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## 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Risk Assessment Terminology Thematic Group

January 2011, Brussels, Belgium

Peter Chan, M.Sc., Ph.D.  
Director General, Health Evaluation Directorate  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency



## Risk Assessment Terminology

- ▶ Deal with and express uncertainties cover in particular the concepts, words and expressions which are used to communicate the contents and results of a risk assessment to policy makers, stakeholders and the public
- ▶ The relationship between the data, models, assumptions, methods, procedures used by risk assessors and the way in which these are reflected and explained in a risk assessment



# Importance of Harmonized Terminology

- ▶ the basis for common principles, understanding and approaches to risk assessment
- ▶ enhanced transparency in risk assessment.
- ▶ promote best practice science
- ▶ acknowledge risk is a national prerogative
- ▶ enhances the utility of the RA for regulatory purposes globally
- ▶ enhances the availability of chemical safety information globally through consistent use of terms
- ▶ aids understanding and enhances public communication of risk and safety

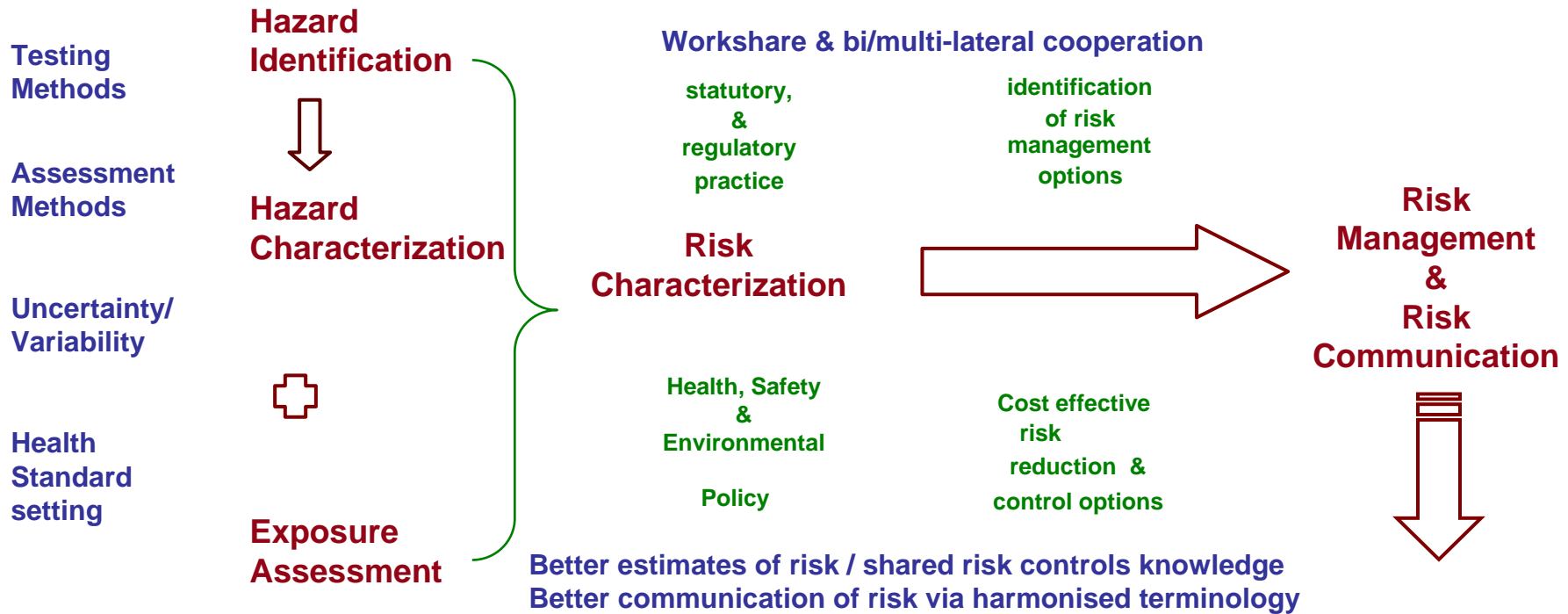
(From Dr. Margaret Hartley, 2011)



# Impact of Harmonisation and Co-operation in Risk Assessment

International methodology/guidance documents using harmonised terminology

National Processes-enhanced transparency



International harmonisation & cooperation can influence methods/standards/policy/practices across the Risk Assessment & Risk Management processes.

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&  
HEALTHY POPULATIONS  
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**



## Questions for EFSA to consider

- ▶ What is the context of the risk assessment and the different sectoral legislative constraints (wording) that frame the questions/mandates?
- ▶ How to improve the clarity of the language to express levels of risk and uncertainty?
- ▶ How to improve the continuity of the message through the risk assessment?
- ▶ How to avoid changing the message through unintentional drafting variations through the opinion?
- ▶ How to avoid terms that imply risk management judgements?

(From Prof. Tony Hardy, 2011)



## More questions for EFSA to consider

- ▶ Should uncertainties be described in quantitative terms rather than qualitative? Is this possible in all sectors?
- ▶ Recognise that some Panels are dealing with questions where it is especially difficult to define quantitative metrics (e.g. pain and suffering)?
- ▶ Uncertainties should be dealt with in separate section?
- ▶ How to present conflicting or contrasting evidences clearly?
- ▶ Expressions should be accompanied by clear statement or summary of the evidences on which they are based?
- ▶ To what extent is harmonisation desirable and/or achievable?



# Objectives

- ▶ In-depth, interactive discussion
- ▶ Prepare a report to the Plenary on:
  - ◆ Issues
  - ◆ State of the art
  - ◆ Possible recommendations and
  - ◆ Proposals for further collaborative work



## Questions for Participants

- ▶ Where are the successes, gaps, barriers (real/perceived)?
- ▶ What are the priorities for future work?
- ▶ How we may collegiately do the work and utilize the products?
- ▶ When do we start?
- ▶ Who should be involved?







*Thanks!*



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