

6th IPCP Letter, November 2009

Dear IPCP members, dear colleagues supporting the IPCP initiative,

in this 6th IPCP letter, we want to inform you about the progress of the IPCP initiative since June 2009 and about upcoming activities.

1. General activities and funding: On November 24, 2008, the constituent assembly of the IPCP was held, and we are now celebrating the IPCP's first birthday. As of November 2009, 128 scientists from 40 countries have signed the IPCP declaration (www.ipcp.ch).

From June 14–17 2009, the 12th *International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment*, ICCE, took 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 was held. The session was recorded and can be viewed at mms://wmedia.it.su.se/MK/a1.wmv.

Further to the initial grant of 100,000 SEK of December 2008, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has provided an additional amount of 200,000 SEK in 2009 for financial support of the IPCP (corresponding to a total of approximately 40,000 USD until now).

2. Project under SAICM Quick Start Programme: The application “Training on risk assessment of chemicals at national level in a global context”, submitted to the SAICM Quick Start Programme (see <http://www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=22&pageid=252>) by the governments of Armenia, Chile, and Ghana in collaboration with the IPCP has been approved by the Trust Fund Implementation Committee and will be funded with USD 250,000. This project is an important milestone for the IPCP initiative. The project has a duration of 18 months and will be carried out in 2010 and 2011. The project's basic idea is that a set of methods for exposure, hazard and risk assessment of chemicals is used in the three countries with two objectives: training on using the methods and learning about their applicability under the specific conditions of the three countries. This core part of the project will be prepared by an initial workshop where the methods are presented to all project participants and will be followed by a final workshop where the experiences gained will be collected and evaluated. An overview of the planned activities under this project is provided at http://www.ipcp.ch/IPCP_Documents.html.

For the project, input from all IPCP members and supporters will be most welcome. We will distribute more detailed information about the objectives, organization and implementation of the project in early 2010 and ask for feedback.

3. IPCP Working Groups: We would like to propose a first topic for a joint activity of all interested IPCP members and supporters (this is not exactly a Working Group, but a task for a larger group): we have learned in the last months that often “emerging issues” are mentioned in the context of chemicals assessment. These emerging issues, however, are quite different topics in different parts of the world; often it is the local or national context that determines what “emerging” and what an “issue” actually is.

Our proposal is that the IPCP makes an attempt to collect a range of different “emerging issues” in a systematic way and provides a – global – overview of what is meant by emerging issues in chemicals assessment in different regions of the world. This will be a relevant activity of global scope that we could perform with relatively little effort.

As a first step, we would like to ask you to let us know what you think about this idea and whether you want to participate. **Could you please provide your feedback by February 1, 2010?** Our goal will be to prepare during the year 2010 a report on “Emerging Issues of Chemical Pollution in the Global Perspective”.

In addition to this proposal, we are currently working on a Guideline Document for IPCP Working Groups in general and will share a first version of this document as soon as it has been completed.

4. Other activities: A manuscript presenting the IPCP is in preparation as a possible contribution to the Viewpoint Section of *Environmental Science & Technology*, authored by a group of about 10 IPCP members. In addition, Martin Scheringer, Åke Bergman and Heidelore Fiedler have finished a book chapter on the IPCP that will be published in a book on “Global Collaborations in Managing Chemical and Environmental Risks”, edited by Phil Wexler, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, USA, and two co-editors.

Please forward this letter to colleagues who may also be interested in the IPCP initiative.

With best regards,

Martin Scheringer
Åke Bergman
Ivan Holoubek
Noriyuki Suzuki
Cornelius Zetzsch

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

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