

## 3<sup>rd</sup> IPCP Letter, June 2008

Dear colleagues supporting the IPCP initiative,

in this 3<sup>rd</sup> IPCP letter, we want to inform you about the progress of the IPCP initiative since October 2007 and about next steps planned for 2008.

**1. General:** As of June 2008, 89 scientists from more than 35 countries have signed the IPCP declaration ([www.ipcp.ch](http://www.ipcp.ch)).

In the present stage, it is important that the IPCP becomes operative. There is an increasing number of tasks for which we need more working capacity and, to support this, also funding. There are tasks that have to be dealt with on a daily basis (administration, correspondence, IT support etc.), and in the long-term, also more scientific capacity in form of a secretariat will be needed. For the next months, we are planning to contact national governments and explore funding opportunities. Please, let us know which possible funding sources you see for the IPCP and how these sources could be approached.

Beyond this practical aspect, the current IPCP objectives are (i) to legally establish the IPCP as an organization, including setting up and agreeing on statutes, (ii) to submit a proposal to the SAICM Quick Start Programme, and (iii) to take on and open up the first topics for IPCP working groups. More about each of these issues is given below.

IPCP steering committee members have contacts with national governmental and authority representatives on a still informal, but continuous, basis. In June 2008, the IPCP initiative has been presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Workshop on Brominated Flame Retardants held in Victoria, BC, Canada. In September 2008, the IPCP will be presented at a meeting in Santiago de Chile, and possible IPCP activities in Chile and other Latin American countries will be explored.

**2. IPCP Statutes:** to give the IPCP a legal status, we want to have it registered as a non-profit society in Switzerland. The IPCP steering committee is working on a proposal for statutes of the IPCP. A key point of the statutes is the definition of IPCP membership eligibility. Because the IPCP is intended to be a network of independent scientists, we propose the following phrase defining membership eligibility:

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Members of the IPCP are scientists who are:

- employed by or affiliated to academic or independent research institutions,
- free to share their full scientific knowledge; if there is a conflict of interest, this has to be declared.

Individuals who want to become an IPCP member should apply for membership by submission of their CV and a description of their area of competence and interests. The IPCP steering committee (SC) decides on the acceptance of membership applications.

Exemptions:

The SC can accept individuals who are not employed by or affiliated to academic institutions as members. These individuals have to be free to share their full scientific knowledge; if there is a conflict of interest, this must be declared.

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The complete version of the proposed statutes of the IPCP will be distributed to all signees of the declaration as soon as a document has been prepared in the appropriate legal format. This is planned for the second half of 2008.

**3. Proposal for SAICM Quick Start Programme:** recently, the main activity of the IPCP has been to prepare a proposal to the SAICM Quick Start Programme (see [www.chem.unep.ch/saicm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm)). The proposal was written in collaboration with government representatives and scientists from Armenia, Chile, Ghana and Syria and was submitted to the SAICM QSP in March 2008. The application has been appreciated but was not approved by the Trust Fund Implementation Committee; the Committee reviewed the proposal and recommended further elaboration on a few details and resubmission. The next deadline is August 29, 2008. We are now revising the proposal and will re-submit it to the SAICM QSP.

**4. Establishing IPCP working groups:** first proposals for working group topics are:

- Sucralose (1',4,6'-trichlorogalactosucrose (CAS number: 56038-13-2), an important food additive). Henrik Kylin, Norwegian Institute for Air Research, agreed to chair this working group.
- Human exposure and biomonitoring. Georg Becher, Norwegian Institute for Public Health, agreed to chair this working group.
- Emerging novel contaminants
- DecaBDE
- DDT

The objective of IPCP working groups will be to review the scientific knowledge about the group's topic, including a discussion of consensus, disagreement, uncertainties and priorities for further research. The results of this process of reviewing and interpreting the current knowledge will then be presented in a report

that will be delivered to international institutions and national governments and will also be available to the public.

The first topic, emerging novel contaminants, is a topic that will run continuously since emerging contaminants are to be expected for years ahead. It has been indicated to us that this is an area of major concern to decision makers as well.

Please send us your feedback and suggestions for the further development of the IPCP. Feel free to forward this letter to colleagues who may also be interested in the IPCP initiative.

With best regards,

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