



**ICCA**  
A worldwide voice  
of the chemical industry

# ICCA representing the interests of the global chemical industry



The chemical industry is one of the world's most successful, competitive and essential business sectors. It employs literally millions of people, both directly and indirectly, and has estimated annual sales of over US\$1.6 trillion. Its products play a major role in the improvement of life, in areas such as health, agriculture, clothing, construction, transport, and leisure.

With improved communications, important issues such as the environment, trade and commerce are becoming more and more global, requiring concerted international action and co-operation from the chemical industry. The need for international representation was identified in the 1980s and resulted in the formation in 1989 of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).

ICCA has a central role in the exchange of information within the international industry, and in the development of position statements on matters of policy. It is also the main channel of communication between the industry and various international organizations that are concerned with health, environment and trade-related issues, including the United Nations' Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD).

The ICCA is concerned with policy issues of international significance to the chemical industry. These include health, safety and the environment; the safety of international transport; intellectual property; trade policy; and industry efforts to eliminate chemical weapons and diversion to illegal drugs. The ICCA does not deal with trade missions or business promotion.

## ICCA's vision and mission

The global chemical industry will be widely valued and supported for its economic, social and environmental contributions to society.

To help the global chemical industry improve financial performance and reputation by tackling global issues, and by helping the industry to continuously improve its performance through Responsible Care® and other programmes.

ICCA carries out its mission through a number of activities, including:

- Representing the industry, including its Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), to international organisations and stakeholders;
- Identifying key issues which can affect the viability, credibility and sustainability of the chemical industry as well as priorities for action;
- Co-ordinating and promoting the implementation of Responsible Care®;
- Developing policies with ICCA members to address key issues affecting the chemical industry;
- Promoting ICCA policies through advocacy plans with national and international organisations;
- Co-ordinating the research sponsored by its member associations on the potential health and environmental effects of chemicals, and,
- Implementing common projects to address key issues or share best practices.

# Major ICCA initiatives

Increasing public concern about the health and safety of chemical products has galvanised the industry into providing more health and environment information about the substances that it makes. Its commitment to health, safety and environmental performance is illustrated by the following initiatives, which represent its embodiment in practice.

## Responsible Care®

This is the global chemical industry's environmental, health and safety initiative to drive continuous improvement in performance. Through Responsible Care, the chemical industry makes a strong contribution towards sustainable development. Responsible Care commits the chemical industry to meet and go beyond legislative and regulatory compliance and to adopt cooperative and voluntary initiatives with government and other stakeholders.



## Responsible Care® Global Charter

This is a commitment to improve environmental, health and safety performance, and is to be signed by Chief Executive Officers of chemical companies that are members of industry associations. The Charter extends and builds upon the original elements of Responsible Care. It focuses on new and important challenges facing the chemical industry and society including sustainable development, effective management of chemicals along the value chain, greater industry transparency, and greater global harmonization and consistency among the national Responsible Care® programmes.

## Global Product Strategy

This was developed by ICCA to improve product stewardship within the chemical industry and with customers throughout the chain of commerce.

## High Production Volume (HPV) Chemicals Programme

The chemical industry recognises the need for a sufficient knowledge base to assess the health, safety and environmental effects of chemicals and to assist users and governments in managing the risks they may pose. The ICCA HPV initiative builds on a partnership with the OECD.

## Long-range Research Initiative (LRI)

This has become one of the industry's key signature initiatives, a long-term, voluntary research investment to improve the scientific basis for understanding the impacts of chemicals on public health and the environment. The ultimate goals of the LRI are to fill the knowledge gap that is distorting public debate; replace misinformation with scientific data; increase the knowledge of the potential impacts that chemicals may have on the health of human and wildlife populations and the environment; and replace decisions based on hazard alone with decisions based on risk.

## Regional groups and ICCA members

In order to carry out the activities, the ICCA has developed working groups. These working groups are composed of experts from ICCA members and perform and coordinate research in specific areas of concern.

- Europe (represented by the European Chemical Industry Council – Cefic)<sup>1</sup>
- North America (represented by North American Council of Chemical Associations – NACCA)<sup>2</sup>
- Australasia<sup>3</sup>
- Japan
- South America (represented by the Conselho da Industria Quimica do Mercosul – CIQUIM)<sup>4</sup>
- South Africa (represented by the Chemical and Allied Industries' Association – CAIA)

<sup>1</sup> Cefic represents 23 full member trade associations Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and 3 associate trade associations Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania

<sup>2</sup> Canada, Mexico, United States of America

<sup>3</sup> Australia and New Zealand

<sup>4</sup> Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile

Administrative work is performed by the Council Secretary to support the ICCA, a responsibility that moves between members at two-year intervals. Since April 2005 the current ICCA Secretary is Alain Perroy of Cefic.



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For more information about ICCA's initiatives  
and performance programs visit the ICCA  
website at:

[www.icca-chem.org](http://www.icca-chem.org)