

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The 10th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP passed a resolution by re-iterating their commitments towards implementing the SAICM in South Asia region. Further, the 10th GC,

- *Endorsed* the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as contained in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action;
- *Urged* member countries to participate in national, sub-regional, regional and international efforts to implement the Strategic Approach;
- *Encouraged* the exploration of possible sub-regional approaches to the implementation of the Strategic Approach, holding of sub-regional consultations and the further development of a sub-regional action plan for South Asia;
- *Urged* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the United Nations Development Programme, FAO, the World Bank and the other bilateral and multi-lateral donor agencies to give priority to the needs of South Asian countries, when developing activities to support implementation of the Strategic Approach within the work programmes and mandates of those organizations and
- *Requested* the Director General to incorporate the implementation of Strategic Approach into SACEP's work programme.

As to implement the above decision, considering the specific needs and sub-regional priorities in chemical management of South Asia, following actions are being undertaken;

- SACEP proposed to the SAICM Secretariat to organize a sub-regional meeting on implementation of SAICM in South Asia
- As we are working on implementing SAICM in the South Asia, SACEP was invited to the Asia-Pacific Regional meeting of the SAICM held in May 2007
- SACEP delegation re-iterated the needs of holding a South Asia meeting on SAICM at the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM held in Bangkok, Thailand during 21 – 23 May 2007
- As requested by the Executive Director of UNEP, a detailed proposal on SAICM sub-regional meeting for South Asia was prepared and sent to the UNEP
- SAICM Secretariat informed us that SACEP's proposal for a South Asian regional meeting on SAICM has been included in the financial paper prepared for the SAICM donors' meeting scheduled in early 2008

At the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM held in Bangkok, Thailand during 21 – 23 May 2007, SACEP successfully negotiated to include regional priorities in SAICM implementation which include;

- Organization of a sub-regional meeting to prioritize the sub-regional issues and preparation of a sub-regional action plan to implement the SAICM
- Assist to member countries in building their capacity on chemical management
- Raising awareness on SAICM and generally on chemical management on sub-regional and national levels
- Assisting in preparing/updating national chemical profiles
- Strengthening SAICM national focal points
- Regional or sub-regional harmonization of chemical assessment and management

South Asia Sub-regional Meeting on Implementation of SAICM

Background

South Asia comprises the countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The economies of these countries are still depending on the agriculture. In order to get high rate of yield, vast amount of fertilizer and pesticides are used. Since 1970, use of fertilizers in the region has increased almost by 500 percent

From recent past, there has been a region-wide structural shift towards increased industrialization; industry has increased its share of total output from 21 to 26 percent in South Asia and this structural shift is expected to continue into the future. The Small and Medium Enterprise sector (SME) account for 40% of industrial output in South Asia. It is estimated that there are six million small-scale industrial units, employing a significant component of the total labour force in the region. These SMEs are often involved in activities that use significant quantities of chemicals. These chemicals vary from the absolutely harmless to the highly dangerous and include the whole range of chemical substances and mixtures.

The South Asia Sub-region has a vast differences in stages of development, geographically, and the priorities of the chemical management among the other sub-regions of the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, it is more practical to adopt a sub-regional approach in implementing the SAICM.

The paragraph 81 of the report of Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM states that “In the ensuing discussion some representatives said that while regional cooperation and coordination were important, the approach adopted by other regions was not practical for the Asia-Pacific region owing to the diversity and the differing stages of development of the countries in the region which would result in different priorities. It was suggested that initially, sub-regional information exchange on sound management of chemicals was a good starting point and subsequently consideration could be given to the potential for a regional action plan. With that in mind it was suggested that, funds permitting, a workshop should be convened to facilitate identification of regional priorities and possibly development of such a regional action plan”.

Sub-regional meeting for South Asia

Considering the specific needs and sub-regional priorities in chemical management of South Asia, SACEP proposed to the SAICM Secretariat in 2006 to organize a sub-regional meeting on implementation of SAICM in South Asia.

In response to the resolution I/1 of ICCM that “commended SAICM to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and encouraged them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge the Strategic Approach with a view to incorporating its objectives into their programmes of work within their mandates”, the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 at Kathmandu, Nepal passed a resolution by re-iterating their commitments towards implementing the SAICM in the South Asia (Annex 1). Further the 10th GC of SACEP by its decision No. 9.2.4 has requested the Director General of SACEP to incorporate the SAICM into the SACEP’s work programme.

Further SACEP delegation had clearly proposed to conduct the above sub-regional meeting with support from the SAICM Secretariat at the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM held in Bangkok, Thailand during 21 – 23 May 2007. This was included in the paragraphs 21 and 97 of the meeting report.

Subsequently, the Executive Director of UNEP by his letter No. DTIE/SL/0809/1132-07/aa of 18 June 2007 requested SACEP to send a detailed proposal on SAICM sub-regional meeting for South Asia.

The objective of the proposed South Asia Sub-regional meeting is to prioritize the sub-regional issues and prepare a sub-regional action plan to implement the SAICM in the sub-region.

The meeting is to be held on last week of October in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It will be a three day meeting.

Budget

Item	# countries	Participants/ country	Total	# days	CMB DSA** US\$	TOTAL US\$
Government participants	8	3	24	4*	110	10,560
NGOs and other sub-regional organizations	8	2	16	4*	110	7,040
Provision for extra days (flight)			35	1	110	3,850
Airfares	7		35			23,000
Inaugural function with tea break and reception			100		20	2,000
Conference facilities						
Morning and afternoon tea and lunch			50	3	25	450
Secretariat, 3 computers, Board room				3		1,000
Internet connections				3		300
Secretariat facilities						3,000
Recording of proceedings						500
Stationery, Document holders, badges, etc						1,500
Airport transfers						2,000
Administration / logistical arrangements, etc						1,500
Communication						1,000
Report preparation, printing, dissemination, etc						1,000
Miscellaneous						1,500
					TOTAL	US\$ 60,200

*including one day for terminal

** DSA rates as at present, indicated by UNDP Colombo

Note: This budget does not include the cost of participation of experts and delegates from UNEP who will help conducting the meeting.

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters.
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Implementation of SAICM in South Asian countries.
 - (a) Updates on activities of Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the sub-region.
 - (b) Sub-regional coordination mechanisms.
 - (i) The role and responsibilities of the South Asia sub-regional focal point;
 - (ii) The role and responsibilities of the South Asia coordination unit;
 - (iii) Terms of reference for national focal points;
 - (iv) SAICM Quick Start Programme at the South Asia sub-regional level;
 - (v) Establishment of a Steering Committee to support national focal points;
 - (vi) Means of providing support to governments of South Asia to develop a sub-regional action plan for the implementation of SAICM;
 - (vii) Synergies with and between other relevant MEAs and other processes.
 - (c) National implementation of SAICM.
 - (i) Initial planning for national implementation of SAICM;
 - (ii) Guidance materials for developing national implementation of SAICM.
4. Possible sub-regional activities in implementing SAICM
 - (a) Identification of the priorities of the sub-region and preparation of sub-regional action plan.
 - (b) Engagement of Sub-regional/regional organizations in SAICM implementation.
5. SAICM Quick Start Programme.
 - (a) The Quick Start Programme trust fund;

- (b) The broader Quick Start Programme and other contributions to SAICM implementation;
 - (c) Possible sub-regional projects.
- 6. Preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
 - (a) Reporting to the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
 - (b) Rules of procedure for the ICCM.
- 7. Financial considerations.
- 8. Future South Asia sub-regional meetings during the intersessional period.
- 9. Other business.
- 10. Adoption of the report.
- 11. Closure of the meeting.

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

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

Introduction

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

I. Opening of the meeting

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

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

² Ibid, annex IV.

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

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

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

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

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

B. Adoption of the agenda

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

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

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

C. Organization of work

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

D. Attendance

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

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

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

III. Updates on activities of other regional groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. Regional implementation of SAICM

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

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

32. In the ensuing discussion some representatives said that while regional cooperation and coordination were important, the approach adopted by other regions was not practical for the Asia-Pacific region owing to the diversity and the differing stages of development of the countries in the region which would result in different priorities. It was suggested that initially, sub-regional information exchange on sound management of chemicals was a good starting point and subsequently consideration could be given to the potential for a regional action plan. With that in mind it was suggested that, funds permitting, a workshop should be convened to facilitate identification of regional priorities and possibly development of such a regional action plan.

2. Engagement of regional organizations, including regional development banks

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

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

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

VI. SAICM Quick Start Programme

A. The Quick Start Programme trust fund

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

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

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

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

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

B. The broader Quick Start Programme

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

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

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

C. Possible regional projects

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

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

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

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

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

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