same playground. (Below) Peeling paint due to wear and tear can be found on many of the play structures and equipment.





Nanyang Siang Pau (24 October 2019)

CAP - Outdoor play equipment coated with dangerous levels of lead  
 NY 24/10/19

南粵高報 北貫線 NORTHERN LINE

# 游乐场设备含铅超标

## 檳消协：儿童易中毒

【檳城23日讯】檳城消费者协会揭露，北马公共儿童游乐场设备的涂料，含铅严重超标，对儿童带来铅中毒的危殆。

檳消协主席葛希丁阿都卡迪今日在记者会上指出，根据该协会的调查，在17个做了分析的游乐设备中，有13个的总铅浓度超过百万分之90这个世界上最严格的标准，其中11个的涂料会超过百万分之10,000的铅，是非常危险的浓度。

葛希丁阿都卡迪说，铅对人体健康和发育的公共儿童游乐场，用手提式光谱仪化学分析仪检测出游乐设备含有铅涂料。

“这令人非常担心，而且是不可接受的。在儿童打打闹闹和不断使用下，日子久了，这些涂料会剥落、脱落和混在灰尘和泥土里，就可能被儿童通过吮手指的习惯摄入体内。”

他说，铅是一种累积性毒素，影响多种身体机能。它对儿童、孕妇以及所有接触到它的人尤其危险。铅毒害可能造成学习障碍，增加反社会行为的风险；降低生育能力；增加晚年发生肾脏病和心血管疾病的风险等等。

他指出，铅会对儿童的脑造成永久的伤害，不能治疗和复原。当儿童吃进土壤上的玩具、家具等东西，铅就会进入胃肠道。继续使铅进入儿童接触铅的主要途径，因此需要立即采取行动减少这些源头。

檳消协呼吁政府

- 1) 颁布法律来消除涂料的铅
- 2) 禁止产铅涂料
- 3) 检测并禁止被发现铅含量高的产品
- 4) 举办教育宣传活动，让人们认识铅的危险。

China Press (24 October 2019)

CAP - Outdoor play equipment coated with dangerous levels of lead  
 China Press 24/10/2019

C4 中國報

# 17遊樂場13設備含量超標

## 小孩邊玩邊沾鉛

【北馬23日讯】儿童游乐场设备暗藏“危机”，涂料含铅量超标的游乐场设备将降低生育能力！

檳城消费者协会做一题为《马来西亚禁止涂漆设备的铅》的调查，在17个做了分析的游乐设备中，有13个的总铅浓度超过世界标准的百万分之90，其中11个的涂料含量超过百万分之10,000的铅，是非常危险的浓度。

檳消协在檳城和吉打的公共儿童游乐场，用手提式光谱仪化学分析仪检测出游乐设备含有铅涂料。

檳消协主席葛希丁阿都卡迪今日发表警告指出，铅是一种累积性毒素，影响多种身体系统，对儿童、孕妇以及所有接触到它的人尤其危险。铅毒害可能造成学习障碍，增加反社会行为的风险，甚至会降低生育能力。

“不仅如此，铅毒害还将增加，晚年发生肾脏和心血管疾病的危险。”

他说，儿童游乐场设备日子久了，漆面会剥落、脱落和混在灰尘和泥土里，就可能被儿童通过吮手指的习惯摄入体内，还将对儿童的脑造成永久的伤害，不能治疗和复原。

### 没制订法律

他指出，世卫组织估计，儿童时期曾接触铅，已造成每年约有60万例的儿童智商案例。

“自1992年以来，檳消协就不断呼吁政府立法消除涂料里的铅，我们在1992年做的试验，发现9种油漆中有7种含铅超过百万分之600，那次研究发现的铅最高浓度是百万分之11,700。”

他说，在2016年，檳消协呼吁政府制订限制铅浓度的标准，因为我们发现超过60%的游乐设备的铅含量非常高。三年多过去了，但政府没制订有关法律。

他呼吁政府颁布法律来消除涂料的铅，禁止产铅涂料，检测并禁止被发现铅含量高的产品及举办教育宣传活动，让人们认识铅的危险。

他认为，一旦我国也有铅禁令，大马将成为其他国家倾销高铅产品的地方。

Sin Chew Jit Poh (24 October 2019)



## 2. Outreach to policy makers

CAP had written to the local government (Penang Island City Council and Seberang Perai Municipal Council) in the state of Penang where most of the testing for lead in playground equipment were conducted. We also sent a letter and recommendations to the Local Government Department of Malaysia on this matter, of which we are awaiting response from the Department.

The Landscape Department of the Penang Island City Council had approached CAP for a discussion on way forward in this matter. In the meeting conducted on 1 November 2019, the department had several queries on new procurement, abatement measures during removal of lead paint and disposal of scrapped paint waste. After consulting IPEN, CAP wrote them with some suggestions on the measures to be taken.





*CAP research officer Mageswari Sangaralingam meeting with city officers on 1 Nov 2019 at CAP*

In terms of regulation on lead in paint, the Malaysian government has been slow in formulating the regulation as it has yet to identify the authority to enforce it. CAP will be following up with the authorities on this matter.

### **3. Outreach to Industry and Response from Paint Manufacturers**

From our previous work, CAP had been interacting with the Malaysian Paint Manufacturers' Association (MPMA). In November 2017 MPMA spearheaded an event amongst 17 industry players to pledge their removal of lead based ingredients in the manufacturing of paints by 2020. This pledge was an initiative in line with the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP) movement, aimed at creating a mind-set change towards the implementation of lead-free paint.

Lead use is banned in a few materials such as toy paints, food, cosmetics and some building products in Malaysia. However since there are no regulations in place for the usage of lead in paint, the MPMA members have taken the initiative to voluntarily eliminate the use of lead based ingredients by 2020 in absence of such regulations.

For further information: <https://themalaysianreserve.com/2018/03/21/its-more-than-what-is-on-the-surface/>

### **4. Outreach to Civil Society**

Besides the outreach through media, CAP conducted a programme with 50 women in the Seberang Jaya Mosque. The programme on 26 October 2019 was co-organized with the Penang State Muslimat PAS (group of Muslim women). CAP President, Mr. Mohideen Abdul Kader officiated the programme. Ms. Hatijah Hashim, CAP research officer presented the dangers of lead, where it is found and shared test results of lead paint that had been conducted in Malaysia over the years. The women were very concerned and posed many questions regarding lead and health impacts. They wanted to know whether there were lead in toys and products that children most often use.

Pictures of programme for women conducted on 26 October 2019 in Seberang Jaya, Penang



Hatijah Hashim presenting



Some of the participants



The opening ceremony

### **Main lessons**

The testing and subsequent publication of the results of lead paint in playground equipment was useful and successful in raising awareness regarding the issue and dire need for standards on lead paint. This information has been used for further outreach through media, program and letters to the authorities. The



challenge faced by CAP was testing because we could not access an XRF analyser locally. Hence we had to take samples from peeling off paint from the playgrounds. The samples were taken to Bangkok for IPEN member, Ecological Alert and Recovery - Thailand (EARTH) to analyse using the XRF in their office. If we had an XRF analyser, we could have done testing of more samples. Nevertheless, we are glad that the alternative action was also effective.

## 6. Follow-up activities

CAP will follow up with the local authorities in terms of procurement of new playground equipment and abatement measures to be taken when repainting is done. We will also follow up regarding the standards for lead paint in the country.

## 7. Additional information

Five pictures are uploaded onto

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jzcoZ4Xvw0lH7X8FrW7gcMFjVL7J2uAx>



CAP president and staff at the playground during press conference on 23 Oct 2019 (see above left)

CAP president Mr Mohideen Abdul Kader stressing a point during press conference on 23 Oct 2019 (see above right)



(at left) CAP research officer Hatijah Hashim showing chipped paint on playground equipment in Penang

CAP research officer Mageswari meeting with Penang Island city officials on 1 Nov 2019 (see above in Outreach to policy makers)

Press conference on 23 Oct 2019 lead paint in playground equipment (see above Press Conference Pix 2)

Photo credit: Consumers Association of Penang.