

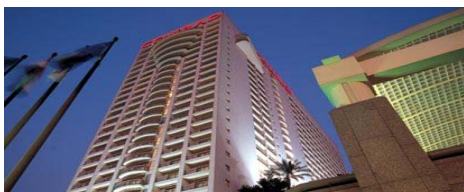


Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

SAICM African regional meeting in Cairo, Egypt



The famous pyramids of Giza, near Cairo
Photo/ Caroline Raat



The Conrad Hotel, venue of the meeting
Photo/ Conrad Hotel

AMCEN & SAICM

At its 11th session, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), held in Brazzaville from 22 to 26 May, endorsed SAICM as a policy framework to support achievement of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020.

Following the adoption of SAICM in February 2006, the regional meetings called for in the Overarching Policy Strategy and by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in its resolution I/1 will be a key element in efforts to commence implementation of SAICM. The first of these regional meetings will be for Africa and is scheduled to take place in Cairo from 11 to 14 September 2006. The meeting is being organized by the SAICM secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Egypt. The aims of the African regional meeting on SAICM are to facilitate stakeholders' transition to a focus on implementation following the completion of negotiations to develop SAICM, catalyse regional and national planning for SAICM implementation and maintain the political momentum behind SAICM that has been generated by the September 2005 World Summit, the successful adoption of SAICM at the first session of the ICCM and endorsements by governing bodies of intergovernmental organisations during 2006.

In preparation for the African regional meeting, the African Core Group (ACG) established during the SAICM development process held a meeting in Cairo, Egypt, from 13-15 June 2006. The group agreed on a provisional agenda for the regional meeting, further developed the draft African Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of SAICM and prepared draft terms of reference for the ACG, African representatives serving on the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme (QSP) and regional focal point for consideration at the regional meeting. Invitations for the full African regional meeting have since been issued to all African Governments, as well as to inter-governmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations. The meeting is also expected to be attended by SAICM regional focal points and observers from other regions to promote the sharing of information and experience. For further information on the meeting, please visit www.chem.unep.ch/saicm.

News from the Quick Start Programme

The Quick Start Programme (QSP) was established by the ICCM to support initial capacity-building and implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition. The QSP comprises a trust fund administered by UNEP and multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation. The first QSP Executive Board meeting, which took place last May in Geneva (see SAICM newsletter 1), invited its members to report on all contributions made to the QSP. A draft reporting form is now available on the SAICM website and will be considered by the Board at its next meeting. For further information, please visit www.chem.unep.ch/saicm.

The establishment of the QSP Trust Fund by the ICCM aims to support QSP objectives and will provide seed money for initial enabling activities. Further to the establishment of application procedures and project management arrangements for the Trust Fund last May, (see SAICM newsletter 1), the first six-monthly round of applications was opened. The deadline for sending applications is Friday 18 August 2006. Applicants are reminded that the endorsement of all applications by a SAICM national focal point is required and that original forms need to be signed and sent by post. The QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee will review applications on 18 October 2006. The second round of applications is expected to be open until February 2007 (date to be announced).

SAICM texts

Further to the release of the report and final documents of the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the secretariat is pleased to announce that both the report and the SAICM texts are now available in all languages on its website. The SAICM texts will also soon be available as an official publication. Please visit www.chem.unep.ch/saicm.

Regional Focal Points

Five SAICM regional focal points were nominated following the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) through a consultative process coordinated by the Governments whose representatives served on the bureau of the SAICM Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) and the bureau of the ICCM. **Ms. Abiola Olanipekun**, Chief Environmental Scientist of the Environmental Scientist Department of Pollution Control within the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Environment, who served as Vice-President of the SAICM PrepCom, is the African regional focal point. **Mr. Eisaku Toda**, Deputy Director of the Environmental Health and Safety Division of the Japanese Ministry of the Environment has been selected as the Asia and Pacific regional focal point. **Ms. Rodica Ella Morohoi**, Counselor of the Waste and Dangerous Chemicals General Directorate of the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Water Management is the regional focal point for Central and Eastern Europe. **Mr. Gonzalo Entenza** of the Argentinean General Direction of Environmental Affairs of the Ministry

for Foreign Affairs is the focal point for the Latin America and Caribbean region. Finally, **Ms. Jane Stratford**, Head of the International Chemicals Branch of the British Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is the regional focal point for the Western Europe and others region. ICCM Resolution I/1 states that "intersessional work be promoted through, among other things, holding regional meetings and the designation of regional Strategic Approach focal points and communication of the details of the focal points to the Strategic Approach secretariat." The regional focal points will, with the support of the SAICM secretariat, be responsible for coordination within their respective regions. Already, regional focal points are engaged with other stakeholders and the secretariat in planning for regional meetings. At its upcoming meeting, the African region will discuss terms of reference for its focal point, which other regions may also wish to consider. For contact details of regional focal points, please visit www.chem.unep.ch/saicm.



Four of the five regional focal points (from left to right): Ms. Abiola Olanipekun (Africa), Mr. Eisaku Toda (Asia Pacific), Ms. Rodica Ella Morohoi (CEE) and Mr. Gonzalo Entenza (Grulac) Photos / regional focal points & ENB



UNITAR's workshop on SAICM gathered over 100 participants Photo/ UNITAR

UNITAR's Global Thematic Workshop on SAICM

Experiences gained by UNITAR as it has assisted countries with chemical management capacity building projects suggest that issues of governance (*"the how"*) are as important as technical issues (*"the what"*) towards achieving successful and results-oriented capacity building. This major theme, and the clear link between governance and SAICM implementation, was highlighted by Achim Halpaap, Principal Co-ordinator of UNITAR's Programmes in Chemicals, Waste and Environmental Governance at a recent UNITAR/IOMC Thematic Workshop on "Governance, Civil Society, Participation and

Strengthening Partnerships for Chemicals and Waste Management and SAICM Implementation." Over 100 persons from a wide and diverse range of governments, NGOs, industry groups, IGOs, labour organizations and academia participated in the workshop. Sponsors and partners for the event included the Government of Switzerland, OPCW, and organizations collaborating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). For the Conclusions and Recommendations from the workshop, please visit www.unitar.org/cwg/tw/tw10.html.

UNITAR and IOMC pilot projects for SAICM

In June, 2006, Belarus, Pakistan, Panama and Tanzania were selected to participate as pilot countries in a Swiss-supported, UNITAR/IOMC project assisting with initial activities for national SAICM implementation. The project comprises a contribution to the SAICM Quick Start Programme and is implemented through co-operation of all seven Participating Organisations and observers of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC): FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, UNDP and the World Bank. Key project activities include, *inter alia*: development of a national governance structure for SAICM implementation; preparation of a National SAICM Capacity Self-

Assessment; organization of a National Forum on Priority Setting; and implementation of two partnership projects through involvement of government, industry and public interest NGOs. In addition, the project seeks to "mainstream" sound chemicals management issues into the national development planning process in participating countries. Some 44 countries applied to participate in the pilot projects, but currently available resources allowed sponsorship of only four countries. UNITAR will work with countries and potential donors to explore opportunities for additional support. For more information please visit www.unitar.org/cwg/inp/index.html.

Synergies at COP 2 of the Stockholm Convention



Participants in the synergies contact group during Stockholm COP 2. Photo/ ENB

Synergies and SAICM

The Overarching Policy Strategy recognizes the need to improve synergies in paragraph 5, 6c), 16m), 17c), 25 or 29, including between existing instruments and between activities of international institutions, secretariats and Governments. The Global Plan of Action in activity 11, 80, 160, 170, 171 and 173 offers a range of concrete measures on synergies relevant to all stakeholders.

Viewed in the broader context of the United Nations reform process, the enhancement of synergies between sectors and stakeholders is an issue of great interest for SAICM and chemicals management multilateral agreements. At its second meeting in May 2006, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention took a decision on synergies (SC-2/15) that may set in motion a joint process to enhance synergies among secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention. The decision requests the President of the Stockholm Convention to develop a supplementary report exploring specific ways cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the programmatic level that would be mutually beneficial to each. The report would be submitted to a joint ad hoc working group, which if agreed to by both the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, would be composed of representatives of 15 Parties of each of the three conventions. The joint working group, taking into account the supplementary report and related documents, would prepare joint recommenda-

tions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels to be forwarded to next meetings of the Conference of the Parties of each convention. Synergies will next be discussed at the upcoming meetings of the Conferences of the Parties of the Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, to be held from 9-13 October 2006 and 27 November-1 December 2006, respectively. These meetings will need to decide whether they agree with the process set out in SC-2/15, including the establishment of the joint ad hoc working group, an initial meeting of which would take place in 2007, most likely later in the year. While the debate around the development of synergies between similar chemicals initiatives continues, the existing chemicals agreements must be mindful about the vital role SAICM plays in this arena. Increased cooperation between multilateral environmental agreements is one of the keys to achieving the 2020 goal of managing chemicals more effectively articulated in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

IFCS Forum V



Budapest and the Danube Photo/ Andrew Wallis



Health and environmental concerns associated with heavy metals; global needs for further action?

In conjunction with Forum V, the Government of Switzerland is organizing an all day side event on heavy metals to be held **23 September 2006**. All Forum V participants are invited to participate. The programme and other information on the event are available on the IFCS Forum V website.

The theme of Forum V will be Chemical Safety for Sustainable Development. Since 1994 as a broad-based alliance of all stakeholders, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemicals Safety (IFCS) has provided the mechanism to facilitate these partners to initiate work and advanced efforts for the sound management of chemicals. At Forum V the IFCS will take stock of the progress achieved on the commitments and recommendations made at previous sessions of the Forum and consider strategies to address a number of internationally identified priorities. The meeting will once again provide countries the opportunity to discuss issues on the international agenda and emphasize their special needs and concerns with respect to improving chemicals management. Representatives of all IFCS participant groups - governments, international organizations, industry, labour unions, public interest groups, and science associations – are involved in preparing the agenda and programme. Topics on the agenda in-

clude: addressing the widening gap among countries in following chemical safety policies, applying precaution in the context of chemical safety, toys and chemical safety, and the sound management of chemicals and poverty reduction. At Forum V, governments and other stakeholders will consider the future role of the IFCS in light of the final agreements on SAICM that was adopted at the International Conference on Chemicals Management 4-6 February 2006. Side events on a range of subjects are being organized by participants including: south-south cooperation on the sound management of chemicals, availability and accessibility of hazard data, globally harmonized system for classification and labelling and ecologically sound integrated pest vector management. The outcome of the side event on south-south cooperation will be considered in plenary under the agenda item "addressing the widening gap". For additional information on IFCS Forum V, please visit its website: www.ifcs.ch

Action by governing bodies on SAICM

The International Conference on Chemicals Management in its resolution I/1 commended "SAICM to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and encouraged them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge SAICM[...]". Furthermore, Ministers, heads of delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector stated in the Dubai Declaration that they "will strive to integrate SAICM into the work programmes of all relevant United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes consistent with their mandates as accorded by their respective governing bodies." Acting upon this, three governing bodies of intergovernmental organizations—the UNEP Governing Council, the UNITAR Board of Trustees, and the World Health Assembly have officially considered SAICM. On 9 February 2006, SAICM received its first endorsement when UNEP Governing Council in its decision SS.IX/1 formally endorsed SAICM as contained in its three main texts, the Dubai Declaration, the Overarch-

ing Policy Strategy, and the Global Plan of Action. The decision invited other organizations and governments to contribute resources to SAICM and the Quick Start Programme (QSP), make contributions to the QSP Trust Fund, and "provide voluntary extra-budgetary resources in support of the Strategic Approach secretariat in the fulfillment of its functions". Following suit, the UNITAR Board of Trustees in its Decision on SAICM on 27 April 2006 at its 44th session similarly endorsed SAICM and called for its continued support. One month later on 27 May 2006, the 59th World Health Assembly formally noted SAICM and urged its member states to participate in SAICM implementation, nominate SAICM national focal points, and "take full account of the health aspects of chemical safety in national implementation of SAICM". Governing bodies of other IGOs such as FAO and ILO are expected to take up SAICM in due course. Such actions should help to incorporate the objectives of SAICM into the work programmes of each organization within their respective mandates.



The 59th World Health Assembly
Photo/ WHO



The 9th session of the UNEP Governing Council & Global Environmental Forum Photo/ ENB

A new logo for SAICM

The secretariat is pleased to introduce a new visual identity for SAICM featuring the familiar five-letter acronym. The logo will be used by the secretariat in its official correspondence, communication and information material, meeting documents and the upcoming new website.



Internships with the SAICM secretariat

The secretariat invites expressions of interest in internships from post-graduate students from relevant disciplines such as international affairs, environmental management, chemistry or public health. Internships will provide students with experience of working in the United Nations, including exposure to an active area of international policy and to project management. Internships are unpaid and are for a minimum of three months. For further information and application materials please contact esantana@chemicals.unep.ch.

Upcoming meetings

11-14 September 2006	SAICM African regional meeting, Cairo
24-29 September 2006	5 th session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum V), Budapest
9-13 October 2006	3 rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, Geneva
18 October 2006	SAICM QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee, Paris
30 October– 3 November 2006	18th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Montreal Protocol, New Dehli
6-8 November 2006	UNEP Symposium on illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals, Prague
6-10 November 2006	2 nd meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC), Geneva
20-22 November 2006	SAICM EU–JUSSCANNZ meeting, Barcelona

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