ICCA Capacity Building
Strengthening Chemicals Management Through the Value Chain

Enhanced outreach and dialogue
Over 2,600 professionals trained
More than 40 capacity building workshops around the globe
Increased engagement with the value chain and SMEs
New materials and online tools
Wider geographic spread and reach
The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) is the worldwide voice of the chemical industry. This brochure brings information on ICCA's Capacity Building activities and examples of cooperation with stakeholders around the world, undertaken as part of our commitment to build and strengthen the UN’s Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), adopted at the first International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai in 2006.

ICCA launched the Responsible Care® Global Charter and its Global Product Strategy at the Dubai conference. The Global Charter strengthens industry’s long-standing environmental, health, safety and security performance initiative, while the Global Product Strategy expands and reinforces the product stewardship activities that are an integral part of Responsible Care. These efforts are making a real difference to the safe management of chemicals and are helping to harmonize approaches between developing, emerging and industrialized regions.

“Our commitment to SAICM is strong and unwavering. ICCA’s extensive Capacity Building program, built around our Global Product Strategy and Responsible Care, addresses the other key SAICM objectives: We are improving the risk reduction awareness and capability of our industry; strengthening knowledge and information about our products and chemicals management throughout the value chain; working with governments and others to ensure good governance; and cooperating with key stakeholders, as well as actively working with our membership, to prevent illegal traffic”

Andrew N. Liveris
President, International Council of Chemical Associations
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Dow Chemical Company
FOREWORD

The International Council of Chemical Associations is pleased to bring you this overview of capacity building and the Global Product Strategy (GPS). It showcases our global capacity building activities and communicates how we are meeting key objectives established by the UN Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Development and implementation of the GPS is the responsibility of ICCA’s Chemical Policy & Health Leadership Group. Together with industry’s Responsible Care initiative, the GPS provides the foundation for our industry’s contributions to the SAICM process which was adopted at the first International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2006.

Now, in 2012, stakeholders are gathering for ICCM-3. The intervening years have seen development and funding of a series of GPS tools and materials underpinned by an extensive global workshop program, as outlined in the following pages. We’ve made great strides in reaching out to small- and medium-sized companies and through the value chain to improve chemicals management at all levels. Our world map (page 6) offers an at-a-glance look at our expanding and successful workshop program which is a truly global effort. Building on this success, ICCA is making good use of the power of the internet both as a teaching tool and as an important information channel.

Our industry aims to further strengthen public confidence that our products are managed safely at all stages of the life cycle by fulfilling the commitments we have made under both the GPS and the Responsible Care Global Charter.

We hope you find this brochure of interest. For further information about our activities, see contact details on the back cover.

**Greg Bond & Martin Kayser,**
CO-CHAIRS
ICCA Chemical Policy & Health Leadership Group
Overview

THE GPS AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

ICCA has a positive story to communicate at the third International Conference on Chemicals Management, ICCM-3. Our capacity building activities have developed and matured into a worldwide multi-stakeholder process since the first ICCM in 2006.

By the end of 2012, ICCA will have staged more than 40 capacity building workshops in the past four years, in a host of diverse locations around the globe.

Our focus has been on training experts to promote, develop and implement the ICCA’s Global Product Strategy (GPS), as well as to strengthen industry’s Responsible Care performance initiative. We have targeted small and mid-sized chemical companies (SMEs) to help ensure good chemicals management is an integral part of their business. We have developed new tools and materials such as the widely-praised ICCA Guidance on Chemical Risk Assessment, and shared best practice, engaging with the value chain and key stakeholders.

ICCA’S GLOBAL PRODUCT STRATEGY

- Defines a “base set of information” for chemicals in commerce.
- Shares information for safety assessment among companies.
- Promotes a tiered process for evaluating risk and identifying appropriate risk management actions for chemicals in commerce.
- Extends guidance for safety assessment on a global scale.
- Helps define safe-use conditions for chemicals and provide guidance to companies to enable them to meet safe-use conditions.
- Calls for measuring industry performance and public reporting.
- Improves product stewardship cooperation with downstream customers in the chemical industry.
- Supports partnerships with intergovernmental organizations and others to enhance product stewardship.
- Enhances outreach and dialogue with customers, the public and other stakeholders.

Spreading the word: the number of translations of the ICCA Guidance on Chemical Risk Assessment is growing.
ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT
Our activities involve downstream users of chemicals, national government representatives, local authorities and regulators, and academia. They are active participants in the workshops, and have increasing input into the tools being developed to support GPS implementation.

At international level, our engagement with the United Nations Environment Programme is crucial to successful chemicals management. That took a step further in September 2010, when UNEP and ICCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding enabling better sharing of resources and more effective joint actions on workshops and other areas. We published an overview of cooperative efforts and outlined ideas for future collaboration.

The partners are also working on development of a MoU Strategy Plan covering 2012-2014. Actions include promoting the integration of Responsible Care into UNEP’s Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) process which helps people prevent, prepare for and respond appropriately to accidents and emergencies. The strategy will also outline priority areas for joint activities in Africa, and in China and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, at the Rio+20 conference in June 2012, ICCA joined with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and other stakeholders in an event focused on the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The GHS process is strongly endorsed by ICCA and its members, and while governments have seen a degree of success in some countries with implementation there is room for improvement. Full and frank discussions took place during the event which will help governments, agencies and industry move forward.

Working with partners at the national level also improves the effectiveness of ICCA’s outreach efforts. As well as joint capacity building events with UNEP, we intend to work more closely with national governments, building on the fruitful efforts of 55 Responsible Care associations in all parts of the world.

"Continuous efforts are needed to achieve by 2020 sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle. However, how to do this in the most effective way? It needs a dialogue and cooperation between all SAICM stakeholders to develop and implement joint actions on activities of common need. Capacity building and sharing of knowledge and information, in particular with developing countries and economies in transition, are key elements of SAICM. The ICCA Guidance on Chemical Risk Assessment is a comprehensible piece of information to be shared with stakeholders who are not yet fully familiar with chemicals risk assessment."

Renate Paumann
Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry Environment and Water
WORLDWIDE WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS
No fewer than 14 GPS workshops were held during 2011, making it the busiest yet for ICCA’s Capacity Building Task Force. By the end of 2012 at least 16 more will have taken place in locations in Asia, Africa, South America and Europe. ICCA will also provide support for joint events with UNEP. This full program is proving an effective means of developing ICCA’s chemicals management dialogue with thousands of important stakeholders, and helps us spread good practices through the whole supply chain. Building on these successes, ICCA is developing webinars modeled on the workshop format and has launched a GPS ‘E book’.

The internet also plays a key role in getting information on our products out to the public. GPS Safety Summaries are a very specific outcome of the ICCA objective to make better information on chemicals in commerce available to all. Launched in 2010, they are a visible demonstration that a company has actually assessed its products and is willing to share the information with interested stakeholders. ICCA capacity building has played an important part in helping companies prepare these summaries, understand the objectives of doing so, and recognize the benefits. By mid 2012, the public was able to access about 2,500 GPS Safety Summaries via the ICCA web-based IT Portal.

The internet plays an increasingly important role in relaying information to the public.
LEGACY PROJECTS
A more recent area of activity for ICCA is legacy projects, under which industry provides its expertise to governments and other stakeholders to resolve legacy chemical contamination. One pilot at an abandoned chemicals site in the Ukraine has been successfully completed: ICCA provided expert advice and support for equipment purchases to the international organization Blacksmith Institute which works to eliminate life-threatening pollution in the developing world.

ICCA is working with other partners including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to identify a site for a new pilot project in Africa and hold a remediation workshop in Maputo in June 2012. A number of ICCA members have provided ‘sweat equity’ and expertise, and continue to do so. Similarly, ICCA has committed considerable in-kind contributions to SAICM’s capacity building Quick Start Program.

“Blacksmith’s remediation work on the abandoned Gorlovka Chemical Plant in Ukraine has been greatly assisted by ICCA experts. They have provided safety analysis, suggestions, alternative options, and recommended protocols. Their work will be invaluable as we move into the training and implementation phase of the project, ensuring that safety remains our number one priority at this site.”

Richard Fuller
President, Blacksmith Institute
BUILDING CAPACITY AROUND THE GLOBE

Our worldwide network of chemical industry associations plays an important part in ICCA's capacity building workshop program. They bring together global chemical companies with small and medium sized producers... customers and logistics service providers with regulators... academia with government representatives.

MAXIMIZING OUR NETWORK
ICCA – in effect, an association of associations – exploits the expertise, resources and networking strengths of its members and their companies. The Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA), the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the American Chemistry Council (ACC) are three key organizations in this effort, with each playing a lead role within their region and beyond.

ACC, for example, is mentoring associations in India and the Arabian Gulf as well as in South America. ACC has provided core support, expertise and materials to the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) to help it meet fast-track plans to have a GPS implementation schedule in place by end 2012. ACC’s capacity building effort in India is focused on introducing and helping local chemical companies implement the GPS as well as strengthening the country’s Responsible Care program.

Cefic spearheads efforts not only throughout Europe but also further afield, in Morocco, Egypt and South Africa for example. Eastern Europe has been an important area of focus for capacity building – including the Balkan countries and two of the newest Responsible Care Leadership Group members, Russia and Ukraine.

The overall objective of the Strategic Approach is to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. To achieve this overall objective, SAICM established five subsidiary objectives under the headings: risk reduction; knowledge and information; governance; capacity-building and technical cooperation; illegal international traffic.

ICCA’s successful capacity building activities also address the other subsidiary objectives – for example, risk reduction is a recurring theme, as is knowledge and information on chemicals and chemicals management.
Meantime a lead capacity building role has been provided by the JCIA throughout Asia. It provides organizational support, materials and experienced speakers for workshops, and has promoted GPS strongly in Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines and Chinese Taipei among others over the past few years. JCIA is also supporting non-ICCA member Vietnam in its fledgling chemicals management activities.

It is not just the larger chemical associations that play a proactive role. Experience and best practice sharing and mentoring are important aspects of ICCA’s Responsible Care initiative – so, for example, the New Zealand national chemicals association has been actively involved in strengthening product stewardship activities in Sri Lanka, supporting Colombia with GPS implementation, and ensuring its own successful practices are shared with associations, companies and other stakeholders in many parts of Asia Pacific.

Over the following pages we highlight a few of those workshops and partnership events with UNER.

“Thank you for the opportunity ... to be part of the training workshop on Global Product Strategy and Product Stewardship... these new concepts will definitely contribute to the improvement of the chemical assessment process of industrial chemicals under our legal mandate... We hope that future seminars can be organized by JCIA with your very efficient and expert speakers for wider audiences and specifically target small and medium industries.”

Juan Miguel T. Cuna
CIC Director, Philippines Department of Environment
WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

ROUND-TABLE EVENT

RUSSIA

The Russian Chemists Union and BASF have signed a joint agreement to promote and implement the GPS. The partners held a roundtable event with the theme: "Implementing a Global Product Strategy in Russia." Senior industry figures including Hubert Mandery, Director General of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), Sergey Andreev, head of BASF in Russia, and Executive Director of RCU Igor Kukushkin met at BASF's Russian office. They were joined by chemical safety experts from Russian chemical and petrochemical companies, and representatives from the authorities.

*GPS sets global standards in product safety assessment. Public information about chemicals not only enhances the credibility of chemical companies, but will also help remove barriers to trade," Sergey Andreev told participants. The event covered risk assessment mechanisms, and how to apply the concept and principles of GPS at company level. RCU has committed to setting up a chemical products characteristics database in Russian, which will be posted on its website www.ruschemunion.ru.

The event follows capacity building in Kazakhstan at a 2011 conference, when Cefic worked with RCU and the interstate council of CIS countries. This strengthened awareness of the regulation of chemical products; recommendations of the GHS; chemicals management under REACH and other European legislation; and GPS initiatives.

BEYOND NATIONAL BORDERS

COLOMBIA

The UN's Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for classification and labeling is an important area of focus for the Colombian chemicals sector. ICCA's capacity building support has helped raise awareness among different stakeholders: industry, the public sector, and society as a whole.

A national event was organized to help define strategies for implementing the GHS, and ICCA has provided technical support for companies working on product classification. Turning to the supply chain, Colombia is seeking to expand its GHS-based chemicals transport legislation to Andean level, taking in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

Meanwhile, a series of web- and tele-conferences enabled industry representatives throughout South America to focus on ICCA's Global Product Strategy. Participants joined from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Venezuela, Ecuador and Mexico to discuss the GPS status in each country. Representatives from Brazil also joined for discussions focused on agreeing a regional standard for MSDS.

"The Colombian government is an enthusiastic supporter of the ICCA's capacity building program. It is a priority for our government to strengthen chemicals management throughout the value chain and we value the industry's ongoing efforts in our country, including its support for the establishment of legal and technical regulations in line with national realities, and for improved monitoring and control mechanisms."

Andrea López
Directorate of Environmental, Sectoral and Urban Affairs, Ministry of the Environment & Sustainable Development

Colombia is making progress in overhauling workplace health, safety and environmental protection legislation, incorporating the GHS and the GPS to safely manage chemicals. During 2011, Responsible Care New Zealand supported Colombia with the organization of workshops. The first focused on CEO awareness and GPS implementation; a second event on chemical safety, attended by government and regulators, covered analysis and risk assessment, process and product safety, the GHS and GPS. Participation by senior representatives of chemical companies demonstrated the improving working relationship between government and business, facilitated by the determined advocacy and leadership of the Colombian industry association.
In April 2011, an ICCA delegation attended the Fourth African Regional Meeting on SAICM in Nairobi, Kenya. A joint side event with UNEP drew many government representatives from the ‘SAICM focal points’ communications network. The meeting highlighted the huge diversity of chemicals management issues to be addressed in the region. These range from sharing best practices with audiences such as small scale farmers, low-skill workers in small companies and consumers, through to nanotechnologies; and from accident prevention systems for the transport of bulk chemicals, to illegal traffic and end of life issues.

Building on a joint ICCA/UNEP workshop in October 2011 on chemical safety management, the partners plan to launch an important capacity building project during the final quarter of 2012. Particular emphasis is being given to the safe transport of hazardous chemicals and safe practices in the warehousing of chemical products.

The Chemical and Allied Industries Association, CAIA, continues to work hard to forge links with key stakeholders outside its national borders as well as with government, the authorities and many other stakeholder groups. Industry’s Responsible Care initiative has been an important driver for product-related activities, and the GPS is helping reinforce this work.

Partnerships, such as that being fostered between ICCA and UNEP, are essential to help economies in transition address the gaps in skills and lack of capacity in the management and stewardship of chemicals and chemical products. Serious incidents in the past few years include toxic waste dumping in Cote d’Ivoire, mass lead poisoning in Senegal and Nigeria, and the destruction of an abandoned pesticide depot in Somalia.

ACTION IN AFRICA

AFRICA

ICCA’s presence is lowest in the continent where its chemicals management expertise is perhaps needed most: Africa. Currently, the national chemical associations of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) and Morocco are the only ones that belong to ICCA’s Responsible Care network. ICCA is nevertheless working to improve its presence and strengthen chemicals management more widely throughout the region.

Key to building both sound chemicals management and industry’s presence in the region is RSA’s Chemical and Allied Industries Association. CAIA launched the ICCA Guidance on Chemical Risk Assessment at workshops in Durban and Johannesburg in June 2012.

Positive feedback from delegates – mainly member companies together with non-members, government representatives and academia – indicated that the guidance offers a good risk assessment tool. The chemical industry in South Africa has started implementing GPS and is already executing some of the first steps recommended in the guideline. The workshops will reinforce these efforts more widely throughout the sector.

At the same time concerns were expressed about companies’ capacity, in terms of expertise, to carry out the steps linked to implementation such as hazard and risk characterization and exposure.
WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

CEREMONIAL LAUNCH

CHINA

In a clear reflection of China’s increasing involvement in ICCA chemicals management activities, a host of senior executives attended the formal launch ceremony of the Global Product Strategy in Beijing in October 2011. Around 200 workshop participants included regional NGOs and industry associations, together with government representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology; the Ministry of Environmental Protection; and the State Administration for Worker Safety.

The event was jointly organized by the Association of International Chemical Manufacturers (AICM) and the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation (CPCIF). ICCA member organization AICM has provided support and mentoring to CPCIF whose membership accounts for some 70% of China’s petroleum and chemicals sector.

With an estimated 35,000 chemical companies in China, building environment, health and safety awareness and improving chemicals management throughout the sector’s huge workforce is a challenge. In 2011 the Chinese government launched a National Standard for the industry that incorporates the Responsible Care Codes. Companies will be encouraged strongly to adopt it.

Another significant step warmly welcomed by CPCIF was the 2011 publication of a local language version of the GPS Risk Assessment Guidance by the Chinese Taipei chemicals association TRCA.

APPELL’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

ICCA played an active role in a special forum staged in Beijing in November 2011 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of APPELL (Awareness & Preparedness of Emergencies at Local Level). Co-sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), Renmin University of China, Dow Chemical and Petrobras, the event marked the success and longevity of an initiative designed to minimize the risk and impact on the environment and people from industrial accidents and natural disasters.

“ICCM finds the capacity building grant is an excellent and effective mechanism. We used it to accelerate the self-assessment program for the Responsible Care Codes of Practice in 2010 as well as for Global Product Strategy implementation in 2011, and to develop a multi-media Responsible Care Basic Concept Training in 2012.”

Dr. Peter von Zumbusch
Chairman of AICM, Hong-Kong SAR, China.
CHARTING THE WAY AHEAD

BRAZIL

Brazil’s national association Abiquim has GPS firmly on its agenda. In 2011, a two-day workshop on risk assessment of chemical products based on the ICCA Guidance, which has been translated into Portuguese, involved 93 industry professionals, government and other South American chemical associations. Speakers from government ministries – environment, and trade & industry – ICCA, multinational chemical companies and the associations of Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay offered a combination of experience-sharing and informative presentations.

Abiquim is currently prioritizing capacity building programs on all aspects related to ongoing implementation of the Responsible Care Global Charter and the Global Product Strategy, and is working closely with ICCA. A wide range of chemicals management issues are being addressed under a comprehensive 20-point plan that will guide the association’s action plans both for the near future and in the longer term.

SUCCESSFUL CONDUIT FOR COOPERATION

PHILIPPINES

ICCA’s Responsible Care initiative has provided a successful conduit for cooperation between the national chemicals association, SPIK, and the Philippines authorities. In 2012, SPIK kicked off with a GPS and product stewardship training workshop sponsored by ICCA and the Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) with the theme Creating Value through the Global Product Strategy.

Member companies were joined by invited non-members and government representatives. The event drew praise for the level of expertise and contribution to regulatory efforts. It highlighted ICCA’s chemical risk assessment tool, provided a general overview of the GPS, hazard identification and risk assessment.

SPIK is focusing on product stewardship through implementation of the UN’s GHS classification and labeling scheme as well as the GPS. It is building in the public element of chemicals management through the APELL program. Its capacity building efforts aim to revisit the various chemicals management initiatives undertaken by industry in the region, from manufacturing to disposal. SPIK is also working with the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to help SMEs develop a Responsible Care management system to guide them in regulatory compliance, and partners with the Philippine Drug Enforcement authority.

PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE

BULGARIA & ESTONIA

National chemical associations in countries where the overall economy is under pressure often have limited resources and welcome the financial and expert support that ICCA provides through its capacity building program.

A two-day workshop in Bulgaria in September 2010 drew over 50 company representatives, mainly health, safety and environment managers, including some from neighbouring Romania. The event enabled valuable networking and best practice sharing not only between industry organization BCCI and its member companies but also a number of invited non-member SMEs.

In Estonia, the national association FECI organized a capacity building workshop covering fundamental European chemicals management topics: REACH legislation and classification and labeling. The event involved delegates from Latvia and Lithuania as well.

Cefic helped FECI with guidance and materials for a transportation safety and Responsible Care seminar in Tallinn in November. Topics included: transportation safety issues; maintenance and process; corporate responsibility; and best practices in logistics.
FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

In 2002, a decade after the Rio Earth Summit, heads of state met for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) where they adopted the WSSD Plan of Implementation. This included a section on the sound management of chemicals that called on governments to develop a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

It established an ambitious global objective: “to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.”

This publication has offered a brief overview of how ICCA and its members are striving to achieve that goal. And with 2020 very much on the horizon, those efforts will continue:

• ICCA has increased its geographic spread and strengthened its chemicals management activities since 2002. We have better, more structured and effective engagement with our stakeholders and are developing a strategic action plan with UNEP.
• We continue to work hard to reinforce chemicals management through the value chain, helping logistics service providers, users and end consumers to build their knowledge of safe handling and use.
• We will seek additional partnerships to ensure better allocation and use of resources at national, regional and international level.

TOOLS TO MAXIMIZE OUR OUTREACH

Much of our capacity building, best practice sharing and other outreach efforts are implemented through the global Responsible Care network. Good use of the internet makes that outreach even more effective. Webinars are being developed based on the successful GPS workshops developed by ICCA over the past three years, and will become an increasingly important tool as GPS implementation progresses worldwide. We can reach more people in more locations, whether in large cities or chemical facilities in more remote parts of developing countries.

“ICCA has made continuous efforts to extend and strengthen its capacity building activities since the UN launched its Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. UNEP and ICCA share common goals in improving global chemicals management regimes through building the capacity of national governments, regulators, chemical companies, their value chain partners and other stakeholders. Through joint capacity building activities, we have been able to reach out to a wider network of stakeholders and we plan to intensify our common efforts in promoting responsible production”

Abd Hoballah
Chief, Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, UNEP (DTIE)
Webinars are particularly effective to reach those in most need of support for chemicals management – from governments through to end-users – especially in areas where we don’t yet have a strong network on the ground including much of Africa and parts of Asia.

Similarly, development of a useful self-teaching tool, the E-Book, will enable ICCA to offer more GPS learning opportunities, maximize use of financial resources and improve overall effectiveness. With basic GPS information, best practice examples and FAQs, the E-Book is expected to make it easier for those starting out on the GPS journey as well as providing a useful ‘refresher’ course. Available on DVD or via the ICCA website, the E-book is being promoted through the workshops, webinars and in our regular dialogue with stakeholders.

Another important area of cooperation is ICCA’s ongoing development of a GPS Regulatory Toolbox to complement UNEP’s Guidance on the Development of Legal and Institutional Infrastructures for Sound Management of Chemicals. This will offer practical tools to assist countries seeking to strengthen legal frameworks and institutional arrangements related to chemicals management.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION & COMPANY INPUT
While ICCA sows the seeds of its initiatives, it is the national chemical associations and their member companies that ensure these initiatives flourish. Senior management and employees at all levels from many associations and our leading multinational companies have dedicated time and expertise to ensure we meet our commitments under SAICM. As we move forward, that engagement and commitment continues to spread throughout the industry. Meeting the SAICM goal is a continuing journey. Through our endeavours and those of our partners, we hope to achieve public confidence in our industry, and recognition of the contributions and benefits that the industry and its products bring to society.

TRANSLATING WORDS INTO ACTION
BRAZIL
National chemicals association Abiquim has developed a comprehensive action plan to enhance its chemicals management activities. It has set up a Working Group within its Product Stewardship Committee to promote better understanding of the ICCA Guidance and to disseminate it to all member companies.

The group will evaluate the ICCA Guidance, develop a 4 month step-by-step training course and pilot it to ensure it meets Brazilian companies’ needs.
VALUE CHAIN OUTREACH
A key objective of the GPS is to improve the flow of information along the value chain. A gap in this information flow occurs when a chemical becomes part of an article, and the resulting loss of chemical ‘identity’ which may hinder its safe management.

In November 2011 ICCA conducted a pilot workshop involving members of the electronics sector value chain, paving the way for three future events aimed at closing this information gap. These workshops will help connect the links in the value chain, identify best practices for information flow, and promote GPS Safety Summaries.

Learnings from the 2011 pilot have been taken forward, including a Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) project known as SCRUM or ‘supply chain chemical risk management and useful mechanisms’, due for launch in 2013. The SCRUM system – designed to suit SMEs as well as larger companies – will help each link in the supply chain to manage risk relating to chemicals in a product. The ultimate goal is to develop an information-sharing system to enable sound and practical chemical risk assessment and management throughout the supply chain.

At its heart is an information-sharing IT system with data relating to substance safety, chemicals in products, end-use information, and so on, to ensure sound chemicals management in products. SCRUM can also connect to the ICCA Portal for hazard information and GPS Safety Summaries, and can provide the methodology necessary to help users independently assess the chemical risk in products.

Criteria for chemical risk management include safe handling, care for the environment and consumer safety. Users can also share the results of risk assessments and/or management through the IT system.

Additional ICCA capacity building efforts are covered in the new Responsible Care Progress Report 2002-2012 which can be downloaded from the ICCA website at www.icca-chem.org
Extract from the UN Rio+20 Statement:

THE FUTURE WE WANT

“We are deeply concerned that many countries, in particular the least developed countries, lack the capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycles. Additional efforts are needed to enhance work towards strengthening capacities, including through partnerships, technical assistance and improved governance structures. We encourage countries and organizations, which have made progress towards achieving the goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020 to assist other countries by sharing knowledge, experience and best practices.”