

## ICCA Input to the SAICM Progress Report 2017-2019

### Overview

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) represents chemical manufacturers around the world. Our membership is made up of the trade associations around the world that represent chemical manufacturers in countries and regions. ICCA is a committed stakeholder in the SAICM process. This report details many of the ways ICCA and its members contributed to the SAICM objectives during the SAICM Progress Report Period 2017-2019. ICCA will detail its contributions to the future SAICM beyond 2020 initiative in a separate document.

In our previous update reports on the UN SAICM Implementation Indicators, ICCA has reported survey results from our ICCA membership on each of the 20 official SAICM indicators. ICCA notes that this approach yielded data from each SAICM region, except Africa, but notes that there is a subjectivity/qualification as well as objectivity/quantification in collecting this data. In light of the discussions on improving the SAICM progress report during the Third Open Ended Working Group in Montevideo, Uruguay, we have included here an overview of how ICCA has facilitated progress toward the SAICM objectives during the reporting period rather than including survey data from ICCA associations.

### Risk Reduction

One of ICCA's core contributions to SAICM's risk reduction objective is Responsible Care®, the chemical manufacturing industry's environmental, health, safety, and security performance initiative. Through Responsible Care, chemical companies around the world work to improve their performance, respond to stakeholders' concerns, and foster the safe management of chemicals in commerce.

For more than 20 years, member associations of ICCA's Responsible Care® Leadership Group (RCLG) have reported a range of key performance indicators (KPIs) that reflect their member company activities in areas such as worker safety, process safety, air and water emissions, and transportation safety.

While many associations have mature reporting processes, some of the RCLG's newer associations are still developing them. In addition, the number of countries/associations that report data to ICCA varies from year to year, the methods that each uses to collect and report data can vary, and the data is not uniform (i.e., some countries submit data from sources such as government websites without directly collecting it from their members). Therefore, any metrics presented provide a snapshot of the chemical industry's overall global progress on KPIs.

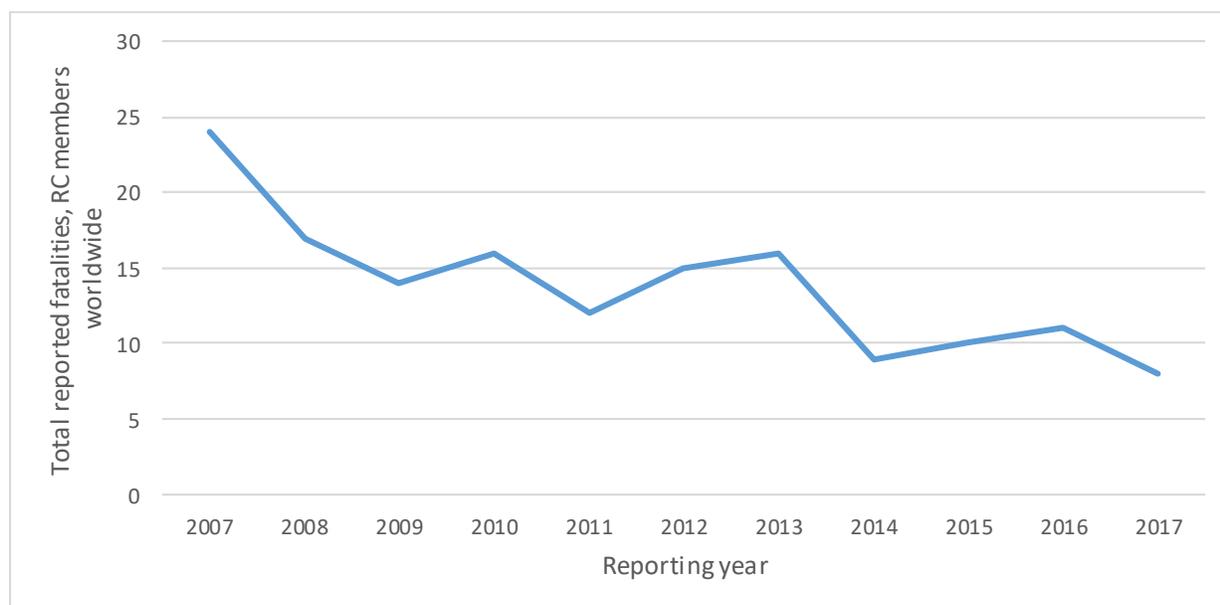
ICCA is working to establish Responsible Care in new regions and strengthen the capabilities of national associations, including their ability to report KPIs. Since 2016, ICCA has expanded Responsible Care® to three new countries – Croatia, Egypt and Pakistan – and is working to grow the initiative in additional countries, particularly in Asia and Africa.

Associations are encouraged to report health and safety metrics from their memberships, including the number of fatalities, lost time injury rate, and number of process safety incidents. Of the 69 countries

that report data to ICCA, 40 report fatality data from Responsible Care member companies. Of these 40, 22 have reported data from 2007 to 2017.

The results from these 22 associations indicated that there has been a decrease in the number of fatalities at Responsible Care companies worldwide since 2007 (Figure 1). Further, the total number of fatalities at Responsible Care companies has decreased by more than 50 percent, while the number of persons in thousands who work at companies participating in Responsible Care for reporting associations in this study has increased. The fatality rate per thousand employees has decreased by a factor of approximately 4 over the past 11 years for the associations included in this study.

**Figure 1. Number of fatalities at RC companies from a sample of 22 associations, 2007-2017.**



### **Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation**

In 2016, ICCA established a Capacity Building Task Force to take stock of future capacity building challenges and map a strategy for the period of 2020 and beyond. Activities also included developing a comprehensive range of module-based training materials covering some fundamental aspects of sound chemicals management. Since 2019, the task force has implemented a new results-oriented approach that also tracks progress of those organizations receiving ICCA funding.

The Capacity Building Task Force recognizes that global capacity building involves working with regulators and enforcement authorities to prevent illegal diversion of chemical products, developing emergency response programs, and training distributors on safe handling. Two key efforts of the task force are to strengthen product stewardship activities and improve GHS implementation.

ICCA developed a Regulatory Toolbox in 2013 and updated it in 2018. This guidance helps developing economies establish high-quality chemicals management practices while reducing regulatory cost and complexity.

Working closely with their counterparts across the globe, experts from leading multinational companies and well-resourced associations have contributed tens of thousands of hours of volunteer time to expand Responsible Care® to new countries and regions. Expert support is also ongoing to existing RCLG members.

Efforts have been focused on the following objectives:

- Strengthening capacity of industry and governments in developing economies to implement sound chemicals management programs, with a focus on local small and medium-sized enterprises through Responsible Care® and risk-based regulation. This includes product stewardship, process safety, transportation safety, emergency response, product safety, and efficient regulation.
- Sharing chemicals management expertise with regulators; supporting implementation of science-and risk-based chemicals management schemes in countries that are considering implementing a chemical management regulation ; encouraging regulatory cooperation; and promoting adoption of the UN Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and creation of a chemical inventory as first steps toward safe and responsible management of chemicals.
- Ensuring the global chemical industry is viewed as a positive contributor to safe and environmentally sound use of chemicals and associated wastes by key governments and intergovernmental organizations.
- Enhancing Global Product Strategy (GPS) awareness among key stakeholders, particularly in developing and emerging economies in order to emphasize voluntary actions underway that promote safe use and management of chemicals by manufacturers and others throughout various value chains.
- Enhancing local association advocacy and communications by equipping representatives with technical and practical knowledge on implementing Responsible Care and developing and implementing risk-based chemical regulations.
- Increasing global awareness of chemistry's role in advancing sustainability.

Following is a summary of some of the capacity building activities ICCA has engaged in since 2016 in Asia, Latin America and Africa:

#### Asia

**Asia Region:** The ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Project (ARCP), an initiative based on the ICCA Global Principles for Regulatory Cooperation and led jointly by the Singapore Chemical Industry Council, American Chemistry Council (ACC), European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), and the Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA), has held workshops focusing on GHS alignment, chemical inventory requirements, and prioritization of risk assessments. A July 2018 event in the Philippines was attended by 40 representatives from industry associations and key government authorities from all 10 ASEAN members. The cooperative effort continues to have the potential to help economies achieve their mandate of protecting human health and the environment without creating barriers to trade, as well as helping to significantly reduce costs for both government and industry. These efforts have helped to facilitate sound chemicals management in the region.

Capacity building for the ASEAN countries is a key objective for the ARCP, which held its 6th workshop September 24-26, 2019, in Hanoi, Vietnam, hosted by the Chemical Society of Vietnam (CSV). Discussions focused on how ASEAN Member States have been or are planning to implement the two ASEAN guidance documents developed by ARCP virtual working groups addressing GHS Alignment and Development of Chemical Inventory in their chemical management regimes. The use of ASEAN tools for prioritizing chemical substances for risk assessments also was introduced to the 2019 workshop participants.

**Japan:** JCIA has developed and delivered a comprehensive capacity building workshop series which covers a wide variety of topics ranging from basic awareness to developing training materials on process safety, Responsible Care®, and chemicals management across the region. In 2017 to 2019, JCIA delivered more than a dozen workshops in seven ASEAN countries. In 3 years JCIA supported Process Safety Metric (PSM) workshop in Seven ASEAN countries and in Chinese Taipei for the Taiwan Responsible Care Association (TRCA), which attracted 90 participants. Clear and practical demonstrations showed participants how to identify a Process Safety Event (PSE), understand why it needs to be measured, and implement ways to improve. TRCA required its member companies to start PSE reporting beginning in 2019.

JCIA also is providing an English-language version of PSM data entry file for members of the Asia-Pacific Responsible Care Organization (APRO) and offers tools such as PowerPoint presentations and testing materials that can be adapted for use by other associations.

**China:** The two RCLG member organizations in China – AICM and CPCIF – carried out important capacity building events in several of the country's largest chemical parks, offering a more efficient and cost-effective way to bring Responsible Care to domestic companies. Side events at two China Responsible Care conferences in 2016 and 2017 brought together representatives of chemical parks, Chinese chemical companies, and multinational companies. International experts illustrated the benefits of improved environment, health and safety performance; maintaining strong relations with nearby communities; and operating mutual aid programs in emergency response situations. The conference side events encouraged companies to engage with CPCIF to improve awareness of key areas such as product stewardship and to enable companies to share experience and best practices.

ICCA and UNEP have now sponsored three Responsible Care forums in China. The third of these occurred in 2018, focusing on emergency response communication and development of Responsible Care® management systems in chemical parks. The Chinese national associations also expanded their visitation schedules in 2018, travelling to four chemical parks, nine companies, and three vocational schools in the less-developed west and northeast areas of the country to promote Responsible Care and effective chemicals management processes.

**India:** Since being identified as a priority region in 2013, the Indian Chemical Council (ICC) has successfully worked with several organizations to improve and expand Responsible Care in India. The American Chemistry Council and the U.S. government's Chemical Security Program (CSP) have helped fund and conduct more than a dozen workshops and other events related to development of ICC's Responsible Care Security Code. Efforts have also focused on updating other codes and supporting implementation materials covering product safety and stewardship, process safety, and distribution. Experts from ACC and U.S. organizations including Sandia National Laboratories,

AccuTech Consulting, CRDF Global, and others have provided major contributions to this effort, helping ICC enhance its Responsible Care activities and increase member commitment.

**Pakistan:** New RCLG member Pakistan Chemical Manufacturers Association (PCMA) has benefited from extensive sharing of the materials and experiences of other national chemical associations, including ACC, the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association, and Cefic. Capacity building throughout 2017-18 included ICCA-funded workshops addressing process safety, product stewardship, and self-assessment reporting processes. Multiple outreach activities involved government agencies, emergency responders, chemical importers, and transporters, with security elements given special focus.

### Latin America

**Latin America Regulatory Cooperation Forum:** The forum is a collaborative initiative that promotes a dialogue between industry and governments in the region to achieve regulatory alignment, promoting risk-based regulations and transparent policy making processes. Launched in October 2017, the Forum held its first workshop in May 2018, in Brazil (supported by ACC and Cefic), and was attended by almost 70 representatives from industries and governments in Latin America. The main outcome was the announcement of a Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Brazil and Argentina for fostering regulatory cooperation on the sound management of chemicals.

The "Second Latin American Meeting on Integral Chemical Management" took place November 20-21, 2019, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Jointly organized by ICCA, UNEP, the Argentine Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (SGAyDS), and the Chamber of Industry Chemistry and Petrochemicals in Argentina (CIQyP), the meeting convened more than 150 professionals from Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru), international industrial associations, government entities, local national associations, non-governmental organizations and industry representatives.

The main objectives of the meeting were to promote regulatory cooperation by establishing a dialogue between stakeholders and governments to coordinate regional activities related to the integrated management of chemicals in Latin America; improve implementation of homogenized regulatory frameworks; develop best practices; and share the results of the UNEP Special Program in Argentina, specifically the institutional experience of the Argentine government in the development of the chemical products management bill. The meeting also featured a chemical risk assessment workshop with participants from industry, government, and academia.

As a result of the meeting, representatives agreed to move forward with three main actions:

- Agree on a Charter of Principles on Regulatory Cooperation among the industrial associations and governments of Latin America;
- Launch two virtual working groups on GHS and national inventories of chemicals in commerce, with the aim of discussing and generating documentation that helps advance Regulatory Cooperation Projects (such as the ASEAN case); and
- Hold two webinars in 2020, the first of which will focus on SAICM (explaining its objectives and value for industry and governments) and the second of which will promote best practices for the development of chemical regulations.

**Brazil:** Capacity building by Brazil's national chemicals association, ABIQUIM, promotes a range of tools and publications as well as conferences and seminars. During 2015-2016 alone, ABIQUIM's efforts reached an estimated 2,000 people, including more than 500 government agency representatives. ABIQUIM's program offers an in-depth, 80-hour training course on ICCA's Global Product Strategy (providing provides education and implementation tools in support of safe chemicals management); an ABIQUIM-developed risk analysis tool called *Aquarela*; and other ICCA guidance materials.

**Argentina:** The Argentine government's work to strengthen chemicals management is being supported under ICCA's partnership with UNEP through the active involvement of industry, improved information sharing, and product stewardship activities including targeted workshops and other outreach. Working closely with CIQyP (Argentina's national chemicals association), government efforts are focused on Responsible Care®, chemicals management, and advancing GHS adoption and implementation.

A meeting in April 2018, hosted by the Argentine Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Buenos Aires and held in cooperation with UNEP and ICCA, sought to strengthen joint efforts between government authorities, industry, the UN, and other stakeholders to improve chemicals and waste management at the national level. The event attracted approximately 250 participants, including representatives from 11 government ministries together with industry value chain partners.

## Africa

**Morocco:** ICCA's Africa Task Force (ATF) is responsible for helping to improve chemical management in African countries, including the establishment of new national Responsible Care associations. Currently, there are well-established Responsible Care® programs in Egypt, Morocco and South Africa. The Moroccan national association, in collaboration with Cefic, has undertaken significant outreach to West African countries, several of which have made declarations of interest to develop Responsible Care programs in their countries.

Capacity building funding enabled Moroccan chemicals association Fédération de la Chimie et de la Parachimie (FCP) to host a successful conference on chemicals management and Responsible Care for French-speaking Africa. Over 100 participants from nine countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, and Tunisia, gathered in September 2018 to hear from government ministers and speakers from the RCLG, Cefic, UNEP, and OPCW. Topics focused on the key principles and benefits of Responsible Care, its contribution to sound chemicals management, and SAICM. During the conference, representatives from five Moroccan companies shared their experiences in implementing Responsible Care® during roundtable discussions.

**Kenya:** The Africa Task Force presently has received requests for assistance from 12 additional African countries on topics including: implementing a GHS-based chemical management regime; safe transport of dangerous goods; chemical storage and handling; and emergency preparedness. Recent ATF activities include a Responsible Care workshop held in 2019 in Kenya, with delegations from Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa. Plans are now underway for a workshop for West African countries to review Responsible Care requirements for new associations.

## Knowledge and Information Sharing

In addition to the information developed and shared by ICCA through our capacity building activities, ICCA worked with UNEP to publish a study demonstrating the availability of high quality, up-to-date health and safety information for chemicals in commerce. [The report](#) identifies more than 100 publicly available EHS information sources and provides profiles of 41 of the largest, which can be used to easily assess information on chemicals with varying breadth and depth.

The study results will help authorities in developing countries gain ready access to EHS information on a wide range of industrial chemicals in commerce to aid in facilitating GHS implementation. The study has been submitted as an Information document to the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-3). In addition, ICCA and UNEP are discussing options to further publicize the study results to make country authorities aware of the variety of data sources. To build on OECD's continuous efforts to update its eChemPortal, ICCA efforts are underway to assess how access and use of this data portal could be improved, and to ensure availability of critical EHS information to further advance SAICM objectives. In particular, ICCA is evaluating how the existing tools and information can help in particular developing countries on their journey to enhancing safe chemicals management.

The ICCA Long Range Research Initiative's (LRI) mission is to identify and fill gaps in understanding of the hazards posed by chemicals and to improve the methods available for assessing the associated risks. The LRI has become a unique source of scientifically credible information, tools, and methods for use by industry and regulatory bodies.

The ICCA-LRI Research Portfolio funds over 100 projects within 3 priority areas: Innovating Chemical Testing; Understanding Everyday Exposures to Chemicals; and Translating Outcomes for Product Safety (<https://www.icca-chem.org/icca-long-range-research-initiative/>). Annual ICCA LRI Workshops showcase the global impact of LRI-supported research. Since 2005, these workshops have provided dynamic forums that foster interactions among industry and academic researchers, governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and regulatory decision makers on areas of mutual interest in chemical management.

## **Governance**

ICCA and member organizations are strongly committed to implementing the strategic approach. ICCA has showcased this commitment through our participation in key SAICM meetings, representation of Business and Industry at the SAICM Bureau, and significant number of capacity building and technical cooperation projects. Additionally, ICCA extended its Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP, which outlines collaboration on a range of initiatives to advance sound chemicals management. The MOU includes work on joint capacity building activities, development of public-private partnerships, and convening workshops and high-level discussions on thematic areas of direct relevance to chemicals management. ICCA has also committed to providing financial support to the SAICM Secretariat under the MOU.

At the regional level, the chemical industry is also working closely with governments through the APEC Chemical Dialogue to promote GHS implementation, capacity building for regulators, and SAICM implementation. ICCA has, and will continue to strongly advocate for the importance of sound chemicals management as a core enabler of sustainable development. ICCA strongly supports the inclusion of SAICM goals in national development plans and efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.