



ICCA Case Study

The Responsible Care Global Charter (RCGC) and the Global Product Strategy (GPS) in Action

Sound Chemicals Management is a Global Responsibility

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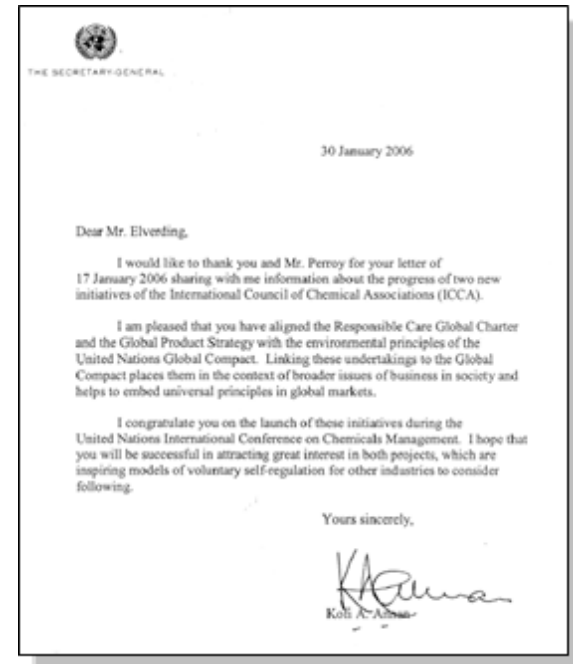
12. May 2010, New York

Challenges and how to address them

- In today's world of globalized product flows, problems related to product safety are no longer restricted to their country of origin.
- Our world is drawing closer together, not just economically but also on political and environmental issues.
- As a response the chemical industry has expanded and intensified its voluntary programs for demonstrating responsible handling and marketing of all chemical substances.
- We are convinced that a balanced combination of regulations and voluntary industry programs is the best way to achieve safe management of chemicals.

ICCA contribution to SAICM – RCGC and GPS

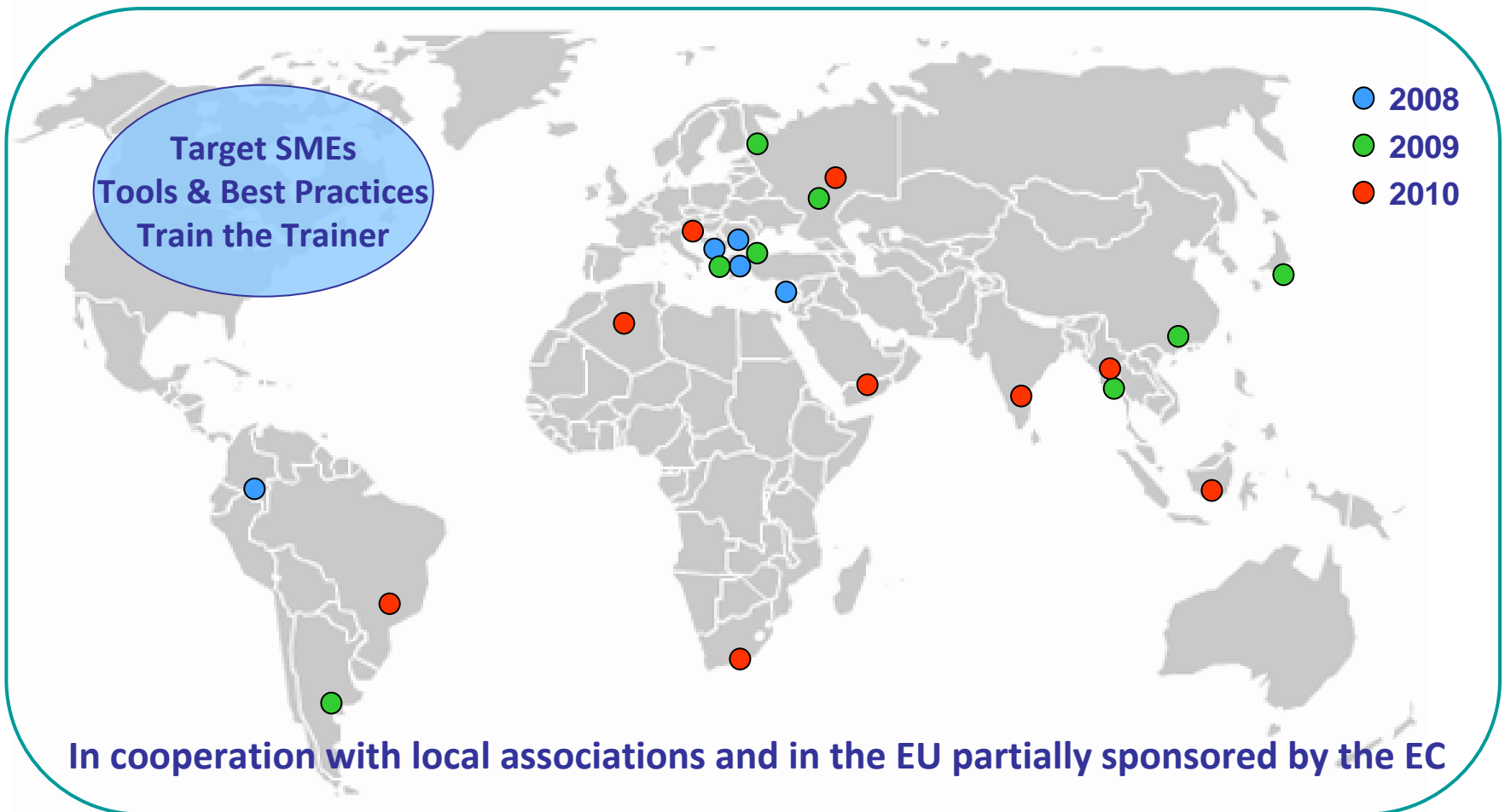
- At ICCM-1 (Dubai, 2006) ICCA introduced two voluntary initiatives,
 - » Responsible Care Global Charter (RCGC) and
 - » Global Product Strategy (GPS)
- The goal is to improve the sound management of chemicals globally
- All major chemical companies accepted the obligation to put GPS into practice
- First positive feedback by UN (letter of commendation by Kofi Annan)
- External review process through ICCM's (2009 / 2012 / 2015 / 2018)



1. Promote knowledge and skills transfer in line with companies needs

- Longer-term capacity building efforts to improve the competency of SMEs and developing countries (e.g. Product Stewardship workshops and Value Chain outreach). Specialists from leading chemical companies provide training and knowledge transfer.
- Comprehensive set of guidance materials for risk assessment and risk management. This guidance particularly addresses small and medium sized enterprises in developing economies to develop risk management measures for safe handling of substances throughout their life cycle (incl. value chain activities).
- ICCA GPS network of experts, who will answer technical questions about risk assessment or on GPS safety summaries.

ICCA Capacity Building Workshops



2. Improve the availability of reliable information on chemicals

- Under GPS, a **Base set of information** is gathered for chemicals placed on the market. Relevant information needed for risk assessment will be made available to co-producers and be jointly used by the companies to minimize unnecessary animal testing.
- Furthermore, to promote greater transparency, companies will provide the general public and interested stakeholders with information about marketed substances, in an easily understandable format (**GPS Safety Summary**)
- **Web-based IT-Portal** to make relevant information collected under GPS publicly available. All interested stakeholders will have open access to this portal.

3. Increase awareness on chemical management issues and integrate multiple approaches

- The development of national chemicals policies should be based on common principles and elements to foster greater consistency and transparency in regulatory systems

“Principles for Chemical Management Systems”

- » Science and risk-based decision making
- » Tiered, intelligent risk-based approach to chemical evaluations
- » Leveraging existing information to reduce animals and redundant testing
- » Transparency and shared responsibility along the value chain
- » Improved public confidence in chemical policies

Lessons learned and next steps

- One of the biggest challenges is the lack of capacity in certain parts of the developing world to effectively manage chemicals.

» lack of appropriate expertise, lack of data and scientific information, lack of resources, and lack of infrastructure.

ICCA is working with other SAICM stakeholders to address these gaps through capacity building and other relevant initiatives.

- A further challenge is to ensure effective chemicals management across the supply chain and throughout the product lifecycle.

ICCA has made important progress in strengthening Product Stewardship and developing sustainable business practices through Responsible Care, but more remains to be done