

APEC Chemical Dialogue (CD)

DATE ESTABLISHED

2002



Chemical Dialogue meeting during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation 2017 Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM 3) in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 21 August 2017. [VCCI Organizing Committee]

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Chemical Dialogue (CD) serves as a forum for regulatory officials and industry representatives to find solutions to challenges facing the chemical industry and users of chemicals in Asia-Pacific. It reflects APEC members' recognition of the importance of engaging with the private sector and building public-private sector dialogue and cooperation for mutual benefit. The Dialogue is co-chaired by a representative of the chemical industry and a representative from the public sector to coordinate private sector views and public sector positions. It meets annually and reports to the APEC's Committee on Trade and Investment. It is supported at the working level by a Steering Group composed of private sector representatives and government officials.

To support and complement the work of the CD, a Chemical Dialogue Regulators' Forum was established in 2009 as an APEC contribution to broader implementation by the UN's Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). It aims to (1) facilitate risk reduction and the sound management of chemicals in the APEC region; (2) share information and knowledge on chemicals management with greater direct involvement of regulators; (3) bridge principles and practice by sharing tools, best practices and opportunities for collaboration to address common concerns; and (4) discuss the nexus between chemicals management and competitiveness with a view to facilitating trade while protecting human health and the environment.

COMMITMENTS

The CD endorsed a revised version of the framework at its 17th meeting in Lima, Peru (CD17), to govern its work from 2017 to 2019. The revised shared goals are to

- Facilitate trade by expanding and supporting regulatory cooperation and mutual recognition in the region;
- Promote understanding of the chemical industry's role as a provider of innovative solutions for sustainable economic, environmental and social development; and
- Enable effective cooperation between industry and governments to improve chemical product stewardship and safe use.

POLICY ISSUANCES

<https://emb.gov.ph/laws-and-policies-chemical-management/>

UPDATES

The Chemicals Dialogue Regulators' Forum was held in Peru on 16 August 2016 and was attended by representatives from 15 economies. The Philippines reported its initiatives on the phaseout of Lead in Paints through Department Administrative Order 2013-24 "Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Lead and Lead Compounds." The CCO provides for a limit of less than 90 ppm of lead as a standard for paints. The phaseout was to be implemented starting 1 January

2017 for architectural, household and decorative paints and starting 1 January 2020 for Industrial paints. Also, an update of current activities were given:

- Amendment of the CCO for Cyanide and Cyanide Compounds incorporating the License to Store and License to Transport and Distribute
- Amendment of the CCO for Mercury and Mercury Compounds incorporating the mercury-added products listed in the Minamata Convention. The Philippines still has to ratify the Minamata Convention.
- Review and evaluation of the Code of Practice for Asbestos by the EMB Planning Technical Working Group
- Second public consultation of the Draft CCO for Arsenic and Arsenic Compounds and Chromium-VI

During the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Meeting in August 2016, Ms. Emmanuelita Mendoza of DENR-EMB presented a case study on the Overview of the Regulatory Framework for GHS Implementation in the Philippines.

In 2017, the Philippines organized a self-funded APEC project under the Chemical Dialogue (CD) to promote sharing of best practices in chemical regulation. To carry forward that momentum, the project proposed a series of four follow-up technical webinars on specific issues of interest to workshop participants. The CD's Virtual Working Group on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence (VWGRCC) circulated a survey for delegates to propose and prioritize potential webinar topics. The results from the survey indicated four main topics for webinars: (1) regulatory impact assessment; (2) evaluating comments received during public consultations; (3) principles-based regulation; and (4) tools for collecting exposure information.

The American Chemistry Council agreed to host the first webinar on regulatory impact assessments on 18 December 2018. The webinar discussed commitments made by APEC members on regulatory impact assessments and the need for assessments for crafting trade and investment friendly regulations and ensuring high levels of protection for human health and safety and the environment; how to do cost-benefit analyses; when to do an assessment and how industry stakeholders can contribute.

The APEC Ministers endorsed the CD's Virtual Working Group report on GHS implementation issues entitled "Developing Clarity and Consistency in the Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals" as an APEC contribution to the UN's Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in 2008. The Virtual Working Group developed the GHS Implementation Reporting Template to be used for regular reporting of GHS implementation progress. In 2018, Australia gave an

update on the implementation of the GHS by APEC's 21 member economies. Of these, 11 economies submitted reports, and the Philippines submitted four of nine reports (2008/09 - General Section; 2016, 2017 and 2018 - Industry Section).

The Twenty-First Meeting of the Chemical Dialogue (CD21) was convened on 7 August 2018 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and was attended by representatives from 12 economies including government and industry representatives from the Philippines. The Philippines presented a mid-term review of the implementation of the Boracay Action Agenda. The initial assessment noted that most of the actions focused on Priority 6—Expand internationalization opportunities for micro and small enterprises providing goods and services through Information Communication Technology and e-commerce and Priority 7—Strengthen institutional support for MSMEs, but work remains to be done on Priority 3—Provide timely and accurate information on export and import procedures and requirements, Priority 4—Widen the base of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) and trusted trader programs (TTP) to include SMEs in order for them to contribute to security, integrity and resiliency in supply chains, and Priority 5—Support measures to widen options on financing for MSMEs and further develop the infrastructure to facilitate lending to them. The 21st CD Meeting Government Co-Chair commended the Philippines for compiling the analysis and called on CD delegates to identify ways to contribute to the report.

On the issue on "Customs Practices for Industrial Chemicals," the Philippines noted that it was facing challenges with harmonizing customs requirements and recognized the importance of the development of a best practices document that it could use for internal capacity building of customs officers who supervised chemical inventories.

NEXT STEPS

- Strict implementation and enforcement of the restriction of use on lead in paint (decorative, architectural, household and industrial purpose) under DENR Administrative Order No. 2013-24, CCO for Lead and Lead Compounds.
- Initiate the four phases of GHS implementation—controlled chemicals, high volume chemicals, IATA and IMDG and mixtures.
- Sustain coordination with industry associations and non-government organizations to thresh out issues and concerns for the implementation of sound chemical management.

FOCAL OFFICE

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MEETINGS ATTENDED

- Chemical Dialogue (CD) during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2017 Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM 3) and Related Meetings, 21–24 August 2017; Hanoi, Vietnam – Reg. Dir. Letecia R. Maceda (EMB Reg. 8)
- Chemical Dialogue Regulators Forum and Meeting on Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Implementation, 15–19 August 2016; Lima, Peru – Ms. Emmanuelita D. Mendoza (EMB)

SOURCES/RELEVANT LINKS

<https://www.apec.org/Groups/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment/Chemical-Dialogue>

<https://great.osha.gov.tw/ENG/news-in.aspx?id=15>

<https://www.apec.org/Achievements/Group/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment-2/Chemical-Dialogue-1>

<https://www.apec.org/Achievements/Group/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment-2/Chemical-Dialogue-3>

