



## Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

# International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) **Newsletter 1**

28 December 2005

### A word from the SAICM Secretariat

This newsletter aims to inform stakeholders involved in the SAICM process of preparations for the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), which will take place in the Dubai International Convention Centre, from 4 to 6 February 2006. It is brought to the attention of readers that ICCM invitation letters, pre-registration forms and meeting documents have been sent to Governments and Organisations. ICCM participants are reminded that the deadline for forwarding nominations and funding requests to the SAICM Secretariat was 12 December 2005. **Intending participants who have not yet pre-registered are encouraged to do so without delay.**

### From Vienna to Dubai, the final phase of SAICM

The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the development of SAICM (PrepCom3), which took place from 19 to 24 September in Vienna, set the stage for completion of the SAICM development process at the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, from 4 to 6 February 2006. PrepCom3 participants will recall the achievements and challenges during the week of negotiations on the texts of the Global Plan of Action, Overarching Policy Strategy and High-level Declaration. Agreement was not reached on all issues and certain text in documents was left enclosed in square brackets or footnoted to indicate a lack of consensus. During an expanded bureau meeting, on 4 and 5 November 2005 (see below), participants explored possible solutions for



The Dubai International Conference Centre, U.A.E

the outstanding issues. On the basis of informal advice received from the expanded bureau and submissions on the draft High-level Declaration, the President of the Preparatory Committee will offer revised texts for consideration by the Conference. While these proposed texts do not represent agreed solutions, they are presented as possible compromise solutions for most of the unresolved issues.



Dubai will provide a dynamic and inspiring setting for the International Conference on Chemicals Management

### SAICM Expanded Bureau Meeting

The President of the Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Viveka Bohn of Sweden, convened a meeting of an expanded bureau of the Committee at Jongny, Switzerland, on 4 and 5 November 2005, with the support of the Swiss Government. The meeting's purpose was to explore possible avenues for consensus on outstanding negotiating issues prior to SAICM's finalisation at the ICCM.

The expanded bureau meeting was attended by representatives of sixteen Governments, three intergovernmental organizations and three non-governmental organizations. Participants discussed outstanding issues and texts with the President. Further to the meeting, the President has prepared a scenario note outlining expectations for the ICCM, as well as revised drafts of the SAICM texts.

### PrepCom 3 Report and ICCM documents

The report of PrepCom 3 is now available as document SAICM/ PREPCOM 3/5 on the SAICM website. ICCM meeting documents are also being posted on the SAICM website. Please visit: [www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/)

### Hotels and Visas for Dubai

The United Arab Emirates Government and the Zayed Prize for the Environment, hosts of the UNEP Governing Council and associated meetings, including the ICCM, have created a website to facilitate the travel arrangements of participants. The website provides information and booking facilities for hotels and visas. Participants are encouraged to use this website and make travel arrangements as early as possible. Please visit: [www.gcssdubai.com](http://www.gcssdubai.com)



Junqueira

The United Arab Emirates has an old tradition of trade and hospitality



United Nations / DPI

The 2005 World Summit Opening

## World leaders endorse SAICM

From 14 to 16 September 2005, more than 150 Heads of State and Government gathered in New York during the 2005 World Summit to follow-up on the outcomes of the Millennium Summit. Among other environmental challenges, chemicals were addressed by the final Outcome of the Summit. In section 56 k), Heads of State and Government, in pursuance of their commitment to achieve sustainable development, further resolved: "To promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Johan-

nesburg Plan of Implementation, aiming to achieve that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment using transparent and science-based risk assessment and risk management procedures, by adopting and implementing a voluntary strategic approach to international management of chemicals, and to support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance, as appropriate."

The Strategic Approach has also received the endorsement of high-level regional environmental fora. In June 2004, at the 10th regular session of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, African Ministers committed themselves to further prioritize and draw synergies from SAICM. In November 2005, the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean decided, *inter alia*, to support the SAICM process, ensuring that it includes the participation of all sectors involved and that it includes the necessary means to guarantee implementation. The Council of the European Union adopted in December 2005 conclusions confirming strong support for the development of the Strategic Approach and encouraging all participants to engage constructively and to finalise SAICM for adoption at the ICCM. At its 17<sup>th</sup> Session in December 2005, the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for the Environment adopted the Cairo Declaration, stressing the promotion of the development of SAICM as an effective and efficient approach towards the sound management of chemicals. See: [www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/positions/positions.htm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/positions/positions.htm)



## Kofi Annan given Zayed Prize for the Environment

Valued at one million US\$, the United Arab Emirates' Zayed International Prize for the Environment is the world's largest and most valuable environmental prize. In December 2005, the Zayed Prize jury decided to reward United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his personal leadership in sustainable development, supporting United Nations environmental initiatives that have spurred collective action. The 1,360 scientists whose research contributed to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, as well as activists from Trinidad and Indonesia, were also honoured. This biennial Prize was es-

tablished in 1999 to recognize and encourage environmental achievements in line with the vision of H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the late UAE President. The Zayed Prize is also the local organiser and host of the ICCM, the Governing Council of UNEP and the Global Civil Society Forum. On Monday 6 February 2006, following the ICCM, the Zayed Prize Award Ceremony will take place under the patronage of Zayed Prize Founder and Patron H.H. General Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and UAE Defence Minister. See: [www.zayedprize.org.ae](http://www.zayedprize.org.ae)

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## UNEP Governing Council meeting in Dubai

Immediately after the ICCM, the ninth special session of UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will take place at the Dubai International Convention Centre, from 7 to 9 February 2006. The ministerial-level consultations will focus on energy and environment; tourism and the

environment; and chemicals management. SAICM will be considered by Governments during the meeting for possible endorsement on behalf of UNEP. The announcement, registration form and other meeting details can be found on the Governing Council website: [www.unep.org/gc/gcss-ix/](http://www.unep.org/gc/gcss-ix/).