
**Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach
to International Chemicals Management**
Bangkok, 21-23 May 2007

Report of the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Introduction

1. At its first session, which took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), comprising the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action (GPA).¹ The Conference also adopted a number of resolutions, including resolution I/1 on arrangements for the implementation of SAICM.² In the Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/1, it was recommended that work on implementation of SAICM between sessions of the Conference be undertaken through regional meetings. The current meeting, held in Bangkok, from 21-23 May 2007, hosted by the Pollution Control Department (PCD), Thailand, and convened in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan, was the first such meeting for the Asia-Pacific region. Its purpose, as envisaged in paragraph 26 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, was to review progress on implementation of SAICM in the region, to provide guidance on implementation to regional stakeholders and to provide a forum for technical and strategic discussions and the exchange of information.

I. Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was opened at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 21 May 2007 by Mr. Matthew Gubb, Coordinator, SAICM Secretariat who welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers who were to make opening statements.
3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director-General, Pollution Control Department (Thailand) and Mr. Eisaku Toda, SAICM regional focal point for Asia-Pacific (Japan). Mr. Wangwongwatana welcomed the participants to Thailand and recalled the background leading to the adoption of SAICM in Dubai including the convening of the first preparatory meeting of SAICM held in Bangkok in November 2003. He said SAICM was now entering the first phase of

¹ Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/International Conference on Chemicals Management.1/7), annexes I–III. The Conference adopted the Dubai Declaration and the Overarching Policy Strategy and recommended the use and further development of the Global Plan of Action as a working tool and guidance document.

² Ibid, annex IV.

implementation and countries at different stages of development of their national programmes for sound management of chemicals had different priorities and demands for strengthening their capacities. The current regional meeting would establish priorities and key approaches as well as the way forward for implementation of SAICM in the Asia-Pacific region. It would also provide a forum for information exchange on how to deal with the adverse effects of hazardous chemicals with limited resources, and guidance on SAICM implementation to all stakeholders at the regional level. He briefly described the imminent implementation of the national master plan on chemicals safety in Thailand. He concluded by wishing the participants a successful meeting.

4. Mr. Toda voiced his gratitude to the Government of Thailand for its hospitality and efficient organization of the meeting and thanked members of the extended planning committee for their assistance in preparing for the meeting. He welcomed the efforts at synergies that had permitted back to back meetings of a workshop to reduce mercury use and release in products for the Asia-Pacific region 17-19 May, the current meeting and the forthcoming workshop on development of legal and institutional infrastructures on sound management of chemicals from 24 to 25 May, all in Bangkok, and expressed his appreciation to the Governments of Sweden and the United States of America for their contribution to those meetings. He concluded by noting the importance of the Asia-Pacific region in particular owing to its extremely large population and its vast diversity from developed states of economic strength to small island developing states.

5. Mr. Gubb expressed his appreciation to the Government of Thailand for hosting the meeting and to the Governments of Japan, Sweden and Switzerland for their financial contribution.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

6. Mr. Supat Wangwongwatana (Thailand) and Mr. Eisaku Toda (Japan) were elected to serve as Co-Chairs for the current meeting. Ms. Chandani Panditharatne (Sri Lanka) was elected to serve as rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the agenda

7. The meeting adopted the following agenda as set out in SAICM/RM/AP.1/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Updates on activities of other regional groups.
4. Updates on activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
5. Implementation of SAICM in the Asia-Pacific region:
 - (a) Regional coordination mechanisms:
 - (i) Role and responsibilities of the regional focal point;
 - (ii) Role and responsibilities of regional representatives serving on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board;
 - (iii) Synergies with and between other relevant processes.
 - (b) National implementation of SAICM:
 - (i) Initial planning for national implementation of SAICM;
 - (ii) Guidance materials for implementation of SAICM;
 - (iii) Roles and responsibilities of SAICM national focal points.
 - (c) Regional implementation of SAICM:

- (i) Possible activities on SAICM implementation at the regional level, including possible sub-regional approaches and cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries;
 - (ii) Engagement of regional organizations, including regional development banks.
6. SAICM Quick Start Programme:
 - (a) The Quick Start Programme trust fund;
 - (b) The broader Quick Start Programme;
 - (c) Possible regional projects.
7. Financial considerations.
8. Preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management:
 - (a) Reporting to the International Conference on Chemicals Management on progress in the implementation of SAICM;
 - (b) Further development of the SAICM Global Plan of Action;
 - (c) Rules of procedure for the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
 - (d) Possible scientific workshop;
 - (e) Other intersessional work in preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
9. Establishment of the SAICM secretariat and its budget outlook.
10. Future Asia-Pacific regional meetings during the intersessional period.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

8. The participants agreed to meet in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

D. Attendance

9. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, , Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
10. The meeting was also attended by a representative from the Palestinian Authority.
11. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal , South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and World Health Organization (WHO).
12. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Associated Labor Unions – Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP), Basel Action Network – Asia-Pacific, Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia, Campaign for Alternative Industry Network (CAIN), CropLife International, Environmental Health Fund (EHF), General Directorate of Environment and Wildlife Protection, Global Alliance for

Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), Greenpeace Southeast Asia, International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), Kanto-Gakuin University, Kuwait Society for Environment Protection, Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP), Pesticide Action Network Japan (PAN-Japan), Singapore Chemical Industry Council, South East Asia Urban Environment Management (SEA UEMA Project), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Thanal, Toxics Link and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Japan.

13. In addition, a number of individuals attended as observers: Sweden, United States of America, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, National Project Coordination on Persistent Organic Pollutants and University of Sains Malaysia.

III. Updates on activities of other regional groups

14. In considering the item, the meeting had before it the report of the African regional meeting on SAICM held in Cairo, Egypt, from 11 to 14 September 2006 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/2), the report of the meeting of the European Union-JUSSCANNZ (Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway, New Zealand) countries on SAICM held in Barcelona, Spain, from 20 to 22 November 2006 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/16), the report of the Central and Eastern European regional meeting on SAICM held in Riga, Latvia, from 4 to 6 December 2006 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/19) and the report of the meeting of Arab countries held in Cairo, Egypt, from 1 to 2 April 2007 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/20). The secretariat noted that there would be a second meeting of the European Union – JUSSCANNZ countries on 12 June 2007 in Paris, France, and that the regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean would be convened in the second half of 2007.

15. The observer from Sweden recalled that the European Union – JUSSCANNZ countries had decided that even though there would be no need for further full meetings of European Union – JUSSCANNZ countries before the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, it had been agreed that informal meetings would be held in the margins of upcoming sessions of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology, the next one being in Paris on 12 June 2007, and would be open to all stakeholders. She said that the new European Union regulatory framework for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH), would come into force on 1 June 2007 on the same date that the new European Chemicals Agency would be established in Helsinki, Finland. Both were expected to be fully operational within one year. The European Union was also close to finalizing a proposal for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. She concluded by summarizing the current activities in Sweden related to chemicals management and the implementation of SAICM. The observer from the United States of America described on-going cooperation and activities through a programme for sound management of chemicals in Canada, Mexico and the United States of America and said the programme afforded an opportunity to implement SAICM through country focus on risk reduction, capacity building and information sharing. Regional and national efforts to complement SAICM would be undertaken through national programmes and technical assistance was being provided to Mexico.

IV. Updates on activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

16. The Co-Chair invited representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations present at the meeting to inform the meeting of their on-going or planned activities supporting the implementation of SAICM. The meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/11 containing information submitted by those organizations.

17. The representatives of the Chemicals Branch of UNEP, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia briefed the meeting on their activities as set out in the above-mentioned document. The representative of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia added that the Centre sought cooperation with participants at the meeting, countries in the region and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organization, particularly in the area of mercury waste and illegal traffic of hazardous waste.

18. The representative of the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific provided brief information on work being undertaken through the regional office on SAICM activities, implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their

Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer, and on the Green Customs Initiative. He said that the regional office could help countries in the implementation of SAICM through assistance for national focal point nominations, convention ratification and compliance, national capacity building, establishment of networks and regional hubs for SAICM and public awareness-raising on chemicals management.

19. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), noting the importance of pesticides in the region for pest and disease control, said that concern revolved around the problem of pesticide residues and poisoning incidences. Following the endorsement of SAICM by the FAO Council, all FAO members were committed to implementation and support of SAICM and FAO was willing to assist, through its national and regional offices to support sound management of chemicals in particular pesticides. He said that a comparison of the SAICM Global Plan of Action and the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Use and Distribution of Pesticides showed many linkages and provided useful guidance for coordinated action at the national, regional and international level. He also noted the importance of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and of effective labelling of pesticides.

20. The representative of the Basel Convention Secretariat, said assistance was being provided to countries in submitting their proposals to the Quick Start Programme trust fund. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention had adopted many decisions relevant to SAICM implementation, including decision VIII/2 and the Nairobi declaration which referred to e-wastes (electronic and electrical wastes). He said there were currently several projects being undertaken in cooperation with SPREP and there were pilot projects in 11 countries in Asia on e-wastes. That activity would shortly be expanded to Africa and Latin America. A new programme area was also being established on mercury and asbestos as part of the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention.

21. The representative of the South Asian Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) said that the SACEP Governing Council had passed a resolution endorsing SAICM and SAICM was currently being incorporated into the programme of SACEP. He suggested that there would be some value in holding sub-regional meetings on the implementation of SAICM.

22. The representative of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) provided a detailed description of work being undertaken in support of SAICM implementation. IPEN recently completed a two-year project that enabled and empowered 350 non-governmental and civil society organizations from 65 countries, including many from Asia-Pacific to initiate research, raise awareness and action on POPs and to contribute to local processes of developing National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention on POPs. He said that participating groups carried out a variety of projects and activities that responded to many of the goals of the SAICM including education of the most vulnerable populations, information dissemination in local languages, community mobilization, policies on waste management and zero waste projects.

23. The representative of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) made a presentation on progress made by the chemical industry in implementing SAICM since its adoption in Dubai. He referred to the Responsible Care Global Charter and the Global Product Strategy, and, as part of those two voluntary activities, to the Global Product Stewardship Guidelines which could assist small and medium size enterprises, in developing countries in particular, to strengthen product stewardship across the value chain and to improve chemical safety. He also made reference to capacity building activities on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the support of intergovernmental organization projects on training and education in health, safety and environment issues.

24. The representative of the Japan Chemical Industry Association referred to the Responsible Care Programme, noting activities resulting in communication with society throughout the life-cycle of the chemical. He noted the high contribution of industry to the percentage of chemicals reviewed under the OECD High Production Volume Programme and briefly described the OECD eChemPortal Information System. Finally he referred to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals training support scheme as a contribution to capacity building in the region.

25. The representative of Basel Action Network noted that, with other non-governmental organizations, work had been undertaken on linkages between the Basel Convention and SAICM. Referring to some regional and bilateral trade agreements he noted some discords between those agreements and the objectives of the Basel Convention. He urged a coordinated approach among trade and environmental agreements also taking into account labour issues..

26. The representative of the Asia-Pacific regional centre of Pesticide Action Network International said that the main area of its focus was on the community and raising public awareness on highly hazardous pesticides, in particular with regard to agricultural workers. She said the regional centre had been documenting the health and environmental impacts of pesticides especially on poor communities, and that had been used to create awareness for banning and restricting particular pesticides as well as for stronger regulations. She noted that the community monitoring methodology provided useful experience in using the precautionary approach and was based on community participatory action. She said that the regional centre was actively involved in the implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and she highlighted the SAICM provisions for alternatives particularly alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides as well as sound agricultural practices as crucial to meeting the goals of SAICM in particular with an emphasis on food security and given that alternatives and sound agricultural practices exist and are successfully implemented by non-governmental organizations.

27. The representative of CropLife International noted his organization's goal to combat insects, pests and weeds in the agriculture sector and for disease vector control. He said the products they used were extensively researched to allow for maximum efficiency and took into account safe use under local geographic, climatic and cultural conditions. He advocated strong chemical regulations based on sound science and including the benefits associated with the use of chemicals. He noted that CropLife International was providing technical support to assist countries to implement the FAO Code of Conduct and was working in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to promote the safe use of pesticides.

28. The representative of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute described the role of his organization in the SAICM process and highlighted the role played by non-governmental and civil society organizations in meeting the objectives of the SAICM Global Plan of Action. He also described his institute's involvement in activities for chemicals control and noted the changing roles of stakeholders saying that in the future governments, businesses and civil society should act as partners.

29. The representative of Toxics Link noted several issues relevant to the implementation of SAICM including generation of primary data and the convening of workshops on chemicals production. He said other issues covered by the group were lead in paints, mercury, solid waste management and electronic waste. He concluded by noting joint work with IPEN and other non-governmental organization on persistent organic pollutants and pesticides.

30. The representative of WWF Japan noted that a group of non-governmental organizations had together adopted, in 2004, the Tokyo declaration for a toxics free earth. He hoped that there would be opportunities for non-governmental participation in national implementation of SAICM. He reiterated the need to raise public awareness and to explore partnerships with non-governmental organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.

V. Implementation of SAICM in the Asia-Pacific region

A. Regional coordination mechanisms

1. Role and responsibilities of the regional focal point

31. Introducing the sub-item, the Co-Chair said that discussion on possible terms of reference for the Asia-Pacific regional focal point could be based on the terms of reference developed for the African regional focal point contained in Annex I of document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/2, and those developed for the Central and Eastern European regional focal point contained in Annex I of document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/19. He noted that the African region had established a core group with the aim of assessing the region's needs and making preparations for the implementation of SAICM in Africa and that while there was no formal core group for the Central and Eastern European region, a bridging group had been established involving six countries supporting the regional focal point. He added that European Union-JUSSCANNZ countries had concluded that it was neither necessary to develop terms of reference for their regional focal point nor to establish a core group. The meeting was informed that the meeting of Arab countries had also agreed on a coordination mechanism.

32. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives considered that specific terms of reference should be developed for the Asia-Pacific regional focal point. Such terms of reference would strengthen the role of the regional focal point and that work would be further facilitated once national focal points had been designated in all the states of the region. While some representatives suggested there should be a core group for the Asia-Pacific region, others considered that it might be premature.

33. The meeting agreed to set up a small informal group co-chaired by Mr. B. P. Nilaratna (India) and Mr. Rasio Sani (Indonesia) to develop draft terms of reference for the regional focal point taking into consideration both the terms of reference drafted by the African regional group and the Central and Eastern European regional group as a basis for discussion. In relation to agenda item 5(c), possible activities on SAICM implementation at the regional level, the same group was also mandated to examine modalities for establishing a group for coordination within the Asia-Pacific region.

34. The meeting agreed to the draft terms of reference for the Asia-Pacific regional focal point as presented by the informal group and amended by plenary. The terms of reference are attached as annex I to the present report.

35. On the issue of a coordination mechanism, some representatives said that it would be difficult to agree on sub-regions and membership of a core group at this stage and suggested that informal mechanisms to strengthen the role of the regional focal point through support and information exchange should be envisaged instead. It was also considered premature to establish a core group for which the mandate had not been clearly defined. Others suggested that some form of sub-regional coordination mechanism should be established as its primary role would be that of facilitating participation in and implementation of SAICM and assisting the regional focal point in carrying out his tasks as identified by the terms of reference set out in annex I to the present report. It was also suggested that an informal group might be established to act as a “bridge” for information between representatives of the Quick Start Programme, the regional focal point and the national focal points and other stakeholders.

36. The meeting agreed to note the invitation of the Co-Chair for volunteers to assist the regional focal point, on a provisional basis, to act as a bridge for information exchange with national focal points from member countries, the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, civil society and industry. Nauru, with assistance from the SPREP Secretariat, and Qatar volunteered to assist the regional focal point to bridge with certain groups of countries. Subject to consultations, FAO, on behalf of IOMC member organisations, ICCA, IPEN and SDPI volunteered to nominate representatives to assist the regional focal point in this regard.

2. Role and responsibilities of regional representatives serving on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board

37. Introducing the sub-item, the Co-Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the terms of reference for the African region Government representatives on the Executive Board, which were contained in Annex II of document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/2, and those developed for the Central and Eastern European Government representatives contained in Annex II of document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/19. He also noted that at the regional meeting of the European Union-JUSSCANNZ countries, it had been concluded that it was not necessary to develop terms of reference for their regional representatives on the Executive Board.

38. Following an initial expression of views, the meeting agreed that the contact group established to discuss terms of reference for the regional focal point would also develop terms of reference for the regional representatives on the Executive Board taking into consideration the terms of reference drafted by the African regional group and the Central and Eastern European regional group as a basis for discussion.

39. The meeting agreed to the draft terms of reference for the Asia-Pacific Government representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board as presented by the informal group and amended by plenary. The terms of reference are attached as annex II to the present report.

3. Synergies with and between other relevant processes

40. The meeting took note of processes and developments at the international level relevant to SAICM which were likely to engage the region. The secretariat briefly introduced the following activities:

- the current discussions on synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as summarized in the report of the first meeting of their Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination, held in Helsinki from 26 to 28 March 2007, which is contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/21;
- the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the call in UNEP Governing Council decision 22/4 for SAICM to be “regularly reviewed to assess progress on chemical safety, in the light of the targets set at the World Summit on Sustainable

Development, in cooperation with other relevant processes” and the scheduled consideration of chemicals issues by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2010-2011;

- the forthcoming meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), 22 June to 3 July 2007, Cairns, Australia during which chemicals issues will be raised on a number of occasions as described in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/22.

41. The Co-Chair informed the meeting of ongoing discussions on the future of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety following its recent fifth session held in Budapest, Hungary from 25 to 29 September 2006, and suggestions as to possible integration with SAICM in the future.
42. The representative of the Basel Convention Secretariat called on all countries to participate in the synergies process by providing input to their representatives in the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group.
43. The representative of SPREP called on and encouraged the meeting also to recognize and note the synergistic work that was going on between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Waigani Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region.
44. The representative of WHO briefed the meeting on the work programme of the regional initiative on health and the environment in Southeast and East Asian countries, which included 14 countries of the region and of the Health and Environment Ministerial Forum which was expected to take place in Bangkok, 8 to 9 August 2007.
45. The representative of the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific informed the meeting of the work of the Asia-Europe Environmental Forum, a collaboration of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany (HSF), the Swedish Environmental Secretariat in Asia (SIDA-Sensa), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and UNEP, which promoted policy dialogue and cooperation in the fields of sustainable development, climate change, renewable energy and chemicals management. The forum brings together various stakeholder representatives from Asia and Europe to discuss and review environment policies that affect the two regions. A fourth roundtable entitled Combine or Combust! Cooperating on Chemicals and Hazardous Substance Management with multistakeholder participation, followed on from a decision that more work and attention should be directed towards chemicals management. The report of the roundtable containing the conclusions was also displayed and distributed during the meeting.
46. The representative of FAO reiterated that national coordination and collaboration was essential for successful implementation of SAICM. Citing that the Rotterdam Convention had an effective mechanism for joint implementing with UNEP covering industrial chemicals and FAO covering pesticides, he noted national workshop that had recently been held with the aim of assisting in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention at the national level. He also described the newly signed memorandum of understanding between FAO and WHO on sound management of pesticides.
47. The representative of the Environmental Health Fund/International POPs Elimination Network said that synergies with the International Labour Organization should be noted and recalled decision RC-3/5 of the Rotterdam Convention which recommended the use of and contribution to the Quick Start Programme and the decision to take advantage to mainstream chemicals management into development strategies and poverty alleviation.
48. The observer from the United States of America, referring to the committee meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, a group of 21 “member economies” from around the Pacific rim in Asia and North America, noted that, while usually attended by foreign affairs and trade officials, several of the meetings might be of interest to regulatory officials working on chemicals related issues, in particular the Chemical Dialogue meeting on 28 June where many economy representatives would be present discussing the trade and economic challenges facing the chemical industry and chemical users focused on improving regulatory policies. Relevant national ministries should be contacted to inquire about potential participation at the meetings. An informal meeting would complement and be convened following the Chemical Dialogue offering an opportunity for chemical regulators to meet further and discuss regional SAICM implementation and related issues. She suggested that those interested in participation could contact her for additional details.
49. Following the introductory statements, a general discussion took place in which several representatives referred to the possibility of trade agreements being in conflict with the Basel Convention, the Waigani Convention, or the goals of SAICM. It was urged that developing countries

not become a dumping ground for hazardous wastes and that synergies in general and trade agreements in particular should not be used in such a way that they undermined existing individual multilateral environmental agreements or SAICM. Nonetheless support was expressed for continuing synergies especially in the area of information exchange.

50. The meeting took note of the various presentations made under the sub-item on synergies.

B. National implementation of SAICM

1. Initial planning for national implementation of SAICM

51. The Co-Chair drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/10 containing information submitted by Asia-Pacific Governments on their initial national implementation activities in response to a questionnaire which had been circulated by the secretariat. An addendum of that document (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/10/Add.1) was made available during the meeting compiling the responses provided by countries to the secretariat by additional countries. A mechanism would be developed to disseminate responses provided subsequent to the current meeting.

52. The representatives of the Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kiribati, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates briefed the meeting on initial planning for national implementation of SAICM supplementary to the information they had provided in the above-mentioned documents.

53. The representative of Sri Lanka described the current situation for national implementation of SAICM in her country. Sri Lanka was party to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as the Montreal Protocol. The national implementation plan had been completed and funds secured for its implementation in 2007. She added that the national chemical profile, an action plan, and a report on the integrated national programme for the Sound management of chemicals in Sri Lanka had all been completed. She further noted that the UNITAR project on chemical management had been initiated and the national poison information and national cleaner production centres established. She concluded by saying that the Ministry of Environmental planned to seek assistance in the Quick Start Programme on chemical management during the current year, that the Technical Advisory Committee for industrial chemical management needed to be established the national chemical profile had to be updated, priority setting had to be carried out and the establishment of an implementation mechanism was needed.

54. The representative of Pakistan said that the constitution of an intergovernmental committee was in the final stages of preparation. Currently Pakistan was in the process of ratification of the Stockholm Convention. He added that with the assistance of the Rotterdam Convention secretariat, Pakistan would have a national document to develop a work plan for implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. He concluded by noting that the national implementation plan for POPs had been submitted to the Stockholm Convention secretariat.

55. The representative of the Marshall Islands said that while implementation of objectives under the Montreal Protocol and the Stockholm Convention had been successfully mainstreamed in collaboration with other Pacific Islands, for which SPREP and UNEP had provided assistance, the Marshall Islands was still learning about the SAICM process. She said it would be valuable to obtain some assistance from the SAICM secretariat and to work with SPREP so that her country and other small island developing states could engage in the SAICM process.

56. The representative of Qatar said his country had prepared a strategy on the short, mid and long term levels. The national implementation plan had been completed and would be submitted shortly. Qatar also had a national database for chemicals substances and a law for environment and control of chemicals import and export. A committee had been established to prepare for the sound management of chemicals and support for the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and transport implementation was being requested from government.

57. The representative of Bhutan said his country had nominated a national focal point for SAICM and had an interministerial national environment committee. As yet there was no implementation of SAICM but the national profile was being developed with the assistance of UNITAR. Currently Bhutan was only party to the Basel Convention; ratification of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention was under examination.

58. The representative of Palestine said that owing to the current unstable political situation in the country little could be undertaken on chemicals management. A proposal had been sent to the Quick

Start Programme trust fund through UNITAR and he was looking forward to its approval with a view to implementation of SAICM.

59. The representative of the Philippines said that her country had drafted four administrative orders for the effective enforcement of the existing rules and regulations of risk assessment of the toxic substances and hazardous and nuclear wastes control act. Those were: material safety data sheets and labelling requirements in relation to the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, national implementation for the classification and labeling of chemicals; the chemicals control order for lead; the code of practice for asbestos; and procedural guidelines on administrative adjudication of illegal hazardous and chemical substances (confiscation procedures). With regard to the designation of the national focal point, this would be included on the agenda of the interagency meeting expected in July 2007.

60. The representative of Japan said that his country was planning on developing their national implementation plan taking into account progress made in other countries of the region. Japan was currently examining means to ensure full stakeholder participation. The national environmental council and the industry council had initiated discussions on chemical issues and would discuss a regulation within the next few years. Information exchange on all aspects of chemicals management had taken place at meetings of environment ministers of Japan, China and the Republic of Korea. He concluded by saying that Japan supported environmental contributions to the Quick Start Programme and would continue to provide such support to ensure sustain environmental management.

61. The representative of Nepal said that his country had recently become a party to both Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The national implementation plan and the national inventory had been prepared and as per the priorities with the former plan a project proposal and been developed and submitted to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to manage pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls. With regard to SAICM, he said, a proposal had been submitted to UNITAR through SAICM for financial and technical assistance in the development of the national profile.

62. The representative of Indonesia said that his country was in the initial phase of implementation of SAICM for which there were three stages. He said there was need for a clear understanding of the substantive issues. Indonesia was mainstreaming through internal ministerial divisions to obtain financial support and to promote SAICM. It was also necessary to provide a clear understanding of the benefits multi-stakeholder coordination. Subsequently, Indonesia would enter into the programme implementation phase.

63. The representative of Thailand said that a national SAICM committee had existed since the first meeting of the SAICM Preparatory Committee in November 2003. Initially information exchange on potentially toxic chemicals and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes was brought to the attention of the Pollution Control Department as a focal point and it is the SAICM focal point at present. Thailand has an interministerial committee with 17 members involving all stakeholders and convenes four meetings per year. She informed the meeting that the details of Thailand's implementation of SAICM would be presented during a side event.

64. The representative of Iraq said his country had a national action plan for SAICM and were beginning with capacity building. A meeting had taken place with all the ministries to develop the plan. Currently regulations to manage chemicals were being developed for future application.

65. The representative of Kiribati said his country had not yet begun implementation of SAICM. He said that Kiribati had submitted a proposal for funding under the Quick Start Programme with the assistance of UNITAR and might allow Kiribati to commence implementation of SAICM. He reiterated the need for the SAICM secretariat to work closely with the Pacific Island states to develop their understanding of the SAICM process.

66. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that in early 2006 relevant ministries in his country were tasked with actions, work areas and associated activities based on SAICM global plan of action. The Ministry of Health and Medical Education was the lead ministry for developing the national profile and key actor for the country to implement SAICM. The country received assistance from WHO to develop a national strategic plan for chemical safety on the basis of which four training workshops were held. The Department of Environment was responsible for chemicals conventions, and had developed some environmental capacity for chemical monitoring. The national customs organization has listed toxic substances as an annex to the National guidance book of Export and Import which was updated annually for country-wide monitoring to regulate and prevent illegal trafficking of toxic chemicals. He said that his country was preparing a new national chemical safety profile. The

Ministry of Foreign affairs had taken the lead in coordination to implement SAICM and had charged the National chemical safety commission to enhance the implementation of international obligations under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and SAICM.

67. The representative of Cambodia expressed his country's willingness to implement Agenda 21, recognizing the potential harm of chemicals to human health and the environment. To address this commitment, Cambodia had undertaken various activities for national profile and national implementation plan development and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. He explained that further details on his country's implementation of SAICM would be provided at a side event.

68. The representative of Malaysia said her country was in the initial stages of implementing SAICM. Different ministries dealt with the chemicals issue and some chemicals had been controlled but not all chemicals in the country. Where chemicals were controlled it was not always for their entire life cycle. There existed gaps in managing chemicals in the country. She said that with the assistance of the Government of Denmark, an environmentally hazardous substances component had been implemented in country to establish an effective and sustainable management system to minimize and reduce the risk of hazardous substances. Three subcomponents had been identified: firstly the development of a national strategy and action plan through identification of management gaps and strategic approaches towards sustainable management; secondly pilot schemes on a notification system and chemicals register and on risk assessment including a register of hazardous chemicals and thirdly, capacity building in chemicals management including training and development of expertise.

69. The representative of the Republic of Korea said her country had established a national coordination mechanism for SAICM that included representation from relevant government ministries, industry and non-governmental organizations. She said Korea has a five-year framework plan for hazardous chemicals in compliance with the goals of SAICM. The national coordination mechanism had planned to start a process to clarify what had already been accomplished and what additional work would be needed.

70. The representative of Bahrain described some constraints faced in updating the 1996 Environmental Regulation. Nationally existing synergies were not broad enough to cover all chemicals management issues and cooperation was lacking. The Ministry of Agriculture dealt with both agricultural and public health related pesticides and the Ministry of Labour dealt with all chemical safety issues. Import controls for chemicals needed strengthening and there was no regional coordination or exchange of information. The national profile required updating, the national chemicals data base was poor and there was no poison control centre, no treatment facility for liquid hazardous waste, which were stored randomly, and no chemicals inventory for most chemicals. There was need for increased awareness raising among the public and hazardous chemicals users. Finally, she said that no training centre existed nationally or regionally for cleaner production and application of best available techniques and best environmental practices.

71. The representative of Oman noted the need for chemical management in Oman in particular owing to rapid industrial and agricultural developments. Oman had established a department of chemical substances with sections dealing with data and licensing, chemicals classification and monitoring and assessment and a database for hazardous chemicals in Oman. The department assisted in environment impact assessment for projects to be established in future. Laws and regulations had been drawn up on such issues as registration, labelling, handling and use of chemicals, and raising public awareness was advocated at all levels of public society. The department also organized workshops on training and customs and government authorities, private sector and media exposure. Oman had signed and ratified the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions among others. A permanent committee for chemicals with a technical committee had been established under the Undersecretary for Environment Affairs and the Director of the Chemical Substances Department. It included multisectoral participation mainly from ministries, with a representative from the chamber for the private sector and to which non-governmental organizations were being invited. Individual focal points had been designated for each.

72. The meeting took note of the interventions on the initial planning for national implementation of SAICM.

2. Guidance materials for implementation of SAICM

73. The meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/3/Rev/1, a guide to resources, guidance and training materials of participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). The representative of UNITAR provided an overview of the document noting that it was the draft third edition prepared on the basis of information received from participating organizations and observers. The document was almost complete awaiting some additional input from intergovernmental organizations and would be placed on the IOMC website when finalized.

74. The representative of WHO said that a companion guide to the UNITAR guidelines was being prepared by his organization dealing with the health aspects of SAICM.

75. The representative of the Basel Convention secretariat noted that the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention had adopted decision VIII/16 on technical guidelines for the sound management of POPs wastes. Significantly the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention had provisionally taken note of the decision and had requested Parties to the Stockholm Convention to provisionally implement the limits set out within those guidelines. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties had adopted two new Strategic Plan focus areas on mercury and asbestos and guidelines on mercury waste would be developed with the support of the Government of Japan.

76. The meeting took note of the resource guidance document and the interventions made by participants.

3. Roles and responsibilities of SAICM national focal points

77. The Co-Chair drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/4 draft Asia-Pacific regional directory of intergovernmental and other organizations at the global and regional levels of relevance to the implementation of SAICM in the Asia-Pacific and a list of SAICM of national focal points from the region. He said the meeting should decide whether countries needed to provide further guidance on their national focal points and noted that the meetings of the other regions had decided there was no need for further guidance. He added that the current language in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy clearly explained those responsibilities and that each country might, if they so wish, further develop the responsibilities of their national focal point.

78. In the ensuing discussion, while one representative considered that it would be important to look at the roles and responsibilities of national focal points to ensure they were effective at the national and international level, others suggested that the roles and responsibilities were clearly explained in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy. It was urged that national focal points clearly explain the implementation of SAICM in their country and ensure timely and effective reporting.

79. The meeting agreed that it was not necessary to elaborate any further guidance as to the role and responsibilities of the national focal point.

C. Regional implementation of SAICM

1. Possible activities on SAICM implementation at the regional level, including possible sub-regional approaches and cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries

80. The Co-Chair drew attention to the relevant documents under this item, in particular the African regional action plan on SAICM implementation contained in the report of the African regional meeting, document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/2. As indicated in the meeting report of the European Union-JUSSCANNZ countries contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/16, those countries had concluded that it was not necessary to develop a regional action plan. Similarly the Central and Eastern European region, as indicated in the report of their meeting SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/19 did not consider it necessary to develop a regional action plan. He also noted that the meeting of Arab countries had agreed to use the SAICM Arab Action Plan that had been endorsed by the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Environmental Affairs at its 17th session held in Cairo in December 2005 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/20).

81. In the ensuing discussion some representatives said that while regional cooperation and coordination were important, the approach adopted by other regions was not practical for the Asia-Pacific region owing to the diversity and the differing stages of development of the countries in the

region which would result in different priorities. It was suggested that initially, sub-regional information exchange on sound management of chemicals was a good starting point and subsequently consideration could be given to the potential for a regional action plan. With that in mind it was suggested that, funds permitting, a workshop should be convened to facilitate identification of regional priorities and possibly development of such a regional action plan.

2. Engagement of regional organizations, including regional development banks

82. Introducing the sub-item, the Co-Chair said that a number of regional organizations and centres with responsibilities and expertise were potentially relevant to the implementation of SAICM, including organizations with region-wide responsibilities such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the regional offices of IOMC participating organizations, centres associated with international agreements such as the Basel Convention, financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and networks of national entities such as the cleaner production centres. A draft directory of intergovernmental and other organizations at the global and regional levels of relevance to the implementation of SAICM in the Asia-Pacific region was contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/4. He said that the meeting might wish to assess the completeness and potential usefulness of the draft directory.

83. The meeting acknowledged the efforts of sub-regional organizations to assist countries to implement SAICM. It was noted that the governing bodies of the intergovernmental organization had already been urged to acknowledge SAICM also at the regional level.

84. Following a discussion in which representatives suggested minor amendments and additions to the draft directory, the meeting agreed that the draft directory was a useful document that should be continuously updated and placed on the SAICM website.

VI. SAICM Quick Start Programme

A. The Quick Start Programme trust fund

85. The secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the establishment of the trust fund, the outcome of the first round of applications to the trust fund for project funding and progress in the second round. The meeting had before it documents SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/5 (report of the first meeting of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/15 (report of the second meeting of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/6 (report of the first meeting of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/16 (report of the second meeting of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/7 (report of the second meeting of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/8 (application materials for the Quick Start Programme trust fund), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/9 (guidelines for applications to the Quick Start Programme trust fund) and SAICM/RM.AP.1/INF/14 (report of the secretariat on the status of the Quick Start Programme trust fund). He added that the Quick Start Programme business plan was contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/15 and the results of the first round of applications to the trust fund could be found in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/7.

86. He said that the trust fund had been established on 1 December 2006 and was open to contributions for 5 years and to disbursement for a further 2 years. Agreements had been signed for most approved projects and others would be signed shortly. Fifteen governments, including India from the Asia-Pacific region, had contributed \$6 million dollars in 2006 and another \$500,000 had already been committed in 2007 by Australia, Austria, Finland, Madagascar, Netherlands and Slovenia. Noting the business plan objective of securing at least 10 new donors to the trust fund by the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the secretariat observed that two new donors, Australia and Madagascar had already come forward and other stakeholders in a position to do so were encouraged to consider supporting the trust fund. He concluded by noting the business plan had set a fundraising target in the range of \$ 6.3 to \$6.6 million for 2007.

87. The representative from Thailand as one of the regional representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board provided a summary of the outcome of the second meeting that had taken place in Geneva, 23-24 April 2007. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the second regional representative said the most important issue had been the development of the draft business plan for the Quick Start Programme.

88. In response to a question on the possible limits to contributions the secretariat said that contributions had been received in the range of \$ 5,000 to \$ 3.5 million and that all contributions were welcome. In response to a second question on whether it was possible to and how to revise the business plan, the secretariat said the document was adopted as a living document and would be updated every year by the Executive Board.

89. The meeting welcomed the establishment of the trust fund, noting its time-limited nature, took note of the secretariat report and requested the regional representatives to participate in effective deliberation at meetings of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board.

B. The broader Quick Start Programme

90. The secretariat recalled that in its resolution I/4, International Conference on Chemicals Management also urged Governments in a position to do so, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to contribute to the Quick Start Programme. At its first meeting, the Quick Start Programme Executive Board agreed that the secretariat should develop, in consultation with the co-chairs, a draft a reporting form for contribution to the broader, i.e. non-trust fund Quick Start Programme for consideration by the Board at its next meeting on 23 and 24 April 2007. The secretariat invited Quick Start Programme contributors to declare their contributions using the draft reporting form, for use on an interim basis pending consideration by the Board. The meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/17 containing declarations of contributions to the Quick Start Programme. Such reporting would enable the secretariat to prepare a summary report on Quick Start Programme contributions for International Conference on Chemicals Management and has also been relevant in determining participation in the Quick Start Programme Executive Board in accordance with its rules of procedure. He also noted that, among several contributing Governments, Switzerland had been a major donor to the Quick Start Programme and several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations had provided in-kind contributions.

91. Several representatives expressed their appreciation to Switzerland for its contribution to the Quick Start Programme. The representative from UNEP Chemicals informed the meeting of support provided by Norway and Sweden to its Quick Start Programme activities. In response to a question on obtaining updated information the meeting was informed that the contributor declaration was provided on the SAICM website. One significant factor of a declaration to contribute was that once that declaration was considered and accepted, the declarer became a member of the Executive Board. The representative of Japan said that its Government had started a \$50,000 project as its contribution to the Quick Start Programme to facilitate enabling activities in Asia-Pacific countries. The representative of FAO said that in addition to intergovernmental organizations listed in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/17, FAO would shortly be providing its Quick Start Programme declaration form. The representative of the ICCA noted that his association could not provide financial resources to a trust fund but could offer support on concrete projects.

92. The meeting took note of the opportunity for reporting on contributions to the (non-trust fund) Quick Start Programme.

C. Possible regional projects

93. The Co-Chair noted that from the analysis presented in the draft Quick Start Programme business plan (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/15), it appeared that relatively few Quick Start Programme trust fund applications from the Asia-Pacific meeting had been submitted however the positive trend of increased Government applications from the Asia-Pacific region from 3 in the first round of applications to 9 in the second was a good sign. The meeting might consider an initial discussion to identify some potential priority regional projects that could be developed as proposals for funding under the Quick Start Programme.

94. In the ensuing discussion, suggestions for possible regional projects were made including on illegal trafficking, waste minimization, alternatives, sound agricultural practices, capacity building initiatives, packaging and labelling of products (implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals) and foundation chemical management for least developed countries and small island developing states in the region. One representative, supported by another, suggested a project proposal on contaminated sites using specialized expertise. However caution was urged on undertaking projects on the same issue under different international instruments.

95. It was noted that regional projects could be funded by the Quick Start Programme trust fund but the Quick Start Programme could not undertake a project to clean up the site but can provide funding to develop an inventory of contaminated sites programme was limited to enabling activities. This meant that, for example, support could be provided for inventories and assessment of contaminated sites but not for actual remediation work.

96. The meeting noted the mentioned priority areas and agreed that suggestions for regional projects, including those from non-governmental organizations, could be placed on the SAICM website and appropriate organizations could be contacted if one of the proposals was to be developed. In addition, a statement of Pacific regional needs submitted by the Pacific Island countries and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme is attached as annex III to the current report.

97. Furthermore, the Co-Chair listed several possible elements for the regional priorities in SAICM implementation, based on a submission he received from the SACEP Secretariat. These elements were: organization of sub-regional meetings to prioritize the sub-regional issues and prepare sub-regional action plans to implement SAICM; assistance to member countries in building their capacity on chemical management; awareness raising on SAICM and generally chemical management at regional, sub-regional and national levels; assistance in preparing/updating national chemical profiles; strengthening of SAICM national focal points; and regional or sub-regional harmonization of chemical assessment and management. Although time was not sufficient for the meeting to elaborate on this list, the meeting took note of the contribution by SACEP.

98. The Co-Chair concluded that possible regional projects could start with an analysis of regional needs. Such analysis may include: identification of national priorities; assessment of existing capacities; review of national profiles including their elements and development process; review of laws and regulations for chemical management; review of action plans including national implementation plans under conventions; review of capacity in terms of government agencies and institutions; review of scientific and technical capacities; and consideration of the needs for further capacity building.

VII. Financial considerations

99. Introducing the sub-item the Co-Chair said that the provisions of SAICM relating to financial considerations are set out, principally, in section V of the Overarching Policy Strategy. The meeting had before it, for information, the African regional position on financial considerations contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/2, views of the European Union -JUSSCANNZ countries contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/16 and the Central and Eastern Europe regional position contained in SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/19. He added that the meeting might wish to note decision RC-3/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting held in Geneva from 9 to 13 October 2006. That decision encouraged Parties to seek support from the SAICM Quick Start Programme for projects to implement the Rotterdam Convention. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in its decision VIII/34, taken at its eighth meeting held in Nairobi from 27 November to 1 December 2006, had recommended that developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition explore the possibilities of support from the Quick Start Programme.

100. In response to a request for clarification on the role of Global Environment Fund (GEF), the secretariat said that paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy referred both to the multilateral fund of the Montreal Protocol and GEF and that neither body had formally responded to the invitation of the International Conference on Chemical Safety to support SAICM implementation within their existing mandates. The GEF Council would shortly consider a strategy paper on cross-cutting chemicals management issues to clarify and allow access to existing funding windows. It was hoped that a response would be received from both bodies by the end of the year.

101. In the ensuing discussion it was recalled that the Overarching Policy Strategy called for new and existing sources of funding and called on governments to include sound management of chemicals in development programmes including mainstreaming, and to examine economic instruments to internalize costs.

102. The meeting agreed that there was a need for further deliberation on interconnections between GEF and SAICM and noted that it was necessary to continue examining multiple avenues either at the sub-regional level or at least in preparation for the second meeting of the International Conference on Chemical Management.

VIII. Preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

A. Reporting to the International Conference on Chemicals Management on progress in the implementation of SAICM

103. Introducing the sub-item, the secretariat said that in paragraph 24, the Overarching Policy Strategy provided that the International Conference on Chemicals Management would undertake periodic reviews of SAICM. The functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in that regard included receiving reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation of SAICM and evaluating the implementation of SAICM with a view to reviewing progress against the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation³ 2020 target for the sound management of chemicals. The aforementioned reporting and reviews would be facilitated by the SAICM secretariat, whose functions, as set out in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, included reporting to the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the implementation of SAICM by all representatives.

104. In order to assist the development of appropriate reporting modalities, the Government of Canada had proposed a project to develop guidance for the secretariat in consultation with stakeholders. The proposal was discussed at the European Union-JUSSCANNZ and Central and Eastern European regional meetings in late 2006 and made available on the SAICM web site for comment. Following this positive feedback, preparations were under way to start work. A concept paper concerning the Canadian-led project was contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/2 for consideration by the meeting. An update on planning for the project was provided in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/2/Add.1. The Canadian Government via the Asia-Pacific SAICM regional focal point has invited the region to nominate up to two governmental representatives from the region to participate in the project steering committee.

105. In response to concerns expressed by one Government representative, the secretariat underlined that the project would be addressing modalities for reporting and would do so through an open process involving representatives of all stakeholders. He further clarified that the invitation to nominate Asia-Pacific representatives was directed to Governments and that intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations had been invited on a separate basis to take part in the Steering Committee. He added that the secretariat had limited resources for reporting at the present time and the Canadian project aimed at facilitating the reporting process. He said that the project would develop performance indicators and would not be binding since the International Conference on Chemicals Management was the ultimate body to decide on modalities for reporting.

106. The meeting agreed to contribute to the Canadian project and further agreed to designate a representative from the Republic of Korea to be member of the Steering Committee nominated by the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting also agreed that the Co-chair would undertake consultations in view of a possible second nomination.

B. Further development of the SAICM Global Plan of Action

107. Introducing the sub-item, the Co-Chair recalled that the Global Plan of Action, together with the other SAICM texts and the resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session, was reproduced in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/1. The executive summary of the Global Plan of Action indicated that, in the principal table of the document, the columns dealing with suggested actors, targets and timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects had not been fully discussed and sufficient time had not been available to achieve agreement during the process to develop SAICM. The executive summary also indicated that participants in the process to develop SAICM were unable to conclude their discussions on a number of activities. Those activities were reflected in table C of the draft Global Plan of Action contained in document SAICM/ICCM/.1/4⁴ but were ultimately not included in the Global Plan of Action as recommended in the Dubai Declaration for use and further development.

³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ Available on the SAICM web site at www.chem.unep.ch/saicm. (See the meeting documents page for the first session of ICCM.)

108. Some representatives considered that the issues included in table C were of contention and others suggested that it was also the timetables, players and indicators of progress in the Global Plan of Action that caused concern. It was considered a major task to update the Global Plan of Action and table C was, in any case, available on the SAICM website and could readily be used by countries if they so desired. It was noted, however, that since the development of the Global Plan of Action additional activities related to chemicals management had taken place which would be useful to incorporate. It was reiterated that there had been endorsement of the Dubai Declaration and the Overarching Policy Strategy but that the Global Plan of Action remained a working tool, providing guidance to countries enabling them to select issues of priority to ensure chemical safety

109. Several representatives, who considered there was a need to update the Global Plan of Action, referred to issues of concern in their countries including obsolete pesticide stocks, contaminated sites, medical wastes, health related issues and vulnerable populations. The Co-chair noted that many of these activities were in fact already included in the Global Plan of Action. One representative suggested that a small group be convened intersessionally to examine the Global Plan of Action taking into account Asia-Pacific regional priorities. Another representative observed that since SAICM and the Global Plan of Action were non-binding, stakeholders were free to decide on their own priorities and select activities from the Global Plan of Action.

110. The meeting agreed to note that the Global Plan of Action was a living document that could serve as guidance for action on priorities at the national, regional and international level. It also agreed that further national, regional and international experience in using the Global Plan of Action was needed in order to be able to decide whether it should be revised.

C. Rules of procedure for the International Conference on Chemicals Management

111. The Co-Chair noted that, at its first session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management agreed to apply the rules of procedure of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of SAICM, *mutatis mutandis*, to that session, on the understanding that the Conference would adopt its own rules of procedure at its second session. The Conference also agreed that the groundwork for its second session on the issue of rules of procedure would be carried out by an open-ended legal and technical working group, which would meet a few months before the second session. The meeting has before it, for information, document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/13, containing the rules of procedure of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of SAICM.

112. The Co-chair added that the regional meetings of the African and Central and Eastern European regions and that of the European Union-JUSSCANNZ countries had expressed support for the development of rules of procedure based on those of the Preparatory Committee in order to ensure continuing open, transparent and multisectoral participation.

113. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives voiced their agreement to the development of rules of procedure based on those of the Preparatory Committee. One representative, speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization, while agreeing in principle to the use of those rules, noted that there were no provisions that took into account the special situation of such regional economic integration organizations and requested that that concern be taken on board.

114. Noting the reservation raised by the representative speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization, the meeting agreed that development of rules of procedure should be based on those of the Preparatory Committee.

D. Possible scientific workshop

115. The secretariat introduced the sub-item and said that the idea of a possible scientific conference to cover emerging issues and as a forum for exchange of scientific information had been proposed by the secretariat at the European Union-JUSSCANNZ and the Central and Eastern European regional meetings.⁵ The meetings had not reached a consensus but had agreed to keep the idea on the table for future discussions. The secretariat was presently exploring informal partnerships with scientific bodies, such as the International Panel on Chemical Pollution and the International Union of Pure and Applied

⁵ Available on the SAICM web site at www.chem.unep.ch/saicm. (See document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/18 on the meeting documents page for the Central and Eastern European regional meeting on SAICM held in Riga from 4 to 6 December 2006.)

Chemistry in order to fulfil the secretariat's function of promoting the exchange of scientific information.

116. In the general discussion, some representatives voiced their preference for exchange of scientific information through a system of partnerships and did not consider that it would be useful to convene a scientific conference at the present time. It was noted that scientific bodies would need a clear indication of the role they might be expected to play in a scientific conference and that science had such broad scope it would be difficult to determine priorities. A few representatives considered that scientific workshops would be important to support implementation of SAICM and if there was no possibility of having a workshop at the regional level, efforts should be made to convene sub-regional workshops.

117. The meeting agreed that there was a need for scientific activities, including workshops, exchange of best practices and enhanced partnerships with scientific bodies, in assistance to SAICM implementation, noting the need to include health sciences.

E. Other intersessional work in preparation of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

118. Introducing the sub-item, the Co-Chair recalled that as part of the preparation process for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, an open-ended legal and technical working group would be convened to consider rules of procedure for the conference but no further guidance had been provided as to the intended representation at the meeting or with regard to possible additional agenda items.

119. It was recalled that several issues pertaining to the organization of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management had not been decided at its first session due to lack of time. Those included, for example, the structure of the bureau, the agenda and the status of regional economic integration organizations.

120. In the general discussion proposals were made on issues that could be taken up by the open-ended working group such as some preparatory work for the Conference, inter alia, on reporting modalities based on the outcome of the Canadian project. It was suggested that if the mandate of the working group was expanded it might be useful to also ensure broad participation. However that might be restricted by resource concerns. It was recommended that the open-ended working group deal with issues related to procedure and not substantive issues.

IX. Establishment of the SAICM secretariat and its budget outlook

121. The secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/12 and noted that in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 29 of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, resolution I/1 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and decision SS.IX/1 of the UNEP Governing Council, UNEP had established and assumed overall administrative responsibility for the SAICM secretariat, which was co-located with the UNEP chemicals and wastes cluster in Geneva Switzerland. The secretariat was integrated within the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. It was expected that WHO would join UNEP in the secretariat, with each organization taking a lead role in its respective area of expertise.

122. He said that the ICCM resolution I/1 had provided for an indicative staff structure of five professional staff and one support staff. Of those, the position of coordinator had been established and two other positions, one supported by the European Commission, would shortly be concluded. In addition the WHO contribution was about to be finalized with one professional staff seconded from WHO joining the SAICM secretariat on 1 September 2007. That left one position remaining to be filled.

123. In terms of the secretariat functions he made reference to the convening of regional workshops, noting that four out of the planned five workshops had already been held and that the fifth one for Latin America and the Caribbean was tentatively scheduled for the latter half of 2007. The secretariat was currently busy with supporting the operation of the Quick Start Programme. The secretariat said that the clearing house had not yet been established but that a development of a new and improved website would shortly be initiated. The secretariat would also be assuming the administration of the Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INFOCAP) which would include streamlining and updating.

124. With regard to funding he said that the secretariat was currently running at 50-60 per cent of its core budget and hoped that situation would improve to enable the secretariat to be fully staffed and perform all its required functions.

125. Responding to questions from the floor the secretariat said that information showing the relationship between SAICM and other chemicals related bodies would be part of the role of the clearing house. The new SAICM website would have links to websites and other information resources for as many chemicals management organization and activities as possible. He said that, at the regional level, cooperation would be undertaken through IOMC partners such as UNEP, WHO and FAO and every effort would be made to facilitate the role of the regional focal point, in particular in terms of meeting preparation. Finally, he said that while SAICM was not part of the current synergy exercise the secretariat was co-located with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and through the Quick Start Programme there was increasing contact with Basel Convention.

126. One representative stressed that the SAICM secretariat remained under-funded which should be an issue of concern. He noted that the range of donors was limited and should be stabilized if SAICM was to continue forward.

127. The meeting agreed to note the secretariat presentation, record its appreciation for the secretariat work and acknowledge the limited funding under which it was operating.

X. Future Asia-Pacific regional meetings during the intersessional period

128. Introducing the item, the Co-Chair invited the participants to discuss their preferences with regard to the timing and format of any further regional or sub-regional meetings to be held during the remainder of the period before the second session of International Conference on Chemicals Management.

129. The representative of the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme said that his organization would work closely with the SAICM secretariat and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to have a sub-regional meeting to raise awareness of SAICM in the Pacific region.

130. The meeting agreed to explore the possibility of convening, funds permitting, a regional or sub-regional meeting, for example to review regional priorities, consider a possible regional action plan and examine the Global Plan of Action, prior to the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

XI. Other business

131. Under this sub-item position papers were introduced by some groups of representatives. A joint statement on SAICM and the Montreal Protocol by Bangladesh, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, India and Sri Lanka is attached as annex IV to the current report and a statement on SAICM and transboundary movement of wastes, submitted by Indonesia, Iraq, Nauru, Nepal, Oman and the Philippines, is attached as annex V to the current report.

132. The representative of UNEP Chemicals made a brief presentation describing the background leading up to and the outcome of the workshop to reduce mercury use and release in products for the Asia-Pacific region held in Bangkok, 17-19 May 2007. He said three main priorities had been identified at the end of the workshop: firstly there was a need for awareness raising for decision makers to secure sufficient funding for the development of national action plans; secondly that the development of legal and institutional frameworks required capacity building; and thirdly, technical issues were addressed including how to use alternatives and how to minimize use of mercury. He concluded by saying that proceedings would be produced as an outcome of the meeting.

XII. Adoption of the report

133. The meeting participants adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/L.1 and entrusted the Rapporteur, working together with the secretariat, with its finalization.

XIII. Closure of the meeting

134. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 6.45 p.m. on 23 May, 2007.

Annex I

Terms of Reference for the Asia-Pacific Regional Focal Point

1. The Asia-Pacific Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Regional Focal Point assumes the following roles and responsibilities with assistance from the SAICM Secretariat.

Information exchange

(a) To facilitate information collection and exchange in order to achieve effective communication among national focal points, the SAICM secretariat and stakeholders;

(b) To facilitate regional meetings and other related activities as a basis for the implementation of SAICM;

(c) To facilitate the sharing of experiences relating to implementation of SAICM activities by countries and other stakeholders within the region;

Liaison point

(d) To serve as a liaison point with the SAICM secretariat and the other regional focal points;

(e) To work closely with the regional representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board in order to identify potential sources of funds for SAICM related programmes and activities;

(f) To nominate an alternate person to represent the regional focal point in meetings related to SAICM programmes and activities;

Promoting consultation

(g) To take account of concerns and input from national focal points and stakeholders in respect of SAICM related programmes and activities;

(h) To collate progress reports from national focal points, and make them available to the stakeholders;

(i) To convene regional meetings as appropriate;

(j) To seek assistance on specific tasks from national focal points, if required.

2. The term of office of the Asia-Pacific Regional Focal Point shall continue until such date as a new regional focal point is appointed by the Asia-Pacific region at the next regular session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM). The appointment of the regional focal point should be made on a rotational basis among countries of the Asia-Pacific region. If the regional focal point is unable to carry out his functions, the Government from which the regional focal point was nominated may provide an alternative.

Annex II

Terms of Reference for the Asia-Pacific Government Representatives to the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) Executive Board

1. The Asia-Pacific Government representatives on the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM) Quick Start Programme (QSP) Executive Board may assume the following roles and responsibilities with assistance from the SAICM Secretariat:
 - (a) To facilitate information collection and exchange among national focal points, the SAICM Secretariat and stakeholders in order to achieve effective implementation of the SAICM Quick Start Programme;
 - (b) To collate regional views and convey them to the Executive Board, taking into account the interests of the Asia-Pacific countries;
 - (c) To identify and assess, as appropriate, sources of funds including financial contribution to the Quick Start Programme in order to foster implementation SAICM programmes and activities in the region and to report to the Executive Board;
 - (d) To facilitate the sharing of experiences and information relating to the implementation of SAICM Quick Start Programmes among the governments and stakeholders in the region; and
 - (e) To coordinate with the Asia-Pacific Regional Focal Point for the implementation of the Quick Start Programme in the region.
2. The term of office of the representatives of the Asia-Pacific region in the Executive Board of Quick Start Programme shall continue until such date as the new representatives are appointed by the Asia-Pacific region at the next session of the International Conference of Chemical Management (ICCM). The appointment of the representatives should be made on a rotational basis among countries of the Asia-Pacific region. If the Government representative is unable to attend meetings of the Executive Board, the Government from which the representative was nominated shall provide an alternative representative.

Annex III

Pacific Regional Needs Assessment submitted by the Pacific Island countries and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

1. Over recent years, the environment has enjoyed a greater prominence in many parts of the developed world in political and social reasoning. This has allowed the concept of sustainable development to flourish and many countries have embraced it with enthusiasm. Sadly in the developing world however, this is not generally the case, where inevitably economic sustainability is perceived as the first priority, usually at the cost of the environment and social structures. The small island nations of the Pacific region are no exception. While most of the countries have made significant steps towards protecting the environment, much remains to be done. There are also a number of legacies of the past that are to be addressed, and one of those legacies is the result of unsound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes due to limited capacity.

2. Nearly all the problems with hazardous wastes arise both because of their inherent hazardous and toxic properties and because of inadequate chemical management and pollution control systems in the countries. For the situations in the Pacific, all the current hazardous waste problems have been caused by historical activities.

Regional Concerns and Needs

3. In recent times, a significant amount of work in the area of waste management has been undertaken in the region. The following regional plans have been put in place to address the various components of the waste stream and are now being implemented. These include:

- (a) The Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action (SOPAC, 2001);
- (b) The Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL);
- (c) The Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy (SPREP, 2005); and
- (d) Preliminary Elements for the development of an Integrated Waste Management Strategy for the Pacific Island States (SWC-SBC, 2005).

4. There is currently no regional plan for dealing with hazardous waste at both the regional and national levels but there are many activities that are being undertaken to manage hazardous waste. In recent times, there have been a number of regional hazardous waste projects implemented by SPREP in conjunction with UNEP and AusAID. These include the:

- (a) The UNEP-funded Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances project; and
- (b) The AusAID-funded Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Islands Countries (POPs in PICs) project.

5. Both these projects involved undertaking a survey of the countries in the region to determine the types and volumes of the hazardous wastes as well as assessing the systems in the country that were involved in the management of hazardous waste. These also included the identification of the barriers and priorities of issues that were pertinent to the management of these types of wastes.

6. The conclusions derived from these two projects were divided into two categories:

A. Barriers to improved management of chemicals and hazardous wastes:

- (a) Very limited knowledge of chemicals and hazardous wastes issues;
- (b) Very limited targeted and user-friendly information on chemicals and hazardous wastes issues;
- (c) Very limited adequately trained personnel and the need for much more institutional strengthening;
- (d) Very limited in country trainers;
- (e) Very limited coverage of new emerging issues in existing educational curricula;
- (f) Very limited awareness of current training programmes;

- (g) Very limited information for students on career opportunities in chemical management;
- (h) Failure by some governments to give higher education priority;
- (i) Very limited knowledge on human and environmental toxicity of hazardous wastes;
- (j) Poor systems in countries for chemical handling, storage and use, and information management;
- (k) Very limited data on fate and transportation of chemicals and hazardous wastes in the region;
- (l) Poor regional and national inter-agency collaboration/cooperation in chemicals and hazardous waste management, including information sharing;
- (m) Very limited appropriate legislation in some countries;
- (n) Poor community responses to existing legislation and education programmes;
- (o) Very limited public participation in chemical and hazardous waste management activities;
- (p) Very limited knowledge on alternatives to certain toxic chemicals;
- (q) Very limited donor support for community based projects aimed at better chemicals and hazardous waste management;
- (r) Political instability and interference;
- (s) Very limited established control systems, including legislations, for managing chemicals and hazardous wastes and their enforcement;
- (t) Very limited information on the types and volumes of materials being brought into the countries, or already there;
- (u) An absence of appropriate disposal facilities and is expensive to move them to another country for disposal purposes;
- (v) Stockpiles of hazardous waste and chemicals; and
- (w) Pacific Island Countries still learning about the requirements of regional and international MEAs such as Waigani, Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and the procedures therein.

B Priority needs and issues for chemical and hazardous waste management

- (a) Education, Training, Community Awareness and Participation;
- (b) Chemical management systems, Technology, Information and Research;
- (c) Adequate funding and improved cooperate funding arrangements;
- (d) Appropriate legislation development and drafting training;
- (e) Compilation of expertise list in the region;
- (f) Relevant capacity building activities through need specific training; and
- (g) Activities to support the reduced used of hazardous and toxic chemicals in the Pacific including the promotion of cleaner production and integrated pest management.

7. Due to their infancy, many of the countries are only now beginning to put in place Action Plans to address many of these barriers and issues. The countries have also recognised the benefits of taking a synergistic approach to chemical and hazardous waste management by integrating the relevant MEAs and frameworks such as Waigani, Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.

8. There is also the added challenge of mainstreaming the priorities of SAICM into the existing international and regional frameworks to make the management of chemical management a holistic one. To start basic activities, it is imperative that the SAICM process is more visible in the Pacific region so that Pacific Island Countries can adopt it better at the national level. The Pacific Island Countries feel that a good start to this would be in the holding of a Pacific regional SAICM meeting to make the region aware of what SAICM is all about and how it can add value to the work that is already happening at both the national and regional levels.

Annex IV

Joint Statement by Bangladesh, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, India and Sri Lanka

1. For SAICM to be successfully implemented, especially in developing countries, there must be a strong structure involving directly and laterally all the stakeholders.
2. The Montreal Protocol is considered by many developing countries to be one of the most successful Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in recent times. SAICM can draw useful elements from the Montreal Protocol (MP) and attempt to apply them while implementing SAICM. The useful elements that need to be considered are:
 - (a) Exclusive centre in each member country.
 - (b) Adequate and equitable funding mechanism in developing countries.
 - (c) An effective and accessible regional implementation centre.
 - (d) Regular interactive meetings to identify, remove or reduce bottlenecks.
3. SAICM is an important milestone in the ever evolving field of global chemicals management. We welcome ideas that would further strengthen suggestions given in this statement and we hope that SAICM will be implemented in such a way that it becomes a role model in its category.

Annex V

Statement on SAICM and Transboundary Movement of Wastes

Submitted by Indonesia, Iraq, Nauru, Nepal, Oman, and the Philippines

1. We believe that preventing harm to human health and the environment from wastes containing harmful substances or wastes that lead to the formation of harmful substances is an important element of achieving the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
2. In particular, developing countries and countries with economies in transition striving to achieve SAICM objectives should not be burdened with the transboundary movement of harmful wastes into their countries.
3. We affirm Paragraph 23e of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation which encourages actions at all levels to “Promote efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes in a manner consistent with obligations under relevant international instruments, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;”
4. We believe that bilateral or multilateral agreements with components related to wastes should be consistent with the Basel Convention and SAICM and the Waigani Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements where appropriate.
5. We renew our commitment to Rio Principle 14; “States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.”
