

CONCEPT NOTE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SAICM AND ITS FUTURE

Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM) was adopted in 2006 with the aim to create a policy framework for the promotion of chemical safety around the world. **SAICM overall objective is to achieve sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that by the year 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimizes significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.**

SAICM has unanimously accepted the emerging issues like Lead in paint, Chemicals in products, Hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterial, Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants, Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, highly hazardous pesticides. Further SAICM is also looking forward beyond 2020 and it contemplates new global chemical regime considering the Sustainable Development Goals.

The forthcoming of SAICM regional meeting to be held in Bangkok from January 23-25 2018 will discuss the cross cutting emerging issues of chemical management and the future of SAICM beyond 2020.

The chemical industry in India is a key element of Indian economy, accounting for about 2.11 per cent of the GDP¹. There are many chemicals that presumably are increasingly utilized to enhance quality of life without understanding the impact of such chemical over its complete lifecycle. There is very little data and information available on exposure of these chemicals and health and environmental impacts of many such chemicals. Hence it becomes critical to understand its long term impacts and its cost. India's role is very crucial to the SAICM future agenda for policy work, awareness and the management of hazardous chemicals. The government has been proactive and has notified rules for lead in paints as well as acted on ROHs and banning certain hazardous chemicals however there is a critical need to identify and prioritize list of such hazardous chemicals

¹ <https://www.ibef.org/download/Chemicals-April-2017.pdf>



that are increasingly being used in everyday life. The role of the industry also becomes important and critical in identifying such chemicals and creating transparency in usage or substitution or regulating them. Chemicals management also has its own complexity due to long supply chain and inadequacy of information on composition and toxicity some of which can be addressed by adopting Globally Harmonized System (GHS) etc and binding arrangements.

In this context, Toxics Link is proposing one day meeting involving cross section of the stakeholders at New Delhi on January 16, 2018 to discuss the following objectives:

- Present developments in SAICM and future of SAICM beyond 2020.
- Implication of SAICM in India context.

We believe your valuable inputs will have immense help in this deliberation to take the issues forward.

We would highly appreciate a line of confirmation in this regard.

About Toxics Link

Toxics Link is an Indian environmental research and advocacy organization set up in 1996, engaged in disseminating information to help strengthen the campaign against toxics pollution, provide cleaner alternatives and bring together groups and people affected by this problem. Toxics Link's Mission Statement is "Working together for environmental justice and freedom from toxics." We have taken upon ourselves to collect and share both information about the sources and danger of poisons in our environment and bodies, and information about clean and sustainable alternatives for India and the rest of the world.