

Remarks of Mr. Masami Tanaka

Vice Chairman and Director General, Japan Chemical Industry Association

ICCA Side Event at UNEP International Council on Chemicals Management

5 February 2006

Promotion of safety management on chemicals
Partnership approach of the Japanese chemical industry
and the Government of Japan

I would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Toepfer of UNEP, Mr. Akasaka of OECD, and many participants from the United Nations, Inter-governmental Organizations, governments and NGOs for joining this event.

It is a great honor for me to introduce our Responsible Care[®] initiatives in Japan and I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity on behalf of the Japanese chemical industry.

The Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) started Responsible Care activities in 1995. In these ten years, JCIA has been making efforts to gain understanding on Responsible Care initiatives by Japanese companies in the Japanese society, and has made a remarkable contribution to the launch of Responsible Care[®] initiatives in Asia.

As an example of our efforts in Japan, by our voluntary programs, we have achieved substantial reduction of emissions of pollutant gases from factories.

We approved “The Responsible Care Global Charter” last year. In order to promote this Charter, we established new “Guiding Principles for Improvement of Environmental, Health and Safety Conditions” and launched it at the 10th anniversary of Responsible Care initiatives. Now we are starting concrete activities including Product Stewardship.

One of the important features of our Responsible Care initiatives is a partnership approach with the Japan government, in which framework we have vigorously been working on safety management on chemicals. Last year, the Japanese chemical industry

and the Japan government have launched “HPV Japan Challenge Programme,” in which chemical industry collects hazard information on chemicals and makes it public under the collaboration with the Japan government.

Meanwhile, as far as our international activities, the government and the chemical industry of Japan have been supporting capacity building in Asian countries. JCIA has started to support Responsible Care[®] initiatives in Asia under the auspices of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry since 2001. After that, in response to the expanded request from Asian countries, we have begun to support GHS promotion and have been accepting many trainees since 2003. JCIA recognizes this as our important mission and we have been filling the leading role of supporting capacity building in Asia.

Through our various initiatives and “The Responsible Care Global Charter,” the Japanese chemical industry will continuously make every effort to preserve the global environment, to ensure the safety and health of the public, and to contribute to society. We believe our initiatives will also suit to the objective of SAICM and contribute to the sustainable development of this world. We hope you will continue to support and cooperate with us.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.