

4th IPCP Letter, December 2008

Dear colleagues supporting the IPCP initiative,

in this 4th IPCP letter, we want to inform you about the progress of the IPCP initiative since June 2008 and about next steps planned for 2009.

1. Legal status of the IPCP: On November 24, 2008, the IPCP was established as an association according to Swiss civil law. Four of the interim organizing committee members, Åke Bergman, Martin Scheringer, Noriyuki Suzuki and Cornelius Zetzsch, met while the attendance of Heidelore Fiedler and Ivan Holoubek was impossible because of other obligations. Scheringer was elected chairman of the constituent meeting with Bergman as secretary. A draft of the IPCP bylaws had been prepared in advance; on this basis the four attendees discussed and agreed on the final bylaws after a full day of work in Zürich, see <http://www.ipcp.ch/news.html>.

The agreement on the IPCP bylaws at the constituent meeting of November 24 gives IPCP the status of an independent legal entity that can, for example, receive funding and administrate a budget. The bylaws of the association are available from www.ipcp.ch/IPCP_organization.html. Martin Scheringer is the chairman of IPCP while no other position of the organization has been decided on yet. In June 2009, an extraordinary General Assembly will be held with the purpose to elect additional board members (see below).

We would like to sincerely thank you all for your support of the IPCP initiative in the first two years. Your support has been very important for us and motivated us to go the way from a first vision to the now-established association and, in the near future, further on to concrete first projects.

We now would like to invite you to join the association as members. The membership application form is also available from www.ipcp.ch/IPCP_organization.html. If you want to become a member, please read the bylaws, fill in the membership application form, sign it and send it by fax to +41-44-632 1189 or by e-mail to ipcp@chem.ethz.ch. The membership fee is USD 20 per year. By January 2009, we will inform you about the bank account of the IPCP. The bank account is also open for funding from various sources, including donations.

2. Funding and general activities: In December 2008, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency made available 100 000 SEK (about 12500 USD) to IPCP to support our work. The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment is willing to support the SAICM QSP project planned by IPCP in collaboration with the governments of Armenia, Chile and Ghana (see item 3 below) with an amount of 6000 USD.

As of December 2008, 101 scientists from 40 countries have signed the IPCP declaration (www.ipcp.ch). In November 2008, the IPCP was presented at the conference *The Role of Academia and the Private Sector for the Stockholm Convention* in Tokyo, Japan, see <http://www.unu.edu/esd/manage/event/Conference2008.html>.

On June 14–17, 2009, the 12th *International Conference on Chemicals and the Environment*, ICCE, will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, see www.chemsoc.se/sidor/KK/icce2009.htm. On June 14, a pre-session of this conference dealing with the IPCP will be held. Since this is the first opportunity for a meeting after the IPCP was formally established, we are planning to have a extraordinary General Assembly (GA) on June 14. More information about this GA will be provided early in 2009.

3. Proposal for SAICM Quick Start Programme: A main activity of the IPCP has been to revise the proposal to the SAICM Quick Start Programme (see www.chem.unep.ch/saicm) that was initially submitted in March 2008. The proposal was revised in collaboration with government representatives and scientists from Armenia, Chile, and Ghana and was re-submitted to the SAICM QSP in August 2008. We then learned from the SAICM Secretariat that the proposal caused some concerns at WHO because WHO has a similar activity in mind and wants to avoid duplication of work. We will clarify this issue with WHO and then consider re-submission of the proposal in spring 2009. Our intention is to define more clearly the role of the IPCP (as a science-based organization) at the science-policy interface, and how the IPCP can collaborate at this interface with more policy/government-based international organizations including WHO.

4. Establishing IPCP working groups: Two IPCP working groups will commence their work as soon as possible. These are:

- Human exposure and biomonitoring. Georg Becher, Norwegian Institute for Public Health, agreed to chair this working group.
- 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.

If you are willing to act as chairman of a working group dealing with a topic from your field of expertise, this will be highly appreciated. We are planning to provide some financial support to cover the expenses of working group members.

Furthermore, guidelines for IPCP working groups will be established in 2009. The objective of IPCP working groups is 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 an IPCP Report. IPCP Reports contain 30–50 pages and a summary of 4–5 pages; they will be delivered to international institutions and national governments and will also be available to the public. They are intended to present a summary of the state of the science in a form that is not provided by any other sources.

Please distribute the information about the legal status of IPCP or forward this letter to colleagues who may also be interested in the IPCP initiative.

With best regards,

Martin Scheringer
Åke Bergman
Heidelore Fiedler
Ivan Holoubek
Noriyuki Suzuki
Cornelius Zetzsch

scheringer@chem.ethz.ch
ake.bergman@mk.su.se
HFiedler@chemicals.unep.ch
holoubek@recetox.muni.cz
nsuzuki@nies.go.jp
Cornelius.Zetzsch@uni-bayreuth.de

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