

**ANNEX 11**

**Report of Asia and the Pacific Regional Group Meetings**

## **Report of Asia and the Pacific Regional Group Meetings 15-18 October 2000**

Meeting Chair: Mr. Geum-Su Seog, Republic of Korea, Vice-President, Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), Asia and the Pacific Region  
Moderator: Mr. Suho Seong, Republic of Korea  
Rapporteur: Dr. Jarupong Boon-Long, Thailand

The regional group met on 15 October (09:00-12:30), 16 October (14:30-18:00), 17 October (09:00-12:30) and 18 October (09:00-12:30). The discussions were based around Forum III agenda item numbers 4, 6-8 and 11-13. Only the key points from the discussions are noted below.

### **Agenda Item 4: IFCS Terms of Reference**

The group felt that the current composition of the Forum Standing Committee (FSC) does not provide equitable regional and geographical representation. There should be greater representation from developing country regions.

It was agreed that the name of the region should be changed to Asia and the Pacific.

### **Election of Regional Representatives in the IFCS**

The group nominated Japan as IFCS regional Vice-President and the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran as FSC members. Following the decision by the Plenary to increase regional representation, a fourth FSC member was selected. It was agreed that this should be a shared role between Republic of Korea and Papua New Guinea. The former country would hold office for the first half of the term and then PNG would take over through to Forum IV.

### **Agenda Item 6: Forum Priorities for Action beyond 2000**

There were many proposals for wording changes for this item arising out of the August regional meeting and discussions at Forum III. These were submitted to the Forum working group by the nominated representatives from Iran and Thailand.

The following were the key issues identified as important to the region:

#### Programme area A

- Addition of immunotoxicology, endocrine disruption and ecotoxicology to the list of toxicological endpoints for common principles for harmonized approaches
- The need for transparency and openness in hazard evaluations
- Involvement of developing countries in hazard evaluations
- Technical and financial support to enable developing country participation

#### Programme area B

- The proposed timetable should allow differences in capacities and capabilities

Programme area C

- Insertion of a longer-term target for exchange of information on hazardous chemicals

Programme area D

- IPM strategies should be ecologically sound
- Need to be clear about the types of data to be collected

Programme area E

- There is a need for a multilateral mechanism to enhance capacities of developing countries for participation in chemical safety activities

**Agenda Item 7: Prevention of Illegal International Traffic**

The meeting discussed and endorsed the regional position paper provided as a room document. The key recommendations from the paper were the need for an expert meeting on the subject, selected case studies, the role of NGOs in raising awareness and the importance of implementing the Rotterdam Convention.

**Agenda Item 8: Information Exchange**

The meeting discussed the meeting paper 11w and generally supported the proposals but felt that there was a need to include other communication systems such as fax, telephone and letter.

The meeting also supported paper 13w in general but some delegates were concerned about the reference to the Responsible Care initiative. It was felt that additional wording should be used in the recommendations to clarify the concept.

**Agenda Item 11: Capacity Building Network**

Discussion of this item centered around the proposed scope of the network, priorities for the network services. The general concept was supported.

**Agenda Item 12: Bahia Declaration**

The following additions and amendments were proposed:

- The need to recognize the wide diversity of needs of countries from developed to developing
- The need to recognize that protection of health and environment should be the primary consideration in dealing with chemical issues
- There was no need to specify target dates for individual goals
- The need for a multilateral mechanism to enhance capacities of developing countries for participation in chemical safety activities

A proposal to include reference to the precautionary principle was also considered. However, the meeting could not reach agreement on this matter.