

Greeting message by Maria Krautzberger: Sound, sustainable management of chemicals

First and specifically, there is the challenge of sound management of chemicals and waste. Second and more profoundly, there is the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Quite many human activities require, imply, and are affected by chemicals. Numerous interfaces are found between the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the holistic concept of sustainable chemistry. Alongside international Conventions (Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam, and Minamata), we have the unique multi-sector, multi-stakeholder Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management, SAICM. While SAICM has been reinforced at its last conference, ICCM4, with the "Overall Orientation and Guidance", the SAICM mandate will end already in 2020. This gives us another good reason to now develop perspectives beyond 2020!

Sustainable chemistry as a holistic approach

Sustainable chemistry is a holistic approach. It clearly goes beyond the sound management of chemicals and waste. It also integrates the use of renewable resources, tries to boost energy efficiency, looks at the sound application of chemicals, and tries to foster innovative business models. For developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sustainable chemistry offers an attractive concept when developing their chemicals sector and waste management capacities.

The concept provides extra orientation and helps to create benefits for all manner of things:

- health and environment,
- social aspects
- education
- consumption and
- economic viability.

The Centre will focus on these issues providing know-how and links between experts in industrial and developing countries. ISC3 is an open knowledge hub, and both the Centre and the Network will bundle activities and provide guidance independent from regulatory or stakeholder affiliation – we will, however, have a clear focus on sustainable chemistry.

ISCnet: bundling existing activities

To promote the concept of sustainable chemistry, we need to bundle existing activities. We also need to implement a common – and verifiable – understanding of what sustainable chemistry is to us. I am convinced, that the approach of sustainable chemistry should become a basic and core element of all chemicals policy; be that the selection, design, use, re-use, recycling, or ultimately the disposal of chemicals and products. There are already a lot of activities for sustainable chemistry worldwide and many are real success stories – with ISC3 we hope to add to that!

You are all invited to join the ISCnet and contribute your knowledge and experience from 2017 onwards.

Please have a look at our newsletter and the website or contact the project team if you have any questions!

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