



Curriculum Vitae: Hans Könemann

Personal Details

Hans Könemann was born in 1948 in Brummen, the Netherlands. He is a father to three children and a grandfather to four grandchildren. He lives in Leiden.

Education

From 1969 to 1975, Hans Könemann pursued a Master of Science degree in Chemistry at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Following this, between 1975 and 1979, he completed his PhD in Ecotoxicology, with a thesis focusing on Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships for kinetics and toxicity of aquatic pollutants and their mixtures in fish.

Career

Netherlands' Ministry of Housing and the Environment (1980 – 1987)

Between 1980 and 1987, Hans Könemann served as an ecotoxicological expert and as the head of the section for Industrial Chemicals at the Netherlands' Ministry of Housing and the Environment. In this role, he was part of the team responsible for developing the Dutch Chemical Substances Act. He was also heavily involved in shaping international legislation and policy concerning industrial chemicals, contributing to developments both within the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Ministry of Health (1987 – 1991)

From 1987 to 1991, Hans Könemann worked as an Inspector for Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) at the Ministry of Health. He established the supervision system for GLP compliance in laboratories conducting safety research on chemicals, including pharmaceuticals and pesticides. The inspection system he developed was mutually recognised by authorities in the United States (EPA, FDA) and Japan (MITI).

During this period, he continued his international involvement in chemicals policy, serving as Chairman of the OECD Joint Meeting on Chemicals, where his primary focus was on advancing risk assessment methods.

National Institute of Health and the Environment (RIVM) (1991 – 1996)

From 1991 to 1996, Hans Könemann was Head of the Laboratory of Toxicology at the National Institute of Health and the Environment (RIVM). His main objective was to reorient the laboratory towards the development of advanced risk assessment methodologies, including PBPK modelling and air pollution evaluation.

Expert Centre for Substances (1996 – 2006)

Between 1996 and 2006, Hans Könemann served as Head of the Expert Centre for Substances of the RIVM. The centre became the leading advisory body for several ministries on matters of industrial chemicals, pesticides, food materials, genetically modified organisms, and other substances relevant to environmental and human health. At the Institute level, he also acted as an advisor regarding the implementation of quality assurance systems.

Independent Consultant (2006 – 2014)

From 2006 to 2014, Hans Könemann worked as an independent consultant specialising in chemical safety and knowledge management. He participated in several EU projects that supported East European countries in meeting REACH requirements as part of their accession to the European Union. At the national level, he chaired expert meetings on chemical safety and conducted policy analyses for the Ministry of Social Affairs.

He also chaired the Dutch Expert Panel on probit functions for acute inhalation toxicology, where he contributed to the development of its working processes for the Netherlands' Ministry of Housing and the Environment. Additionally, he supported RIVM in their preparation for External Scientific Audits.

From 2014

Hans's focus has shifted to crafts. He has completed several house renovations and built two camper vans. He enjoys tennis, is a dedicated grandpa, and follows scientific developments from a distance.