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**5th Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach  
to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**

Bangkok, 23-25 January 2018  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

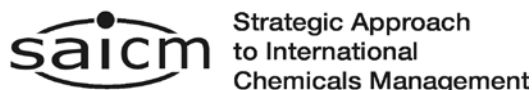
**Report of the fourth Asia-Pacific regional meeting on  
the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals  
Management (SAICM), Kuala Lumpur, 27 March  
2014**

**Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat has the honour to circulate in the annex to the present note, the report of the fourth Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) held in Kuala Lumpur, 27 March 2014 for the information of participants.

**ANNEX**SAICM/RM/AP.4/7

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English

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**4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**  
Kuala Lumpur, 27 March 2014.**Report of the fourth Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management****1. Opening of the meeting**

1. The fourth Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was held at the Grand Millennium Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 27 March 2014. The meeting was preceded by the 1st Asia-Pacific workshop on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals on Sunday 23 March, a Technical Briefing led by UNEP and Workshop on the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) tool-box for decision makers in Chemicals Management on Monday 24 March, and a Technical Information Sharing session on SAICM emerging policy issues and other issues of interest on Tuesday 25 March. On Wednesday 26 March a SAICM priority setting workshop was held.

2. Mr. Luay Almkhtar (Ministry of Environment, Iraq), the Regional Focal Point for Asia-Pacific, opened the meeting at 9.35 a.m. by thanking the European Commission for their contribution in support of regional meeting, the SAICM secretariat for the organization of the meeting and the Government of Malaysia for welcoming the meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

**2. Organizational matters****(a) Election of officers**

3. The representative of the secretariat invited participants to elect a Chair and a Co-Chair in line with the terms of reference of the Asia-Pacific regional meetings. The meeting elected Mr. Almkhtar and Mr. Nassereddin Heidari, ICCM4 Bureau member from Asia-Pacific to serve as co-chairs of the meeting. Thailand, Ms. Warawan Chalermot, agreed to serve as rapporteur for the meeting.

**(b) Adoption of the agenda**

4. The agenda was adopted following an amendment on agenda item 9, Other Matters, where it was decided to discuss the terms of reference for the Asia-Pacific Coordinating Committee on the basis of the provisional agenda set forth in document SAICM/RM/AP.4/1 as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Organizational matters
  - a) Election of officers
  - b) Adoption of the agenda
  - c) Organization of work
3. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
  - a) Evaluation of and guidance on the regional implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach for the Asia and the Pacific region
  - b) Financial and technical resources for implementation
  - c) Quick Start Programme project results from the region
  - d) Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern
4. Implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes
5. Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation
6. Towards the 2020 Goal of Sound Chemicals Management
7. Implementation of the Health Sector Strategy
8. Preparations for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management
9. Other matters
  - a) Terms of Reference of the Asia-Pacific Coordinating Committee
10. Adoption of the report
11. Closure of the meeting.

**(c) Organization of work**

5. The meeting agreed to meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**(d) Attendance**

6. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cook Island, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Island, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Yemen.

7. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations also attended: Global Environment Facility (GEF), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

8. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: BASF SE, Centre for Environmental Justice, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI), Chulalongkorn University, Croplife International, Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), Health Care Without Harm, Indonesia Toxic-Free Network, International Council of Chemicals Association (ICCA), International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), Island Sustainability Alliance CIS INC (ISACI), IWW Water Centre (German UBA and BMU), Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP), Peking University, Pesticide Action Network (PAN) International, Ramathibodi Poison Center, Syngenta and Thanal.

### 3. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

9. The representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/18, which sets out the report of the third Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Beijing, China on 5-9 September 2011 and recalled the functions of regional meetings as laid out in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy and resolutions of the ICCM. She also highlighted a Consultation with SAICM national focal points attending the WHO South East Asia, Regional Workshop on Chemicals Safety held on 27 June 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Report of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for South East-Asia Regional Workshop on Chemicals Safety, Bangkok, Thailand, 24-26 June, 2013 was made available to participants as document SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/20.

10. Mr. Almkhatar, in his role as Asia-Pacific regional focal point, made a short presentation on the outcome of the first meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee held on Saturday 22 March 2014 before the regional meeting. In his report Mr. Almkhatar highlighted some of the discussions that had taken place including on the facilitation of SAICM business, regional workplanning, taking stock of work done so far and lack of financial resources to support SAICM implementation in the region. He closed by highlighting the need for the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee to become active in the region.

#### (a) Evaluation of and guidance on the regional implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach for the Asia-Pacific region

11. Under this agenda item, the representative of the secretariat introduced the relevant documentation (document SAICM/RM/AP.4/2, Reporting on progress in the implementation of SAICM in the Asia-Pacific region; SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/4, Summary of the Priority Setting Workshop of the Asia-Pacific Regional meeting on SAICM; and SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/3, Reporting on SAICM Implementation 2011-2013). She noted that participants discussed progress and identified regional gaps for SAICM implementation in the region during the workshop on Priority setting with regional perspectives held on Wednesday 26 March 2014.

12. The representative of the secretariat also highlighted that the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) at its third session had agreed that the secretariat should develop a second progress report for the period 2011–2013 for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session. The Conference encouraged the full use of the results and information collected using the reporting tool for regional consultation and follow-up. The SAICM secretariat initiated the second reporting cycle for progress from January-March 2014 and was actively encouraging all stakeholders in the region to actively participate. The representative of the secretariat indicated that the period for reporting had been extended until 30 April 2014 in order to encourage more reporting.

13. Participants welcomed the extension of the reporting deadline and generally indicated their intention to report on progress in implementing SAICM for the 2011-2013 period.

14. In the ensuing discussion, the important role of SAICM as a chemicals management framework at the global level was highlighted by many. A number of stakeholders indicated the need for sharing best practice information in making progress. One representative suggested that the regional centers of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions be called upon to widen the engagement of their work to include SAICM more fully. Other stakeholders highlighted the work that had been done in the region in lead in paint, the current involvement in a GEF project on Chemicals in Products, as well as the successful completion of a Quick Start Programme project with the Basel Convention Regional Center in China as the Executing Agency.

15. A representative from a non-governmental organization highlighted the fact that the region faces special challenges due to the significant number of highly populated

cities in relation to other regions and that this should be considered in the regional priority setting context.

**(b) Financial and technical resources for implementation**

16. Under the agenda item, the representative of the secretariat introduced the following documents: SAICM/RM/AP.4/3 on financial and technical resources for the implementation of SAICM and SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/5 with a summary of projects and activities supported by the GEF funds from its fifth replenishment.

17. The co-chair pointed to the draft resolution on financing the Strategic Approach that had been prepared by a contact group and asked participants to provide feedback on it. The co-chair proceeded to thank the Global Environment Facility for its active participation over the course of the week.

18. The representative of the Global Environment Facility then provided an update on the outcomes of the 6th GEF replenishment cycle for 2014-2018. She indicated that the GEF Chemicals Focal Area covers the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer, mercury and SAICM. In GEF-5, resources were dedicated to sound chemicals management activities including SAICM priorities, namely mercury, e-waste, lead in paint, and chemicals in products. A total of US\$ 20 million was dedicated to these issues with US\$10 million for mercury and US\$ 10 million to other SAICM priorities. Under this envelope, 10 projects had been approved covering SAICM issues, including several electronic waste projects, chemicals in products, and lead in paint projects. At the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury (INC5), the GEF was nominated as a financial mechanism to the Convention. To support the early ratification of the Convention, at the 44th GEF Council Meeting, the Council agreed to allocate an additional US\$10 million for mercury to be programmed in GEF-5 to support enabling conditions and pre-ratification projects. The representative indicated that planning for the 6th GEF replenishment cycle was underway, with a view to start in July this year. The fourth and final replenishment meeting would take place 16-17 April 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, and it was expected that countries will pledge their donations to GEF-6 at this meeting. The allocation for SAICM in GEF-6 was expected to be consistent with the GEF-5 allocation, in the range of US\$ 10 million to support SAICM priorities identified by ICCM.

19. Recalling that UNEP Governing Council Decision 27/12 on chemicals and waste management, inter alia, invited Governments to consider establishing, through an existing institution, a special programme, funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the future Minamata Convention and SAICM, the representative of UNEP proceeded to outline the status of the special programme for chemicals and waste management. The representative of UNEP noted that the Decision also emphasized that the special programme should avoid duplication and proliferation of funding mechanisms and associated administration and should fund activities that fall outside GEF's mandate, and requested the Executive Director of UNEP to facilitate and support a country-led meeting to further develop terms of reference for such a special programme. The country-led meeting to discuss the special programme was held on 27-30 August 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The country led meeting negotiated a Terms of Reference of the proposed special programme, set out in the Annex to document, SAICM/RM/AP.4/3 on financial and technical resources for implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Terms of Reference of the proposed special programme will be considered for adoption at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to be hosted from 23-27 June 2014. The representative of UNEP indicated that funding to the special programme will be voluntary and that there is no funding available at the moment as it is not formally established. In closing, he noted that the programme is designed to strengthen capacities at the national level to enhance the ability to address chemicals and wastes issues and is modelled after the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to some level.

20. Participants stressed the importance of sufficient financial and technical resources for implementation of SAICM and expressed concern for the lack of financial resources

available to implement SAICM. With a marked shift in production of chemicals into the Asia-Pacific region, a number of participants highlighted the need for stronger engagement of industry in the financing of initiatives in the region, including the internalization of costs associated with chemicals management. One representative indicated a need to develop complementary projects through the GEF, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

21. A number of participants pointed to the need for strengthening legal frameworks and institutional arrangements for supporting the sound management of chemicals. In supporting such efforts, the 'Guidance on the Development of Legal and Institutional Infrastructures for Sound Management of Chemicals and Measures for Recovering the Costs of National Administration' developed by UNEP, in collaboration with SAICM stakeholders, was highlighted as a useful tool. It is available at the following link: [www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/UNEPsWork/Mainstreaming/UNEPLIRA/Guidance/ta/bid/79269/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/UNEPsWork/Mainstreaming/UNEPLIRA/Guidance/ta/bid/79269/Default.aspx)

22. One participant stressed the value of case studies in such guidance documents. The representative of South Korea indicated that following a chemical spill accident two years ago, they adopted a chemicals management policy to internalize the costs associated with such accidents that could be used as an example for others to consider, in their case this represented 5% of their sales account.

23. One representative commended the secretariat for document SAICM/RM/AP.4/3, listing possible sources of funding for government in the region. In doing so, he suggested that participants may wish to further develop this list in moving forward and to extend the list for all regions. It was suggested that the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinating Committee be tasked with developing a list of funding institutions that could support sound management of chemicals activities in the region.

24. One representative noted concern for the SAICM secretariat budget, indicating it needs a functional budget to deliver results. He also indicated the need for chemicals to access a more deserved proportion of the overall GEF budget. He said that the objective of the special programme is admirable in funding elements outside of the GEF mandate, but at the same time, he expressed concern for the lack of eligibility for civil society organizations to access funding under the special programme.

25. The representative of the WHO congratulated the participants and the secretariat on the sessions this week. She noted that there are opportunities for collaboration with the International Health Regulations on chemicals safety and proposed that the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee consider taking up work in this area.

26. The Chair reminded participants that although SAICM was a voluntary initiative, it had been adopted with the highest level of political commitment in 2006, and more recently reasserted in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, *The Future we want*. He reminded participants that the voluntary nature of SAICM referred to the flexibility of its implementation given its wide scope. However, implementation should not be seen as optional given the political commitment to sound management of chemicals expressed at various high level international forums.

27. Following the discussion, participants adopted a resolution on financing the Strategic Approach, as contained in Annex I to this report.

**(c) Quick Start Programme project results from the region**

28. The representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/RM/AP.4/4 on the Quick Start Programme contribution to Strategic Approach implementation in the region. She recalled that at the third session of the ICCM the Conference had decided to extend the term for contributions to the QSP Trust Fund until its fourth session in 2015 and that funds committed to projects before the close of the Trust Fund could be disbursed until all approved projects were completed.

29. She said that since its establishment in 2006, 43 projects have been approved in the Asia-Pacific region, 25 of which had fully completed all project activities. She invited participants to examine the information contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.4/4,

Status of the Quick Start Programme and its contributions to the Asia-Pacific region, with a view to assess the impact that the QSP has had in the region, as well as identifying areas that require further attention to assist the region in reaching the 2020 goal.

30. In inviting comments on this agenda item, the co-chair noted his hope that the QSP efforts will be expanded. In the discussion, many participants praised the positive impact of the QSP for building improved capacity for sound management of chemicals and wastes in the region and the benefit of sharing project results for promoting scale-up of efforts.

31. One participant from a non-governmental organization stressed that the QSP was able to obtain quick results because of the ease of the proposal process and access to the funds. He indicated that the amount of money, up to 250,000 USD, is a good range for the types of projects that the QSP supported. At the same time, he expressed concern that the real funding mechanism for the implementation of SAICM has never arrived. Another participant from a non-governmental organization referred to the QSP support for phasing out mercury medical devices in the health care sector.

32. One country proposed that some rules of the QSP be changed in moving forward. Another country expressed gratitude to UNITAR for its support in their project. The representative from Sri Lanka highlighted the three QSP projects that they were involved in related to accident prevention, chemical profiling and PCB management, and in doing so, they noted their willingness to share lessons learned in these areas with others. Another country recommended the promotion of using the QSP project output, particularly the risk assessment learning tool.

33. In closing the agenda item, the co-chair noted the next meeting of the QSP Executive Board scheduled for 8 May 2014 in Geneva will consider next steps on the QSP Trust Fund. He noted that the resolution on finance reinforces many of the messages discussed during this agenda item and requested that the messages from the regional meeting should be brought forward to the second meeting of the OEWG and ICCM4.

**(d) Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern**

34. The representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/RM/AP.4/5, Progress on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, providing information on progress to date on lead in paint, chemicals in products, nanotechnology and nanomaterials, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, managing perfluorinated chemicals and endocrine disrupting chemicals.

35. Participants attended the workshop on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), which was held on Sunday 23 March to further review the state of science and policy development of this issue. A revised workplan for EDCs had been developed based on input received from the Bureau and was available to the meeting as document SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/6. Participants were requested to complete a questionnaire about experiences, activities and needs regarding endocrine disrupting chemicals in countries prior to the workshop. A summary of the outcome of the workshop is attached to the current report in Annex II.

36. Participants also attended a Technical Information Sharing Session on Tuesday 25 March featuring information on a number of the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. A summary of the sessions is attached to the current report in Annex III.

37. The representative of the secretariat also noted the following information documents available to the meeting under this agenda item: SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/7, Thought Starter on endocrine disrupting pesticides and the Strategic Approach submitted by Pesticide Action Network (PAN) and International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN); SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/8, Identification of risks and exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals: practice of implementation at country level submitted by WHO; SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/9, Meeting report of the Chemicals in Products Consultation, 5-6 December 2013; SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/10, Update from UNIDO on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products; SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/11, Information note on Highly Hazardous Pesticides submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/12, Thought

Starter Paper on Highly Hazardous Pesticides submitted by PAN and IPEN; and SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/19, Draft resolutions on Lead in Paint, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and Highly Hazardous Pesticides, submitted International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN).

38. In opening this agenda item for discussion, the co-chair noted the value of the technical information sessions in advancing these issues in the region and requested participants to complete the questionnaire related to EDCs.

39. Several participants highlighted the importance of emerging issues as a link with future work on SAICM. One non-governmental organization highlighted the importance of the lead in paint activities in the region, indicating that it has supported a number of countries in the region to shift to lead-free policies.

40. The meeting proceeded to adopt resolutions on lead in paint and endocrine disrupting chemicals, which are attached to the current report respectively as part B and part C of Annex I.

41. With respect to highly hazardous pesticides, the chair of the contact group on this issue indicated that participants had fruitful discussions in this area but could not agree to a resolution. He referred discussion in this area to the plenary.

42. In concluding the discussion on highly hazardous pesticides in the plenary and for the purposes of the meeting report, the Asia-Pacific region, noting the concern about highly hazardous pesticides in the region, invites: (a) countries in a position to do so to complete a simple questionnaire on highly hazardous pesticides registered or prohibited in their country; (b) countries and other stakeholders to exchange information about adverse effects of pesticides on health and the environment in the region. The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee is invited to facilitate this process. In addition, many countries and stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, noting the concern about highly hazardous pesticides in the region, invite the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to develop an information paper for ICCM4 on safer alternatives to HHPs.

43. In closing the overall agenda item, the co-chair thanked participants for the discussion, encouraging SAICM stakeholders to report on progress and share experiences in the implementation of SAICM. In addition, he called upon donors to support the continuation of SAICM implementation in the region.

#### **4. Implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes**

44. Introducing the agenda item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that at its third session, the ICCM had invited the Coordinator of the SAICM secretariat and the Joint Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm convention to further increase synergies in the implementation of their respective information clearing houses. At the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to those three conventions held in April-May 2013, an omnibus decision was adopted on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions as contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/13. Section V of the decision, regarding wider cooperation, requests the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to further enhance cooperation and coordination with SAICM to contribute to meeting the 2020 goal on the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle and of hazardous wastes.

45. The co-chair then invited UNEP to provide an update on the process established for enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster over the long term. The representative of UNEP noted that two meetings of the country-driven Consultative Process on the Challenges to and Options for Further Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination within the Chemicals and Waste Cluster over the long term have taken place. The consultative process had been driven by countries in recognition that progress in the sound management of chemicals and waste has not been sufficient globally and that continued focus on the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term is required. The first meeting of the country-led consultative process took place

in Pretoria, South Africa from 19 to 20 November 2013. The second meeting of the consultative process took place in Long Island, New York, USA from 25 to 27 February 2014. Both meetings were attended by representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, bodies and secretariats, civil society organizations and industry. The outcome document of the consultative process has been submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP for consideration at the June session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and was made available to meeting participant in meeting document SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/22.

46. Participants noted the limited amount of time available and that discussions regarding post 2020 should not distract from discussions towards achieving the 2020 goal. Rather the need to develop a process for initial discussions was highlighted. Key principles highlighted for shaping the post 2020 included full involvement of all stakeholders, the need to build on lessons learned under SAICM to date as well as the value of public and political awareness. Many participants supported the establishment of a contact group at OEWG2 and ICCM4 to discuss options for post 2020.

47. The representative of the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) drew the attention of delegates to a document they prepared together with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation in 2013 entitled 'Paths to Global Chemical Safety: The 2020 Goal and Beyond'. The document is available at the following link: [www.ciel.org/Publications/Paths\\_GlobalChemSafety\\_Mar2013.pdf](http://www.ciel.org/Publications/Paths_GlobalChemSafety_Mar2013.pdf)

48. Several participants stressed that synergies was a requirement for the future of the chemicals and waste cluster not only in terms of saving resources but also to ensure sustainable management of the overall chemicals and waste cluster. The co-chair noted that the issue of synergy is understood on the three levels, including national, regional as well as international.

49. Other participants noted challenges faced to coordinate and collaborate at the national level when chemicals were dealt with under different ministries or institutes. One participant noted the future regional meetings to prepare for the future Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Conference of the Parties, indicating that this should help enhance overall coordination related to chemicals and wastes. Improved communication between sectors and at the regional level was also considered vital to ensure cooperation and collaboration.

50. One representative of a non-governmental organization stressed the unique feature of SAICM as being the multi-sectoral approach, and that initiatives involving nanotechnology as well as the electronics industry are useful contributions of SAICM. Another participant identified that the uniqueness of SAICM was due to its voluntary nature.

## **5. Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation**

51. The representative of the secretariat introduced the agenda item. Document SAICM/RM/Afr.5/INF/9, Activities of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to support SAICM Implementation was available as background information for meeting participants. She noted that the technical information sharing sessions and informal lunch dialogues held throughout the week had provided a forum for exchange of information, promoting an increased understanding of the technical issues associated with the sound management of chemicals.

52. Participants noted the value of such technical information sharing sessions and stressed the importance of having information from and keeping academia informed of SAICM activities and sound management of chemicals and waste in general. A number of participants agreed that the format of the regional meeting allowed for rich dialogue and exchange of information. A summary of the Technical Information Sharing Session is available as Annex III to the current report.

53. Furthermore, a Workshop on the internet-based IOMC Toolbox for Decision-Making in Chemicals Management (IOMC Toolbox) was hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNEP and UNITAR on Monday 24

March 2014. The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize the SAICM delegates from the region with the IOMC Toolbox.

54. The IOMC Toolbox is a problem-solving tool that supports countries to identify the most appropriate and efficient national actions to address specific national problems related to chemicals management. It also helps to identify available IOMC resources that could assist the country address the identified national problem(s) or objectives.

55. In closing the agenda item, the co-chair noted that it was unfortunate some organizations had not been present this week and expressed appreciation for those who had made themselves available. The co-chair also highlighted that the region has different capacities and capabilities, noting the coordinating committee could play a critical role in supporting analysis of the different capacities.

## 6. Towards the 2020 Goal of Sound Chemicals Management

56. The representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/RM/AP.4/6, Overall Orientation and Guidance towards the 2020 Goal of Sound Chemicals Management – Consultation Framework Document, and recalled that at its third session, the ICCM had requested the secretariat to develop overall orientation and guidance, including some concrete elements, to facilitate achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management. Such overall orientation and guidance needed to be both retrospective and prospective. It should be developed under the guidance of the Bureau, to be further discussed at regional meetings and by at OEW G2 and for possible consideration at ICCM4

57. The overall orientation and guidance was expected to identify the specific chemicals challenges that each region faces and include discussion about the successes and challenges of a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to chemicals management. It also would be informed by a literature review as well as by the input received from participants during the regional meetings. The Overall Orientation and Guidance process was an opportunity for SAICM stakeholders to strategically focus activities towards the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals and to increase the level of attention placed on chemicals at the global level, particularly when it is taken up at the fourth meeting of the ICCM. In that context the representative of the secretariat also introduced document SAICM/RM/AP.4/INF/4, Summary of the Priority Setting Workshop of the Asia-Pacific Regional meeting on SAICM.

58. Meeting participants had attended the workshop on Achieving the 2020 Goal – Overall Orientation and Guidance, on Wednesday 26 March, where they were able to discuss achievements to date and priority actions based on the consultation questions included in the annex to that document. The final document will provide a set of recommendations on priority areas to focus on for the achievement of the 2020 goal, which will be presented to the OEW G2 and ICCM4 for consideration and possible endorsement.

59. During the ensuing discussion, many participants voiced support for and noted the importance of the work that, they said, would demonstrate progress achieved, identify the current status and propose how to proceed to the 2020 goal and beyond. In particular, the ability to phase out the use of lead in decorative paint was highlighted as achievable for 2020.

60. Participants agreed that the summary developed at the workshop, set out in Annex V of this document, provides a useful starting point for the identification of regional priorities to be further developed by the region through the Asia – Pacific Regional Coordination Committee.

## 7. Implementation of the Health Sector Strategy

61. The representative of the secretariat introduced the agenda item and reported on a regional workshop on chemical safety held by WHO Regional Office for South East-Asia where SAICM regional focal points as stakeholders were invited to participate and where

the health sector strategy was on the agenda. She also noted that mindful of the importance of the health sector and its roles and responsibilities in helping to achieve the sound management of chemicals, the ICCM adopted at its third session, under resolution III/4, the Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation SAICM.

62. The representative of WHO provided an overview of related work, referring to presentations she had made earlier in the week. She highlighted actions related to the International Health Regulations (IHR) and chemical core capacities, poison control centers and networks as well as training opportunities. The representative noted that the International Health Regulations were legally binding, unlike SAICM, and were supported by the health sector. Given the requirement to develop core capacities to manage chemicals emergencies, and the interlinkages with SAICM, it would be important to liaise with the local International Health Regulations focal points. She said that, SAICM focal points should be proactive and contact the focal point of the International Health Regulations in ministries of health to coordinate activities related to chemicals and health. She added that WHO could provide support in the form of guidance, training material and tools on risk assessment, management and communications as well as on chemical hazards.

63. Furthermore, the representative of the WHO stressed the important opportunity for governments to raise the political importance of sound management of chemicals at the next World Health Assembly. She also highlighted that a second regional workshop on chemical safety is scheduled for early 2015 at the Chulabhorn Research Institute, providing a useful opportunity for further discussion.

64. In the ensuing discussion many participants stressed the importance of the SAICM health sector strategy and the importance of full WHO engagement in SAICM.

65. The representative of Thailand indicated its willingness to act as a regional poison centre in chemical safety, education center in clinical toxicology, and antidote stockpile, noting it had significant experience to share through training in toxicology and chemical safety in particular.

66. One participant provided a number of practical ideas for implementation of the health sector strategy, including: involvement of ministries of health and country health professionals in lead paint elimination activities, engagement of Endocrine Society health professionals in the EDCs emerging policy issue; and using the WHO report on pesticide poisonings in the region to tie closely to HHPs activities.

67. One government stressed the importance of children's health, noting higher levels of lead in children across the region. He also highlighted the issues of improper disposal of mercury waste as a particular concern. Finally, he noted new chemicals in the environment as a particular concern for the region, suggesting that a strategy needs to be created to be ready and prepared to address these new chemicals.

68. In concluding this agenda item, the co-chair said that the implementation of the health sector strategy is a very important aspect of SAICM, noting some activities are taking place in the region but that they should be expanded through enhanced cooperation.

## **8. Preparations for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

69. The representative of the secretariat provided a brief update on the preparations for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fourth session of the ICCM. The current proposed dates of the two meetings were as follows: 15-17 December 2014 for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group to be held either in Geneva and 27 September to 3 October 2015 for the 4th Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) to be held in Geneva (to be confirmed). The secretariat was continuing actively to invite offers from host Governments for ICCM4, while Geneva is considered the fallback option. In addition, the secretariat was requesting all stakeholders in a position to do so to make their financial contributions early in support of the two meetings.

70. She recalled that the Overall Orientation and Guidance would be discussed at the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group but called on all participants to provide any suggestions on how the meeting could be conducted.

71. In opening the discussion of this agenda item, the co-chair asked participants to provide guidance on a high level segment at ICCM4. A number of participants noted that a possible thematic area could be agriculture and pesticides. In raising agriculture and pesticides, one participant also noted that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals should be adopted in 2015 and that food safety is part of these discussions. Another participant noted that 2015 is the International Year of Soils and that an agricultural related theme for ICCM4 could be appropriate in supporting these efforts. Another participant suggested that occupational health and safety could be the focus of a thematic approach.

72. One government highlighted the heavy schedule ahead with the OEWG at the end of 2014 and ICCM4 the year after, proposing a balanced approach for discussions. In noting this, she proposed a theme should relate to filling gaps in knowledge and policy.

73. A representative of non-governmental organization proposed that a Regional Coordination Committee meeting be hosted on the margins of the second regional workshop on chemical safety that is scheduled for early 2015 at the Chulabhorn Research Institute as a means to support preparations for ICCM4.

74. In closing the agenda item, the co-chair encouraged those in a position to do so to provide funding for the meetings to the extent possible, noting the current shortfall.

## **9. Other matters**

75. Participants had agreed to take up the Terms of Reference for the Regional Coordination Committee under other matters. Following considerable discussion in this area, the Terms of Reference was agreed to as set out in Annex IV of this report. In closing this agenda item, the co-chair congratulated the region on agreeing to the Asia – Pacific Regional Coordination Committee and indicated that this was an important milestone for the region.

## **10. Adoption of the report**

76. The meeting agreed to entrust the rapporteur from Thailand, working with the co-chairs and the secretariat, with the finalization of the report of the meeting.

## **11. Closure of the meeting**

77. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 6.55 p.m. on Thursday 27 March 2014.

## Annex I

### Resolutions adopted at the fourth Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM

#### A Financing the Strategic Approach

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific regional meeting,*

*Recognizing* that a long-term sustainable, predictable, easily accessible financing solution, with sufficient resources for SAICM, would play a fundamental role in attaining the SAICM 2020 goal, is necessary and urgent to meet the needs of developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing states,

*Recalling* provisions of the Dubai Declaration and noting the recommendations of the UNEP Global Chemicals Outlook,

*Recalling* paragraph 19 of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, which states that SAICM should reflect national, regional and global efforts to advance the sound management of chemicals recognizing principle 7 of the Rio declaration,

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the Global Environment Facility to fund SAICM priorities, as well as others, to finance the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund,

*Noting with concern* that funds committed so far, including current proposal for funds under the 6<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the GEF, are insufficient to meet the requirements of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of SAICM,

*Noting* the commitment of the Quick Start Programme (QSP) Executive Board to provide an average of 2.5 million USD per year to replenish the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund from 2013-2015, and the political commitment of donors to the Quick Start Programme at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management,

*Deeply concerned* that the Quick Start Program failed to fully fund all approved projects within the Asia-Pacific region,

*Hereby:*

1. *Calls upon* donors to the Quick Start Programme to ensure that they meet their political commitment of funding, as expressed at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
2. *Calls upon* donors to continue to make all efforts to mobilize existing and new predictable, sustainable and dedicated sources of financial support to provide additional resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach in the Asia-Pacific region;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director General of WHO to provide human and other resources to fully staff the SAICM secretariat consistent with the responsibilities outlined in paragraph 29 of the Overarching Policy Strategy;
4. *Invites* all stakeholders to mainstream the sound management of chemicals into the global sustainable development agenda, to provide a wide and solid foundation for SAICM activities and financing;
5. *Calls upon* the GEF to allocate sufficient resources to SAICM from its sixth replenishment;

6. *Proposes* that ICCM4 establishes a comprehensive list of SAICM priorities for projects to be financed by the GEF in its 6th replenishment;
7. *Invites* the chemicals industry, including inventors, manufacturers, formulators, and traders, to give priority to partnerships to help provide financial, technical and in-kind resources for strengthening initiatives and for developing new initiatives with stakeholders for the effective implementation of the Strategic Approach;
8. *Encourages* countries of the Asia-Pacific region, in a position to do so, to take up and expedite action at the national level for the mainstreaming of chemicals into their national development planning and/or strategies;
9. *Agrees* to look inwards for financial partners and donors, and explore all possible options for leveraging additional sources of financing to fund SAICM implementation projects of the Asia-Pacific region without prejudice to the recognition of the importance of financial partners, donors and resources at the global level;
10. *Encourages* the Asia-Pacific Coordination Committee to investigate and perform outreach activities to identify financial partners and donors to fund SAICM implementation projects of the Asia-Pacific region;
11. *Encourages* Intergovernmental Organizations and donor countries to prioritize the sound management of chemicals into their multilateral and bilateral economic assistance programs;
12. *Calls upon* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry and other stakeholders in position to do so, to make, or increase, their financial and in-kind contributions to the SAICM secretariat, SAICM implementation activities and priorities, including through IOMC;
13. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to explore the possibility of predictable, sustainable and easily accessible financial arrangements with sufficient resources, for the long term sound management of chemicals including SAICM.

## **B Lead in Paint**

*We*, the participants in the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22-27 March 2014:

*Taking into account* the resolution on lead in paint (SAICM III/2 B) adopted at the Third Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, Nairobi, Kenya, 17-21 September 2012;

*Recognizing* that children who are exposed to lead likely suffer lifelong impacts, including decreases in intelligence, difficulties in school, increases in violent behavior, and reductions in workforce productivity;

*Acknowledging* UNEP's 2011 Study on the Possible Effects on Human Health and the Environment in Asia and the Pacific of the Trade of Products Containing Lead, Cadmium, and Mercury which notes that lead is still commonly used in paints in developing countries in the Asia and Pacific regions;

*Recognizing* that the continued production, import and export, sale and use of enamel decorative paints containing lead, especially for applications likely to contribute to childhood and occupational lead exposure, are not consistent with the sound management of chemicals;

*Recognizing* the fact that some countries in the Asia-Pacific region have adopted laws and regulations eliminating the use of lead in enamel decorative paints and established controls on paint used in products such as toys for children;

*Recognizing* the fact that some paint manufacturers have discontinued the use of lead in enamel decorative paints and reformulated their products using non-lead alternatives at a similar price and with similar colors and performance characteristics;

*Recognizing* that the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, a joint undertaking of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, organized the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action on 20-26 October 2013, to highlight countries and partners' efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning and urge further action to eliminate lead paint; and

*Recalling* the decision taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to protect children's health from exposure to lead as set out in paragraph 57 of the Summit's Plan of Implementation:

1. *Promote* national regulatory frameworks, as appropriate, to wisely regulate and minimize the manufacture, import, export, sale and use of lead paints and products coated with lead paints;
2. *Invite* the United Nations Environment Programme, Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, and others to build capacity of, and facilitate the transfer of technology to, developing and transition countries to support national lead paint regulatory efforts;
3. *Further invite* the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint to continue to work throughout its focal areas of work and undertake responsive activities, nationally or regionally;
4. *Encourage* stakeholders in Asia-Pacific to support the annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Day of Action through activities that will create awareness and facilitate effective action;
5. *Invite* the United Nations Environment Programme, Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, donors, governments, civil society organizations, and others to support initiatives to fill information gaps on the presence or absence of lead paint on the consumer market;
6. *Request* the United Nations Environment Programme to consider, in cooperation with relevant partners, organizing a Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints (GAELP) regional workshop for Asia-Pacific in 2015 or 2016 and beyond at which multi-stakeholder participants can receive information, training and advice on how to eliminate lead paint;
7. *Invite* the United Nations Environment Programme, Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, and others to support the environmentally sound management of lead paint wastes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition including inter alia technical assistance, legislative guidance, and monitoring;
8. *Request* the World Health Organization and donors to assist government and non-government efforts in association with medical institute to conduct regular biomonitoring such as screening and blood lead testing and clinical studies on the effects of lead on human health, particularly on children under the age of six, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the health care sector to diagnose and manage lead poisoning cases, including treatment guidelines and the effectiveness of interventions; and
9. *Request* the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to convey the present resolution to the participants of the Open-ended Working Group and the Fourth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

References:

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1206424/>

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/LeadCadmium/PrioritiesforAction/LeadPaints/FocalAreasofWork/GAELP/tabid/106381/Default.aspx>

## C Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)

We, the participants in the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia – Pacific regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 23 to 27 March 2014:

*Taking into account the available data and recognizing the potential adverse effects of endocrine disruptors on human health and the environment and the need to protect humans, and ecosystems and their constituent parts that are especially vulnerable, as set forth in, inter alia, paragraph 14 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach;*

*Recognizing the special vulnerability of children during critical periods of development to endocrine disrupting chemicals;*

*Recognizing the global scarcity of information on which endocrine disrupting chemicals are found in consumer products, food, environmental media, and human and wildlife tissues;*

*Considering the special needs that the Asia – Pacific region may increasingly have in coping with endocrine disrupting chemicals throughout their complete lifecycle and the costs of inaction;*

*Noting the concerns of chemical exposures due to agriculture, the need for information on endocrine disrupting chemicals in agriculture, and the large number of agricultural workers in the Asia – Pacific region;*

*Also noting the concerns of exposures to endocrine disrupting chemicals in consumers and workers;*

*Further recalling resolution III/2F on endocrine disrupting chemicals adopted by the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM) at its third session;*

*Welcoming the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and World Health Organization's (WHO's) report, State of the Science on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012;*

*Welcoming the workshop on EDCs organized by the SAICM secretariat in cooperation with UNEP, WHO, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and its key objective of awareness-raising and information sharing for Asia – Pacific countries on issues related to endocrine disrupting chemicals;*

1. *Invite* UNEP and WHO, as a priority, to develop a report on EDCs with regional input that is targeted to the situation and needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition including the Asia – Pacific region and which includes the following elements, subject to available resources:

- (a) Identification of priority EDCs and sources of exposure for Asia – Pacific countries including, *inter alia*, products, food and water, wastes, and pesticides;
- (b) Survey of bio-monitoring and other available information regarding current levels of exposure to EDCs and information gaps;
- (c) Available sources of data on substances with endocrine disrupting properties, and challenges faced by all stakeholders with respect to accessing and using available data;
- (d) Existing framework legislation and policies by governments, institutions, and policies by entities engaged in development finance, such as donors and aid agencies, as well as gaps in measures, to protect human health and the environment from EDCs, especially workers, women, and children;
- (e) Stakeholder needs on information regarding EDCs in products throughout their life-cycle including research carried out in the Chemicals in Products Project under the Strategic Approach;

- (f) Examples of best available practices in reducing the use of EDCs, including safer substitution, non-chemical alternatives and risk-management, if any; and
  - (g) Capacity needs of stakeholders for reducing the risks of EDCs.
2. *Encourage* the formation of a multi-stakeholder working group with representation from all United Nations regions to develop the above report to be considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session.
3. *Recommend* a robust series of awareness-raising activities on EDCs, as referred to in resolution III/2F, of ICCM3 take place in the Asia – Pacific region in UN regional languages, which include the following elements, subject to available resources:
- (a) Dissemination of information relating to EDCs;
  - (b) Information on uses and health effects of EDCs and, if available, examples of corresponding lists of safer alternatives for these uses, including non-chemical alternatives;
  - (c) Available information on environmental contamination and human body burden of EDCs in the Asia – Pacific region;
  - (d) A tool-kit of resources and guidelines for national assessment of production, import and export, use, and disposal of EDCs; and
  - (e) Collecting the above and other relevant information on EDCs in the Asia – Pacific region in an on-line clearinghouse.
4. *Recommend* the case-studies referred to in resolution III/2 F of ICCM3 include five topics; pesticides and the four topics of focus under the Chemicals in Products Project (textiles, children’s products, building products, and electrical and electronic products) and aiming to make the case studies available for at the fourth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management subject to available resources. The case studies may address inter alia, the following elements using well established scientific and medical approaches for characterisation:
- (a) Identification of potential EDCs within by each topic, and the health effects to which these EDCs are linked;
  - (b) Exposure of women, children, and workers to EDCs under each topic;
  - (c) Gaps in existing legislation, policies, guidelines and practices that prevent adequate regulation of, and reduced exposure to EDCs; and
  - (d) Best available practices, including at regional level in substitution of EDCs and needs assessment for substitution and regulation.
5. *Encourage* all stakeholders to provide all available data using the Strategic Approach clearinghouse on the endocrine disrupting properties of all substances in commerce, including mixtures of substances, and to enable access to this data by stakeholders while respecting confidential business information.
6. *Invite* governments in a position to do so to provide financial resources for activities on EDCs.

## Annex II

### **Summary report from the First Asia-Pacific awareness-raising workshop on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals**

**Sunday 23 March 2014.**

1. The first Asia-Pacific awareness-raising workshop on endocrine disrupting chemicals was opened on the morning of Sunday 23 March with introductory presentations by the UNEP secretariat. The presentations covered, in general, the scope and content of the State of the Science report, as well as the process for developing the report.
2. Professor Ake Bergman and Professor Peter Sly presented the technical content of the State of the Science report. They presented information on actions of hormones in the body, the mechanisms of action of endocrine disrupting chemicals, human health effects, wildlife effects and issues of exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals.
3. Following the expert presentations, there were presentations from OECD on the testing methodologies, and from an expert from Thailand Chulabhorn Research Institute. A presentation on the perspective from the pesticides industry was given by a representative speaking on behalf of CropLife and the NGO perspective on the scope of the problem was provided on by a representative from PAN/ IPEN.
4. Following the technical presentations, the meeting divided into a number of small working groups who considered the following questions: identify the more important needs in the sub-region (information, actions etc.); discuss needs for cross-sectoral cooperation (incl. government-academia); discuss possible cooperative activities in and among countries in the (sub-) region(s); and identify needs for international support & activities.
5. In considering needs, it was identified that prioritization would be a key first step. The need for further information, and detailed awareness raising campaigns were identified. These campaigns should be targeted at a number of sectors. The need for a clear definition of endocrine disrupting chemicals was expressed, along with the identification of EDCs of concern and alternatives.
6. In looking at cross-sectoral cooperation, the need to involve all concerned ministries within the government was identified as key, as well as ensuring that other stakeholders including industry, civil society and the public. Proposals were made to consider cooperative activities between different universities, as well as other regional exchange activities.
7. The role of already established cooperative structures as a means for enhancing cooperation was highlighted by many. A number of suggestions to consider developing harmonized regulations § for the region, including cross-border controls and harmonized transport legislation, which would limit the movement of EDCs. The benefits of information exchange within the region were also highlighted.
8. In looking at the question of international support, the need for financial and technical assistance to support the work of countries was highlighted as a key requirement. The need for further cooperative activities involving UNEP and WHO and facilitated by the SAICM secretariat was identified, along with exploring options for a close link with ASEAN. The need for ongoing support for the SAICM secretariat was highlighted.

## Annex III

### Summary of the outcome of the information-sharing workshop

#### Chemicals in Products (CiP) programme development – update and next steps

1. UNEP provided a presentation which set out the progress to date on the Chemical in Products issue, including the initial information gathering exercise and the identification of the four priority sectors (toys, textiles, electronics and building materials). The presentation covered the complexity of the process to ensure information flow, including the length and complexity of the supply chain and decisions to be taken on the type of information to be exchanged. The presentation also covered a number of options for deciding which chemicals should be involved in information exchange, from the level of targeting chemicals on restricted lists to information systems with a scope to cover all chemicals intentionally added to a product.
2. Questions raised included concerns about the availability of information and how the issue of confidential information would be handled. The need for cooperation and synergy with other activities, including current work in other forums and sectors and the work of the Global Harmonised System on Classification and Labelling were highlighted. Concerns about the need for information to be made available in an understandable format and language were raised. Another point was in regard to waste handling and recycling, and upon whom would the responsibility for the provision of information fall – should the manufacturer be responsible for providing the information directly.
3. In closing the session, UNEP introduced the need for further information, and circulated a questionnaire aimed at gaining deeper insight to specific and targeted information needs / uses identified by meeting participants.

#### Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)

4. Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs) was presented by IWW/UBA. The session provided an overview of the current state of knowledge, including the documented ecotoxicological effects of EPPPs on the aquatic and terrestrial environment.
5. A global MEC (measured environment concentrations) database had been set up by transferring data from more than 1000 publications in order to gain more knowledge about global occurrences and distribution of EPPPs. Through this database, EPPPs have been found in more than 70 countries, often with concentrations above ecotoxicological thresholds. For Asia & the Pacific, 145 publications with more than 15000 MEC-database entries from 16 countries have been found. 248 different pharmaceuticals have been detected in Asia & the Pacific, of which 203 have also been detected in western countries. High average concentrations above ecotoxicological thresholds have been found in Asia & the Pacific for Diclofenac (Analgesic), Sulfamethoxazole (Antibiotic), and Estradiol (Estrogen).
6. The sources of EPPPs are assumed to be dominated by urban sewage mixing up with local surface waters. In addition, agriculture, aquaculture, hospitals, and production sites are important contributors. Several regional mitigation strategies have been presented, such as information campaigns, return programs at pharmacies, prescriptions, and the building/enhancement of wastewater treatment plants.
7. Finally, the possible integration of EPPPs within the SAICM process was discussed. Extensive discussion following the presentation showed the high level of interest throughout all groups of participants. The discussion raised the effectiveness of wastewater treatment plants, the standardization of laboratory measurements, the responsibility of introducing measurement campaigns, the definition of pharmaceuticals, the wastewater concentrations from cruise ships near small islands, the effects of highly populated areas on concentrations in water, the alternative of

“greener drugs”, the control of drug disposal, the comparability of concentrations for different countries, and the different thresholds of effect levels.

### **Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials: supporting the ICCM3 outcomes**

8. This information sharing session was moderated by UNITAR with a panel of four presenters. They informed the meeting about a variety of ongoing activities that contribute to achieving the SAICM objectives related to nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials. First, UNITAR provided an overview of its programme on nano safety, focusing on the outcomes of its latest pilot project work assisting three countries to develop capacities to tackle nanomaterial issues. OECD outlined its work on the testing and assessment. During the last decade the burden was shared between countries testing the 13 most important nanomaterials and addressing 59 endpoints. Several test guidelines are still under revision. Nanomaterials of concern in the waste stream are also studied. It was considered that the approaches used for the testing and assessment of traditional chemicals are in general appropriate for assessing the safety of nanomaterials, but may have to be adapted to the specificities of nanomaterials.

9. IPEN presented its activities and perspectives, emphasizing the importance of developing regional networks and highlighting that SAICM provides the only global forum to address nanomaterials relevant to developing countries. In particular, the drafting of legal and technical guidelines for the safe use of nanomaterials needs to be initiated. IPEN has prepared an information booklet entitled “The Social and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology Development in Asia-Pacific”, available at the following link: <http://ipen.org/documents/social-and-environmental-implications-nanotechnology-development-asia-pacific>. The purpose of this is implementing the ICCM3 nano resolution and the nano Global Plan of Action GPA. Thailand provided their perspective on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials having participated in the UNITAR pilot projects. The Thai policy development contains a national nano policy, a nano roadmap and a nano safety plan. Thailand has also nano measurement and nano characterization service laboratories, as well as a certified mark for nano products. The Thai project will benefit the region as a model.

10. In the discussion, a number of aspects were brought forward which would be important to consider for countries in addressing the safety of nanomaterials: awareness raising with industry, workers and consumers; building capacity in government, industry, trade unions, academia and civil society; availability of information on the materials, their physical-chemical and toxicological properties and exposure levels; and commitment of politicians to develop appropriate regulations to ensure the safe use of nanomaterials. After the implementation of national nano legislation in a few countries, the issue could be discussed at the regional and global level. Finally it was highlighted that SAICM is the ideal multi stakeholder and multi sectoral platform for such work on nano safety, identifying the needs of developing countries and promoting political attention through its resolutions.

### **Health Sector Activities**

11. Ms Lesley Onyon, WHO, gave an overview of the SAICM health-sector strategy and recent activities in WHO South-East Asia including the development of a regional framework for implementation of the chemical aspects of the IHR and a multisectoral and multistakeholder workshop held to develop an implementation plan for chemical safety in the subregion. She outlined the recommendations arising from that workshop in the following four areas: understanding and strengthening the evidence for action; enhancing the role of the health sector; accelerating the implementation of regional and internationally agreed priorities; and strengthening and building regional networks for capacity-building and research. In this latter regard she highlighted a number of developments including a regional chemical helpdesk, the launching of e-learning tools on risk assessment, the development of the WHO Risk Assessment Network and the formation of a Regional Training Centre for Chemical Safety at the Chulabhorn Research Centre.

12. Dr. Satariya Trakulsrichai and Ms. Sriapha Charuwan, Thailand introduced the history and current work of the Ramathibodi Poison Center including the role of the

poisons centre in providing 24 hour -7 day per week toxicological information and advice on the management of poisoning, the public education and outreach activities and the analytical toxicology facilities available. She described the recent efforts that had resulted in a new web-based system for improving the access and speed of availability of antidotes in Thailand. She spoke of the applicability of such a system for countries outside of Thailand and the willingness of the Ramathibodi Poisons Centre in working with other centres in other countries and the need for a regional poisons centre.

13. Dr Y. K Gupta, All India Medical School, gave a situation analysis of poisons centres in the WHO South-East Asia Region. 11 centres were located in 6 countries: India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar and Thailand. Until recently these centres had limited contact and worked often in isolation. A series of meetings facilitated by WHO had resulted in a greater awareness of the operations of each of the centres, common strengths and remaining challenges. Because not all countries had the benefit of poisons centres and in others, coverage was seen as insufficient considering the size of the population, much remained to be done to establish new centres and strengthen others. A number of areas had been identified in which the centres could pool resources and expertise. Of particular interest was the area of toxicovigilance which involved monitoring trends in poisoning so that preventive action could be taken. The centres in the region were currently discussing how best to regionalize their efforts and had mutually agreed to form a network of consortium which had the potential not only to deal with acute poisonings but also detection and response to chemical events under the IHR and working with other stakeholders to improve chemicals safety.

14. Ms. Faye Ferrer, Health Care Without Harm, presented the results of an innovative project sponsored by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund which involved engagement of the health sector in hospitals in Argentina and the Philippines working to substitute chemicals for safe alternatives. This project built upon some of the methodologies and commitment that have been obtained by Health Care Without Harm in phasing out mercury-containing medical equipment from hospitals. The project was a good demonstration of one of the actions described in the SAICM Health Sector Strategy to build up a greater awareness about chemical safety in the health sector by directly engaging them in areas of their work where chemicals are used.

15. In the discussion that followed, participants noted work being done in the African Region to examine the feasibility of a sub-regional poisons centre and to develop a poisons information network among Pacific Islands. It was noted that the work in South-East Asia was based on WHO IPCS guidelines for establishing poisons centres and that there were plans to engage the network of poisons centres in pooling information on highly hazardous pesticides.

#### **Lead in Paint**

16. UNEP and the WHO provided an update on the work underway on lead in paint. The presentation highlighted the steps taken since the ICCM2 resolution to include lead in paint as an emerging issue under SAICM. It provided information on the establishment of the Global Alliance on the Elimination of Lead in Paint, and the objectives and work plan agreed on by the Alliance. The key priorities for the 2012-2013 period were highlighted, and the priorities for action for 2014 to 2020 were introduced. The presentation reported on the success of the week of action, a very successful awareness raising campaign, including information on the activities undertaken in Nairobi and in Geneva.

17. The report on the levels of lead in paint in 9 countries and results from other studies for an additional 27 countries was introduced, with the key message conveyed that where there was no regulation, there is routinely lead in paint found. Following the presentation, a number of delegates spoke to highlight the opportunities for success on lead in paint, including the real possibility that this could be eliminated even before the 2020 goal. Representative of GAEL also welcomed key stakeholder from Asia - Pacific region, including Governments, industry, NGOs and others to participate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Global Alliance in New Delhi, India from 23-25 September 2014, including a 2-day-workshop on establishing legal limits on lead in paint

## Annex IV

### **Revised Terms of Reference of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

1. The roles and responsibilities of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee on SAICM are;
  - (a) To encourage and facilitate subregional activities on SAICM;
  - (b) To serve as a conduit for the views of subregions on SAICM implementations and for the exchange of information;
  - (c) To prepare, in collaboration with the regional focal point, materials and agendas for regional meetings;
  - (d) To facilitate reporting on SAICM implementation in the Asia-Pacific region and on the provision of resources to support such implementations;
  - (e) To assist the regional focal point in harmonization and follow-up efforts intersessionally;
  - (f) To provide assistance in the formation of regional and subregional project proposals as requested by the Asia-Pacific regional focal point;
  - (g) To facilitate the promotion of financial assistance for the implementation of SAICM; and
  - (h) To review from time to time the SAICM Global Plan of Action for the purpose of adapting it to national and regional priorities.
  
2. The working procedures:
  - (a) To the extent possible, to undertake the work through correspondence, teleconferencing and, when feasible, face-to-face meetings;
  - (b) To use English as the working language of the Committee; and
  - (c) To designate alternates or technical advisers to participate in meetings as required in order to ensure continuity and involvement.
  - (d) The representative/representatives of each sub-region will coordinate with the other representatives/ focal points of countries in his/her subregion, and sustain communication with them through different channels, including e-mails.
  - (e) Each country is invited to share information about chemicals, progress of (SAICM) implementation, successful experiences, topics, needs, and other inter alia with the subregion through the representative/ representatives in the committee.
  - (f) Each subregion is invited to share information about chemicals, progress of (SAICM) implementation, successful experiences, topics, needs, and other inter alia, with other subregions in Asia and Pacific region through the representative/representatives of them, and to share it with the Asia and Pacific region through the regional focal point or submitted to the coordination committee.
  - (g) Each subregional representative/representatives shall report twice a year on the progress of coordination and communication in his/her subregion to the regional focal point and Coordination Committee.
  - (h) The two Asia-Pacific Government regional representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board will report twice a year the updates and information about the QSP and the projects in the region.
  - (i) The representatives of civil society, key regional organization, and IOMC, will report their activities in the region to the regional focal point and to the Coordination Committee.
  - (j) The regional focal point will highlight the distinctive reports of the sub-regions, and others, at the Asia and Pacific regional meeting.

3. Election of subregional representatives:
  - (a) Each subregion will elect at least one or two countries to represent the subregion in the coordination committee.
  - (b) The election of the subregional representatives will be done during each Asia and Pacific regional meeting, and the elected representatives will be submitted to the chair of the regional meeting.
  - (c) Each subregion will nominate a contact person/or the focal point and may designate technical assistants.
  - (d) The appointment of the governmental representatives from each of the Asia-Pacific subregions should be made on a rotational basis among countries of each subregion.
  - (e) If a member of the Asia-Pacific Coordination Committee is unable to carry out his/her functions, the Government or organization from which the member was nominated may provide an alternative.
  
4. The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) comprises the following members:
  - (a) The Asia-Pacific regional focal point for SAICM;
  - (b) The Asia-Pacific regional representative on the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
  - (c) One Governmental representative from each of the six Asia-Pacific subregions: Central Asia, North-East Asia, Pacific Islands, South Asia, South-East Asia and West Asia (see appendix for a breakdown of subregions), or two representatives if so decided by a subregion;
  - (d) The two Asia-Pacific Government regional representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board;
  - (e) One representative from each of the following three sectors of civil society: industry, labour and public interest;
  - (f) One representative of a key regional organization (for example one that has region-wide responsibilities relevant to the sound management of chemicals);
  - (g) One representative from a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals with a significant regional chemical safety programme; and
  - (h) The immediate past Asia-Pacific regional focal point on SAICM.

## ANNEX IV APPENDIX

### Composition of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), 2012-2015

The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee comprises the following members, whose term of office lasts until the close of the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) in 2015:

- (a) The Asia-Pacific regional representative on the ICCM Bureau:
- Iran
- (b) The Asia-Pacific regional focal point:
- Iraq
- (c) Two Government representatives from each of the six Asia-Pacific subregions:
- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Japan                                      | (North-East Asia) |
| Philippines and Thailand (to be confirmed) | (South-East Asia) |
| Bhutan and Sri Lanka                       | (South Asia)      |
| Jordan and Yemen                           | (West Asia)       |
| Kyrgyz Republic                            | (Central Asia)    |
| Kiribati and Marshall Island               | (Pacific Island)  |
- (d) The two Asia-Pacific Government regional representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board:
- China  
Indonesia
- (e) One representative from each of the following three sectors of civil society:
- Industry: ICCA  
Labour: ITUC to confirm  
Public interest: Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA-IPEN)
- (f) One representative of a key regional organization (for example, one that has region-wide responsibilities relevant to the sound management of chemicals) to be determined from time to time:
- To be confirmed
- (g) One representative from a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals with a significant regional chemical safety programme:
- UNITAR
- (h) The immediate past African SAICM regional focal point.

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## APPENDIX

### Allocation of countries into the six sub-regions designated by the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting for the Implementation of SAICM

#### Central Asia

Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Tajikistan  
Turkmenistan  
Uzbekistan

#### South Asia

Afghanistan  
Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
India  
Maldives  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Sri Lanka

#### Pacific Islands

Cook Islands  
Fiji  
Marshall Islands  
Micronesia, Federated States of  
Kiribati  
Nauru  
Niue  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Samoa  
Solomon Islands  
Tonga  
Tuvalu  
Vanuatu

#### South East Asia

Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
Indonesia  
Lao P.D.R.  
Malaysia  
Myanmar  
Philippines  
Singapore  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Vietnam

#### North East Asia

China  
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of  
Japan  
Mongolia  
Republic of Korea

#### West Asia

Bahrain  
Cyprus  
Iran, Islamic Republic of  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Oman  
Qatar  
Saudi Arabia  
Syrian Arab Republic  
United Arab Emirates  
Yemen

## Annex V

### Summary of input collected at the Priority Setting Workshop of the Asia-Pacific Regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Kuala Lumpur, 26 March 2014

#### 1. What are the basic elements required at the national level to achieve sound chemicals management?

- a) Awareness of chemical safety at many levels and among many stakeholders.
- b) Sufficient political profile of the chemicals agenda, political will.
- c) Effective and meaningful participation of stakeholders.
- d) Effective coordination amongst government agencies and stakeholders.
- e) Adequate legislation governing all aspects chemicals management.
- f) Establishment of a chemical clearing house center in order to manage chemicals throughout their life cycle.
- g) Sufficient financing.
- h) Application of economic instruments to cover costs.
- i) Stewardship systems (e.g, environmental levy for importation and disposal of chemicals).
- j) Public Private Partnership for resource mobilization, information exchange, technology transfer and economic instruments.
- k) Sufficient technical and management capacity.
- l) Full lifecycle approach from design to disposal.
- m) Prevention of accidents and chronic effects, preparedness for unexpected adverse events.
- n) Risk mitigation.
- o) Identification of harms and risks.
- p) Harmonization of information about chemicals.
- q) Adopt GHS for classification and labelling and build capacity on how to use.
- r) Effective enforcement, including enforcement of regulations for trade in illegal chemicals and waste E.g. provide customs with lists of banned chemicals to stop illegal import.
- s) Safest least toxic option used.
- t) Identification of hotspots.
- u) Infrastructure and/or mechanisms for obsolete pesticide disposal.
- v) Establish a monitoring program and enhance analytical capability of the national countries, surveillance.
- w) Definitions of “chemicals” and “sound chemicals management”.
- x) Centralized Chemical Legislative Framework that governs (i) Principle (polluter pays, precautionary, right to know); (ii) Policies; (iii) Strategies; (iv) Legislation; (v) Regulations; (vi) Stewardship system including advanced disposal fees or green levy.
- y) Centralized Chemicals Registry/list of chemicals and products that will become hazardous waste.

- z) Precautionary Principle of chemical management to guide policy and legislation.
- aa) Develop a framework on chemicals management as part of the national development plans and mainstreaming of sound chemicals management and ensuring that the safest least toxic chemicals and approaches are used.
- bb) Develop a Strategic Plan of Action (for example, Thailand) and Specific Legislation on Chemicals Management.
- cc) Institutional – Organise a committee to support sound management of chemicals.
- dd) Chemical producer nations should comply with all Conventions and guidelines – Stockholm, Rotterdam and etc. This will ensure that recipient countries will be protected from globally regulated chemicals.
- ee) Access to information, including on chemicals in products and releases to the environment.
- ff) Integrated chemical database on chemicals properties, effects, availability use and substitution should be set up in each country.
- gg) Research on impact of chemicals on human and wild life at national level.

**2. Looking back on the achievements of SAICM to date from your perspective and region, what concrete success has already been achieved towards the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management?**

- a) Capacity for the sound management of chemicals (SMC) of chemicals exists today in the region thanks to SAICM.
- b) Strong and well established mechanisms that coordinate among all national stakeholders for better management of hazardous chemicals and waste.
- c) Strengthened inter-agency cooperation.
- d) Formalization of, or strengthening of existing, national chemicals management bodies and a network of contact points.
- e) National chemicals profiles were developed in almost all developing countries.
- f) Regional and national action plans.
- g) Providing accessible information to the public on the hazards of chemicals.
- h) Knowledge and information sharing increased, particularly for emerging policy issues.
- i) Many excellent programs supported through the QSP, which helped many countries to start and build capacity for chemical safety activities as well as implement obligations.
- j) Raised awareness and exchange information among government ministries and stakeholders (including NGOs) concerned with the sound management of chemicals and SAICM.
- k) Regional multi-sectoral workshop in Southeast Asia held on chemical safety and committed to holding another workshop; interested in collecting views for topics at workshop (WHO).
- l) Lead in Paint, elevated into a regional and global issue.
- m) Establishment of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

**Specific Achievements**

- n) Occupational health and safety laws proposed (Maldives)
- o) Work on POPs inventory (Maldives)
- p) Established cabinet level coordination mechanism for BRS conventions (Sri Lanka)
- q) Beginning 9 new POPs inventory (Sri Lanka)

- r) PCB disposal project started (Sri Lanka)
- s) No export and import of chemicals named in BRS Conventions and Montreal Protocol (Sri Lanka)
- t) License system resulted in 95% of market lead-free paint (Sri Lanka)
- u) Developed procedures for handling chemical incidents (Sri Lanka)
- v) Developed outreach processes and materials (Sri Lanka)
- w) Poison center operating (Sri Lanka, India, Nepal)
- x) Decided to phase-out mercury-containing medical devices (Sri Lanka)
- y) Participation of Ministry of Health in pesticides regulation including prohibition of paraquat and other WHO Class 1 pesticides (Sri Lanka)
- z) Memoranda of understanding signed with companies for handling of e-waste (Sri Lanka)
- aa) Increased awareness of chemical harms (Sri Lanka)
- bb) Regulation of toxic substances in skin-whitening creams (Sri Lanka)
- cc) New waste management policy (Sri Lanka)
- dd) Continuing pesticide control shared by multiple ministries spearheaded by Ministry of Agriculture (Sri Lanka)
- ee) Stopped use of mercury in chlor-alkali plants (India-almost, Bangladesh)
- ff) Setting a limit on use of mercury in CFLs lamps (India)
- gg) Establishment of compensation fund for chemical accident victims funded by the industry (India)
- hh) New e-waste law 2011 (India)
- ii) Lead in paint notification January 2014 (India)
- jj) Inventory of lead, cadmium, and mercury in paints (India)
- kk) Reviewed hazardous waste management rules (India)
- ll) Working on implementation of non-combustion technology for PCB destruction (India)
- mm) Active committee for de-registration of pesticides (India)
- nn) National disaster management authority established (India)
- oo) Hospital preparedness for chemical exposures (India)
- pp) Prohibition of mercury-containing medical products in hospitals (India)
- qq) Formed technical level working group with cross ministerial members (Bhutan)
- rr) Updating national profile (Bhutan)
- ss) Introduced pay and carry system for pesticides to control pesticide sales and prevent illegal pesticide use (Bhutan)
- tt) Formed goal for entire country to utilize organic agriculture (Bhutan)
- uu) Introduced waste management legislation (Bhutan)
- vv) Policy to ban waste import implemented (Bhutan)
- ww) Inventory of carcinogenic chemicals completed (Bhutan)
- xx) Sensitized government officials to chemical safety (Bhutan)
- yy) Increased chemical safety awareness including on wastes and pesticides (Bangladesh)
- zz) National POPs status report completed – government /ESDO collaboration (Bangladesh)
- aaa) Increased infrastructure for waste management (Bangladesh)

- bbb) ESDO completes first e-waste study; government followed up with national action plan (Bangladesh)
- ccc) Draft regulation on e-waste management prepared and submitted (Bangladesh)
- ddd) Increased interest of Ministry of Health in chemical safety issues (Bangladesh)
- eee) Initiated work on mercury in dental amalgam (Bangladesh)
- fff) Lead paint manufacturers voluntarily phasing-out lead paint; moving to lead-free market (Bangladesh)
- ggg) Established initiative on mercury-free medical devices (Nepal)
- hhh) SAICM coordination committee established with multiple ministries, industry, research institutes, public interest NGOs (Nepal)
- iii) Disposed 75 tons of obsolete pesticides and disposal of 43 cylinders of methyl bromide (Nepal)
- jjj) PCBs inventory performed and decontaminated (Nepal)
- kkk) Hazardous waste management policies established (Nepal)
- lll) Formulating lead in paint standard in process (Nepal)
- mmm) Occupational health and safety measures in process (Nepal)
- nnn) Policies established for chemicals in healthcare (Nepal)
- ooo) Healthcare medical waste guidelines in process (Nepal)
- ppp) Indonesia – revised the regulations on hazardous substances and waste and document on waste management, industry promoting risk assessment, regulations on labelling and GHS, national profile hazardous substances eg. asbestos, benzene, national single window registration for importing chemicals and future will cover exports.
- qqq) Myanmar – joined SAICM
- rrr) Malaysia: Online registration chemical management system for all industry using chemicals. Online simple risk assessment to assess the workplace hazards. Monitored by enforcement body.
- sss) Philippines: phase out of mercury in medical devices.
- ttt) Thailand - Legislation, Policy and Plans aligned with SAICM have been established/amended e.g. The Fourth National Strategic Plan on Chemicals Management (year 2012-2021), National Environmental Health Action Plan, Thailand National Core Capacity Development Plan in compliance with International Health Regulations, National Nanosafety Strategic Plan, National Organic Agricultural Strategic Plan, etc.
- uuu) Thailand - Draft Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Law and Laboratory Safety Act prepared
- vvv) Thailand – Establishment of several centers, namely: Nano Safety Information Center of Thailand, Poison centers, Center of Excellence on Hazardous Substance Management and the Center of Excellence on Environmental Health and Toxicology, and information banks or knowledge portals for chemicals management in local language.

### **3. What are the remaining gaps to achieve to manage chemicals in your country and in your region?**

#### Awareness gap

- a) Lack of awareness of chemical safety at many levels and among many stakeholders; need for structured program and strategic planning to raise awareness; presence in education.
- b) Limited awareness among public and policy and decision makers regarding the benefits of SMC.
- c) Lack of political will.

Legislation & policy gap

- d) Integrating sound chemicals management into national discussions, development processes, policies and plans.
- e) National chemicals legislation for SMC and its infrastructure lacking in many countries.
- f) The chemical management legislation that is in place cannot cover and control all chemicals which are produced, imported, exported and used within the country.
- g) Need for further improvement of the involvement, cooperation and coordination between all relevant actors.
- h) Gap between the lists of chemical banned in developed countries, but still use in our region.
- i) National and sub-regional/regional integrated plan for SAICM implementation.
- j) Less involvement of the Pacific Island Countries in the SAICM Program.

Capacity & experience gap

- k) Capacity for enforcement; putting legislation into practice, implementation.
- l) A publicly-accessible information portal on GHS in many countries.
- m) Database system on chemicals is not up to date and used effectively with the relevant authorities. Therefore it cannot track chemicals throughout their life cycle, from cradle to grave.
- n) Small and medium sized enterprises still lack knowledge and capacity as well as less participation in chemical management.
- o) Lack of emergency response and plan to chemical incidents, poisoning and chemical spill.

Data & knowledge gap.

- p) Lack of information on the impact of Industrial and Agricultural chemicals.
- q) Overarching Monitoring and Evaluation of all the chemical Projects for Reporting purposes and Sustainability for funding allocation and resources at the national level.
- r) Lack of information of highly hazardous pesticides and information on alternatives to HHPs including ecosystem approach pest management.
- s) Compilation of data on chemical management is sectoral.

Finance and technology gap

- t) Environmentally-sound management of municipal, medical, industrial and toxic and hazardous wastes.
- u) Adequate, predictable, sustainable financing; industry costs not internalized.
- v) Lack of flexibility for Countries to access project funds due to stringent criteria by Donor Agencies through SAICM programs e.g. Flexible criteria for national and regional projects that suit local conditions and situations.

**4. From your perspective, what are the priority actions to fill these gaps?**

- a) Strategic planning and execution.
- b) Strengthen the data baseline on the use of chemicals in the country, including what chemicals are used as well as the quantity.
- c) Awareness Raising, focusing on awareness of SMC as a key component in Sustainable Development as well as life-cycle.
- d) More awareness programs and increase technical capacities in terms of research skills, and development, assessment, etc. within the local institutes.
- e) Access to information; clear, timely and appropriate information for decision makers.
- f) Mainstream SMC into national public health, labour, social and economic development programmes.
- g) Apply economic instruments.
- h) Capacity building, bridging the gap in differences of capacity to handle the challenges, in particular for chemicals legislation.
- i) Development of national systems for the storage of hazardous materials and toxic substances.
- j) Enhanced programmatic cooperation and coordination with other policy instruments in chemicals and waste area could help fill implementation gaps.
- k) Strengthened capacity to effectively establish green customs to control illegal traffic of toxic and dangerous chemicals and wastes.
- l) Establish regional public health networks to exchange information and research in chemical safety.
- m) Develop chemical safety databases at national and regional levels. Establishment of new chemicals clearing house centres.
- n) Set up a national emergency response plans to deal with chemical emergencies.
- o) Establish regional toxicology centres.
- p) Increased engagement of the mining industry sector and agriculture sector.
- q) Provide sustainable financing mechanism with enough resources.
- r) Increased public private partnerships.
- s) Provide more strategic expertise services from the SAICM secretariat.
- t) Lack of Political will - Organise a high-level political SCM committee. At the national level there is a lack of sharing of information and coordination between the different focal points of different conventions and multistakeholders are there is a lack of information and coordination of the different Ministries/departments.
- u) Develop appropriate regulations on chemicals management and their enforcement.
- v) Strengthen existing mechanisms and information sharing for highly hazardous pesticides, particular at the sub-regional level.
- w) Sharing of information at national level in a systematic way and make the information easily understood. Ensure public access to information on chemicals and their management.
- x) More attempts and opportunities for the Pacific Countries to involve in the SAICM Program.
- y) Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of all pilot projects for sustainability on way forward, sharing lessons learned and promoting scale-up.
- z) Establish of Chemical Information Network to facilitate information exchange and mainstreaming of chemicals into national plans through identification of clear responsibilities among the relevant main stakeholder for chemicals management and strong political commitment.
- aa) Adopt GHS for classification and labelling and build capacity on how to use it.

- bb) Effective enforcement of regulations for trade in illegal chemicals and waste Eg. provide customs with lists of banned chemicals to stop illegal import.
- cc) Support of capacity building of countries that have lower development in chemicals management.
- dd) Better access to information including chemicals in products and releases in the environment. Develop mechanisms to return back the illegal chemicals and waste to the countries that have exported them.
- ee) SAICM secretariat – regular and sustained funding.
- ff) Improved communication between SAICM secretariat and the regional and national focal points, and between the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Committee and the focal points of the region. Supporting the focal points to strengthen their effectiveness.
- gg) Strengthening regional programme and explore the possibility of having regional SAICM centres.
- hh) Regular information and communication sharing – regular updates to the focal points and have a regular Newsletter.
- ii) Improve effectiveness of international programs by providing better channels of communication and focusing on key and essential chemicals management skills, with any related training conducted in the region to enable wider stakeholder participation for SMC.

**5. What areas of expertise could you or the stakeholders you represent offer to enhance support in your region to achieve the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management?**

In the region, there is a need to share lessons learned and experience obtained from regional and international programs, building on the respective strengths of SAICM stakeholders.

Task for the Coordination Committee: Please elaborate on where the expertise is in the region, based on discussions at this workshop as a starting point. Note: the secretariat has collected the information received on expertise from the workshop.

Possible categories of expertise:

- a) Pesticide expertise; providing evidence of human and environmental harm due to pesticide exposure, identification of HHPs and policy obstacles, identification of eco-system based approaches to pest management, training of farmers, human and environmental harm
- b) Research and generation of data and other evidence to support policy initiatives on sound management of chemicals
- c) Information, education and communication skills to raise public awareness on sound management of chemicals; good opportunity for civil society and government collaboration
- d) Knowledge of the pollution situation and practices on the ground including identifying hotspots
- e) Poison control centre expertise in addressing chemical harms
- f) Occupational and health safety
- g) Basic toxicological research capacity
- h) Risk assessment of chemicals management and reduction
- i) GHS for registration of chemicals.

Questionnaire response - Thailand:

i) Would like to propose to be a subregional hub in nanosafety and nanotechnology to further strengthen collaboration with neighbouring countries as well as with developed and developing countries in the area of nanosafety, with management and public awareness. They stand ready to provide:

- regional training and workshops in public awareness
- advice in conducting workshops on nanosafety and with management, nano-standardisation, and regulation, and nano safety guidelines for factory workers, laboratory personnel and consumers that are in line with international best-practices.

ii) Furthermore, Thailand would propose to be a regional poison centre of Asia- Pacific.