



# International Network on Children's Health, Environment & Safety

**INCHES: the need of co-operation in children's environmental health**

# **International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES)**

was established in Amsterdam,  
the Netherlands on August 11, 1998



# The mission of INCHES

to promote healthy and supportive environments that protects the fetus and child from environmental and safety hazards



# GOALS OF INCHES - 1

- increase understanding of and accord on how environmental factors influence child health
- create a global clearinghouse of research and information on children's environmental health



# GOALS OF INCHEs - 2

- educate and facilitate information exchange on useful practices and policies in children's environmental health
- identify information gaps and stimulate to new research
- advocate for children's environmental health in the intergovernmental arena



# Collaboration & Memberships

- NGO in official relationship with WHO
- Member of HEAL
- Close collaboration with ISDE
- Co-chair function of HECA
- Received Recognition Award EPA



# Recommendations and actions- 1

- Recognition of the right of children to grow up in a safe and clean environment
- Child-friendly public policy in:
  - environmental management
  - sustainable economic development
  - urban planning
  - laws and judicial regulation
  - child labor



# Recommendations and actions - 2

- Strengthen existing stakeholders: NGO's, IGO's, national ministries, UNICEF
- Develop networks of 'centers of excellence' to serve as sources of accurate information:
  - Pediatric environmental health specialty units
  - Regional networks



# Actions

- Prioritize known issues for risk management:
  - air pollution: ambient and indoor
  - clean water
  - injury risk
- Investigate emerging issues



# Actions

Integration with other areas of policy:

- Child friendly and safe urban development
- Space for sport and games (more green)
- Guidelines for building materials and furniture
- Emission reduction traffic and industry
- Monitoring exposure children and adequate action on results





Future activities

Conferences, meetings

Research initiatives

Lobbying

Projects



Wednesday 13 June  
9.30 a.m.

Meeting INCHES to  
discuss future activities

**Location:** Institute of  
Environmental Health  
Kinderspitalgasse 15  
Lectureroom 2nd floor

Focus on Policy  
development and on  
training & education