



Strategic Approach
to International
Chemicals Management

Contribution of science today & tomorrow

- Policy demand-

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Overview

- Summarize policy context in which SAICM sits.
- Describe some of the key ways science contributes to SAICM implementation.
- Take a closer look at SAICM in action in three areas (QSP, Emerging policy issues and sectoral dialogues).

SAICM is a international policy framework

- SAICM is an international non-binding policy framework established in 2006
- To support efforts to achieve the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (WSSD) goal for chemicals.
 - **Aim to achieve 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.**



SAICM policy context

- Growing gaps worldwide in capacities to manage chemicals.
- Need to improve synergies between existing instruments and processes.
- Growing sense of urgency if 2020 goal is to be realized.

Growing gaps in capacities

- Chemicals are a significant global business concern & key part of economic development.
- Obsolete chemicals hotspots provide legacy from the past.
- Many (most?) countries lack adequate resources to address chemical safety issues.
- Shift in production to less developed countries exacerbates concerns.

Need to improve cohesion

- Chemicals have frequently been managed on a piecemeal approach.
- Fragmented policies & legislation, overlapping &/or uneven requirements.
- Large number of international commitments/conventions.
- Governance/coordination can be weak with outstanding challenge to engage different sectors.

Growing sense of urgency

- Global burden of disease – more than 25% attributable to environmental factors, incl. chemicals – preventable.
- Longstanding chemicals of major public health concern unaddressed – lead, mercury & asbestos.
- Unintentional poisonings – significant burden in developing countries, children.
- Continuing chemical incidents of international concern often arising as of “unknown aetiology”.

Some recent chemical incidents in Africa

- Abidjan, Ivory Coast (2006)
 - 500 tonnes of toxic waste dumped around city. More than 100,000 persons affected. Several fatalities.
- Cacuaco, Municipality, Angola (2007)
 - Contamination of table salt with sodium bromide. 467 persons poisoned, mainly women & children.
- Mass lead intoxication in Thiaroye sur Mer, Senegal (2008)
 - Entire neighbourhood heavily contaminated with lead. Problem only identified when 18 children died. 1000 inhabitants exposed, long-term health impact, particularly for children.

Keys to the Strategic Approach

- Overarching Policy Strategy focusing on:
 - Risk reduction,
 - Knowledge & information,
 - Governance,
 - Capacity-building & technical cooperation, and
 - Illegal international traffic.
- Mobilizing existing & new financial resources
- Implementation involving:
 - national, regional & global levels
 - engagement all stakeholders (Government, non-government organizations, intergovernmental & industry)
 - Engagement of all sectors e.g., health, environment, labour, agriculture, science.
 - High-level of political commitment & convening power.

SAICM & Science

Overarching Policy Strategy refers to science in 3 main areas:

- 1) Risk reduction,
- 2) Knowledge & information, and
- 3) Capacity building & technical cooperation.

Risk reduction

- To implement transparent, comprehensive, efficient & effective risk management strategies based on appropriate scientific understanding..... para 14 (c)

Knowledge & information

- To make **scientific** information available for appropriate **integration into risk assessments and associated decision-making** relating to chemicals policy... Para 15 (d).
- To ensure that **science-based** standards, risk assessments & management procedures and the **results** of hazard and risk assessments are **available to all actors** .. Para 15(e).
- To make **scientific methods and information available to assess the effects** of chemicals on people and the environment....Para 15 (f).
- To **accelerate the pace of scientific research** on identifying & assessing the effects of chemicals... including emerging issues & to ensure research & development are undertaken in relation to chemical control technologies, development of safer chemicals & cleaner technologies & non-chemical alternatives & technologies Para 15 (g).

Capacity-building & technical cooperation

Para 17d)

- To encourage stakeholders to **develop & promote programmes on chemical safety & scientific research & analysis.**
- To **assist with capacity-building programmes** in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.



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SAICM in action

- Quick Start Programme.
- Emerging policy issues.
- Science sectoral dialogue.



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SAICM in action 1: Quick Start Programme (QSP)

- To support country-driven capacity-building activities
- Supported by new multi-donor trust fund (Total \$46 million over 5 years, 76 developing countries benefited so far)
- Leveraging & co-financing
- Quick (every 6 months) Start (initial need)

An example QSP project

- Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)
 - Scientific capacity-building in support of SAICM in Africa

NB. see www.saicm.org for list of all approved projects.

SAICM in action 2: Emerging policy issues

- Function of the governing body of the Strategic Approach to

“Focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise & to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action (para 24(j) of OPS”).

- Second session of International Conference on Chemicals Management held 11-15 May 2009 considered 4 emerging policy issues & adopted procedures for future nomination & review

Definition of terms

An emerging policy issue:
can involve any phase in life cycle of chemicals

- is one not yet generally recognized; or
- is insufficiently addressed; or
- arises from the current level of scientific information; and
- which may have significant adverse effects on human health &/or the environment.



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Nominated emerging policy issues (August 2008)

- Nominated emerging policy issues were submitted from 21 stakeholders as part of preparatory work of the Conference.
- The African regional group (53 countries), 10 Governments, IFCS, IOMC, UNEP, WHO and 6 Non-governmental organizations (incl BIAC)
- 36 issues were nominated. Each was accompanied by information addressing specified criteria to help with screening & prioritization:
 - magnitude of problem,
 - extent to which issue is being addressed by other bodies,
 - level of knowledge,
 - extent the issue is cross-cutting,
 - feasibility of requested actions, and
 - relevance of the issue to a broad number of stakeholders, countries or regions.

Adopted SAICM Emerging policy issues (2009-2012)

- **Lead in paint** – promote phasing out use of lead in paint (UNEP & WHO)
- **Chemicals in products** (UNEP)
- **Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical & electronic products** (UNIDO, Basel Convention Secretariat & Stockholm Convention Secretariat)
- **Nanotechnologies & manufactured nanomaterials** (OECD & UNITAR)
- **Managing perfluorinated chemicals and transitioning to safer alternatives** (OECD)

Regular updates on action & contact points – SAICM website
(www.saicm.org)

Future nominations – 3 yearly

- Nominations for consideration at third session of Conference to be made by November 2010.
- Open to all stakeholders.
- Revised nomination form & criteria.
- Transparent review & publication.
- Prioritization.
- Inclusion on agenda for consideration at ICCM3 (May 2012).

SAICM in action 3: Science sector dialogue

- Sectoral dialogues being developed by the secretariat to strengthen outreach & deepen engagement with certain groups
- Science sector – possible participants IUPAC, IUTOX, IOHA, ICOH, UNESCO, Pan Africa Chemistry Network, others?
- Considerations could involve:
 - how best to make use of expertise for prioritizing emerging issues,
 - how SAICM stakeholders might contribute/get involved in IYC2011
 - others?

SAICM & LRI

- ICCA is publically committed to SAICM implementation at the highest level – CEOs Major Companies at SAICM ICCM.
- Responsible Care is the main element of ICCA's contribution to SAICM implementation.
- LRI is an extension of ICCA's Responsible Care commitments strengthening basis for regional & international chemical policies.
- LRI is aligned with chemical-related health & environmental issues of highest priority to society & the chemical industry.
- SAICM provides internationally recognized mechanisms for global chemicals community to forge consensus on such issues.

Conclusions (1)

- Science & SAICM today
 - SAICM is the principal means of collectively reaching 2020 chemicals goal.
 - SAICM has moved past start-up phase now in early implementation.
 - Three tools can be used to highlight value of SAICM
 - Quick Start Programme – capacity-building
 - Emerging policy issues – focus attention & action
 - Dialogue & convening power

Conclusions (2)

- Science & SAICM tomorrow
 - What is the potential for the LRI programme to contribute to addressing SAICM priorities & needs ?

Thank you.