

1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 100-8916, JAPAN  
1 June 2001

To: National Focal Points for Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety  
(IFCS) in Asia-Pacific Region (List attached)

**Request for co-operation in a national priority survey:  
Asia-Pacific Capacity Building**

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to request your co-operation in a capacity building survey with the enclosed questionnaire. The objective is to learn national priorities for capacity building on sound management of chemicals and to co-ordinate regional action plans to achieve Priorities for Action beyond 2000. It was approved and published as Bahia Declaration at the IFCS Forum III, Salvadore, October 2000.

I, Vice president for the IFCS representing the Asia-Pacific region, have been determined to elaborate strategies for Forum IV 2003. Therefore, I first met with representatives from China, Iran, Korea and Thailand, which were the Forum Standing Committee (FSC) members from our region, during the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of Global Information Network on Chemicals, Tokyo 18-20 April 2001.

The meeting agreed to form the IFCS Asia-Pacific Steering Group with its Terms of Reference. It supported the proposal that Vice President would perform a national priority survey by sending out a questionnaire and agreed that subsequent development of capacity building network would serve as a core strategy of the regional action plans (See enclosed report).

The concept of capacity building network itself was a plenary issue discussed and supported at the Forum III. Therefore, once I receive your information with the questionnaire, I would like to put it into an inventory, have it shared within region, and make efforts to co-ordinate donors and partners for requested assistance. I believe that developing and maintaining such system will enhance the effectiveness of regional action plans as well as your national action plans for sound management of chemicals. I would therefore appreciate your support and co-operation in my request.

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Kindly read the enclosed questionnaire and, for further reference, a report on the IFCS Asia-Pacific Steering Group Meeting of 19 April 2001. The questionnaire requests you to indicate your country's interests for each item of Priorities for Action beyond 2000. Please read instructions carefully, fill in the questionnaire and return it to us by mail, fax or e-mail. I would be most grateful to receive your completed questionnaire *no later than 31 July 2001*.

If you had any questions on this, please contact Mr Jun Yoshida, Deputy Director, Office of Chemical Safety, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (phone +81 3 3595 2298; fax +81 3 3593 8913; e-mail [yoshida-jun@mhlw.go.jp](mailto:yoshida-jun@mhlw.go.jp)).

I look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your co-operation.

Sincerely yours,

Mr Tohru YAMAMOTO  
IFCS Vice President  
Director  
Office of Chemical Safety  
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

cc. Mr Jun Yoshida, Deputy Director, Office of Chemical Safety, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

ENCL:

- Questionnaire for a national priority survey with regards to Priorities for Action beyond 2000;
- Report on the IFCS Asia-Pacific Steering Group Meeting, Tokyo 19 April 2001.