

## 8<sup>th</sup> IPCP Letter, April 2011

Dear IPCP members, dear colleagues supporting the IPCP initiative,

you received the last IPCP letter in April 2010 – the last 12 months have been a productive and busy time for the IPCP!

**1. SAICM QSP Project.** The main activity of the IPCP has been the project “Training on risk assessment of chemicals at national level in a global context” funded by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, see <http://www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=22&pageid=252>, and conducted in collaboration with the governments of Armenia, Chile and Ghana, see [http://www.ipcp.ch/IPCP\\_SAICM\\_QSP.html](http://www.ipcp.ch/IPCP_SAICM_QSP.html).

The project started in May 2010 and has made good progress. The core group of the IPCP project team includes Åke Bergman, Divna Nikolic (April to July 2010), Carla Ng, Martin Scheringer, and Jana Weiss; we are also grateful for many helpful contributions by Christian Bogdal, Heidi Fiedler, Karin Hanze, Matt MacLeod, Karlis Valters, Natalie von Götz, and Henry Wöhrnschimmel. Our main partners in the three countries are Anahit Aleksandryan, Artak Khachatryan (Armenia), Lilian Veas, Maria Fernanda Valdivieso, and Ricardo Barra (Chile), and John Pwamang and Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana). Kersten Gutschmidt from WHO, Geneva, has provided excellent input and support concerning the WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit.

Up to now, we have prepared a compilation of training materials for hazard and risk assessment and held four project workshops: the inception workshop of the project in Zurich, Switzerland, in July 2010 and the three national workshops in Accra, Ghana (December 1–2, 2010), Yerevan, Armenia (February 24–25, 2011), and Santiago de Chile (March 23–24, 2011). At the workshops, we presented the training materials, conducted hands-on training on selected methods, and identified case studies that will be investigated by the national project teams in Armenia, Chile and Ghana. Material from the workshops is provided at the IPCP website.

We are learning a lot about chemical pollution problems in the three countries and about their approaches to these problems. In the next months, the national project teams of the three countries will work on selected case studies and investigate the applicability of various methods for hazard and risk assessment to these case studies.

The synthesis workshop of the project is planned to be held in December 2011 in Stockholm, Sweden.

**2. General Assembly in 2011.** The general assembly of the IPCP in 2011 will be held during the International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment (ICCE) in September 2011 in Zürich, Switzerland, see <http://icce2011.org>. The exact date and venue will be announced soon.

### **3. Other activities.**

The San Antonio Statement on Brominated and Chlorinated Flame Retardants (DiGangi J, Blum A, Bergman Å, de Wit CA, Lucas D, Mortimer D, et al. 2010. San Antonio Statement on Brominated and Chlorinated Flame Retardants. *Environ Health Perspect* 118:A516–A518) and the editorial in this issue of EHP (Birnbaum LS, Bergman Å 2010. Brominated and Chlorinated Flame Retardants: The San Antonio

Statement. Environ Health Perspect 118:A514-A515). This statement was published in December 2011 and has been signed by more than 220 professionals by now, see [http://www.ipcp.ch/IPCP\\_SAS.html](http://www.ipcp.ch/IPCP_SAS.html). The SAS received considerable attention when it was published and was also commented on by Åke Bergman in an EHP Podcast available at: <http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/podcasts/ehp.trp010111.s001.mp3>. The statement was approved by the IPCP at the 2010 General Assembly, which was held in connection to the Dioxin 2010 symposium in San Antonio (Texas, USA). Please note that the SAS is still open for signature.

Martin Scheringer has been appointed as a member of the UNEP Scientific Expert Group on Chemicals and the Environment (UNEP SECE). This group is currently being established by UNEP and aims to support various stakeholders in their work on chemicals assessment and management. The group has aims that are similar to those of the IPCP but operates under a mandate by UNEP. Exchange and collaboration of the SECE with the IPCP and similar institutions are clearly intended. More information about the UNEP SECE will soon be available via the internet.

The chapter on the IPCP by Martin Scheringer, Åke Bergman and Heidelore Fiedler in the book *Global Collaborations in Managing Chemical and Environmental Risks* edited by Phil Wexler, Jan van der Kolk, Asish Mohapatra, and Ravi Agarwal is in press at CRC Press (ISBN 9781420084696).

Guideline document for IPCP Working Groups: guidelines regarding communication with stakeholders outside academia are being prepared for IPCP Working Groups. Our plan is to have the guideline document ready for the IPCP General Assembly in September 2011.

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

With best regards,

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