



Press release

Contact

Agnes Dittmar
T +49 228 90241-124
M +49 151 56540332
E agnes.dittmar@giz.de
I www.isc3.org

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A successful start into a new era of Sustainable Chemistry – the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC₃)

The International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC₃) is a new independent, international institution promoting and developing sustainable chemistry solutions worldwide. As a globally acting independent institution, multi-stakeholder platform and think tank the ISC₃ is committed to supporting the global breakthrough of Sustainable Chemistry. With its transformative agenda the ISC₃ contributes to achieving the Global Sustainable Development Goals by fostering innovation and enabling new sustainable business models in the chemicals sector.

Sustainable Chemistry is the single largest opportunity to transform the chemicals sector and move entire supply chains towards sustainable circular economy models, avoiding waste, hazardous chemicals, and making better use of natural resources. The emerging concept aims to establish an approach which promotes the use of environmentally and socially sustainable alternatives whilst also supporting economic innovation. “Sustainable Chemistry is a holistic framework addressing the whole life-cycle of chemical substances, materials, processes and products while also considering the social impact of chemistry and chemicals” as Friedrich Barth, the CEO of the ISC₃, states. In practice, this implies new business opportunities, new jobs, and a key contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC₃) is a new independent, international institution promoting and developing sustainable chemistry solutions worldwide. The ISC₃ was established in May 2017 by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMU) as a contribution to the international transformation towards sustainable chemistry and is presently being hosted by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ). The ISC₃ Headquarter is located in the UN-City of Bonn, Germany. The centre has established a Research Hub at Leuphana University, Lüneburg, an Innovation Hub at DECHEMA, Frankfurt a.M as well as a first regional hub at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA.

The ISC₃-Innovation Hub initiates and supports innovation in the field of Sustainable Chemistry to contribute to the urgent societal challenges. Starting from R&D projects, the ISC₃-Innovation Hub catalyses tech transfer from science to industry and to the developing countries. Furthermore, the Innovation Hub supports potential entrepreneurs by evaluating innovative approaches. “Due to the lack of global support for start-ups and SME’s that promote Sustainable Chemistry innovation many innovative products do not reach the markets. The



ISC₃ will act as a multiplier and global supporter of entrepreneurs in this area” explains Dr. Andreas Förster, Director of the ISC₃-Innovation Hub.

In the process of supporting entrepreneurs the ISC₃-Innovation Hub is currently developing a Global Start-up Service Programme providing capacity development including consultancy and training, networking and partnering opportunities as well as financial support. An International Innovation Award will highlight outstanding projects all over the world, focusing on best innovations in the field of sustainable chemistry.

The ISC₃-Research & Education Hub develops and implements international scientific courses and trainings in sustainable chemistry and helps interested third parties, especially from developing countries, to establish similar programs in their institutions. Promoting Education through the establishment of an International School the centre aims at making sustainable chemistry an integral part of scientific and executive education. With its Research activities the centre addresses challenging topics in exchange with international academic institutions as well as with institutions from developing countries. A key activity of the Research & Education Hub is the annual Summer School on Sustainable Chemistry co-organized with Leuphana University and the Green and Sustainable Chemistry Conference in Berlin.

As a globally acting independent institution, multi-stakeholder platform and think tank the ISC₃ is committed to shape transformation within the chemical industry in cooperation with all stakeholders. ISC₃ discusses new policies and fosters innovation initiatives to create new business models, especially in developing countries. This is to be achieved by connecting relevant stakeholders from all sectors enabling them to promote Sustainable Chemistry innovation easier and faster. Initiating international cross-sectoral Collaboration the centre invites all interested parties to join the dialogue on the hot topics in sustainable chemistry innovation, such as: Buildings & Living, Agriculture, Climate Change, Circular Economy and Chemistry 4.0.

Moreover, the ISC₃ acts as an international knowledge provider and raises awareness for the positive potential of Sustainable Chemistry for our future. The centre disseminates Information by organizing workshops and conferences, through its social media activities, by producing video clips on the hot topics in Sustainable Chemistry, and by setting up an international network-based knowledge platform.

Even though the ISC₃ has been established only a year ago, it has already engaged in several activities such as an international workshop series in cooperation with UN Environment on Sustainable Chemistry Innovation and the Global Chemicals Outlook, a leading publication on chemicals management to be published later in 2018. By co-hosting the Green & Sustainable Chemistry Conference in May 2018 the ISC₃ shed a light on new developments in science and research on Sustainable Chemistry. The ISC₃ Start-up workshops in 2017 and 2018 provided entrepreneurs from all over the world with a dialogue platform and expert advice. Furthermore, the ISC₃ contributed to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 23) and to the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 3) last year. With such notable engagements within its first year of existence the ISC₃ makes up an organisation with a promise for more.

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