

**Summary Report on**  
**4<sup>th</sup> IFCS Asia-Pacific Steering Group Meeting/Teleconference**  
**19 June 2003, 6:00—7:30 GMT**

**1. Call to order**

The IFCS Asia-Pacific Steering Group Meeting (SGM) was opened by Mr. Tsutomu Matsuda, IFCS Vice President, Director, Office of Chemical Safety, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).

**2. Roll call**

The SGM was attended by the representatives of Iran, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Japan. (Participant List, Annex)

Mr. Matsuda noted that the Republic of China notified that he would be absent.

The representative of Papua New Guinea (PNG) did not attend the SGM due to technical problems on the line.

**3. Introduction**

**3.1 Vice President's introductory remarks and welcome to participants**

Mr. Matsuda welcomed participants to the SGM teleconference and noted that this meeting is the fourth meeting since the third meeting was held at the moment of the Regional Conference in Tokyo in last October.

Mr. Matsuda appointed Mr. Ichiro Tsunoi, Deputy Director, Office of Chemical Safety, MHLW as the chair for the meeting.

The chair confirmed documents listed in the List of Documents (AP/SGM/03-1Rev1) as well as the draft agenda with annotation and the "IFCS Indicators of Progress—Priorities for Action beyond 2000 Questionnaire".

**3.2 Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as presented. (AP/SGM/03-2Rev1)

The chair presented that China notified in advance that he would agree on all proposals for agenda item 4. and 5 shown in the annotation.

#### **4. Consultation on election of officer for the Forum IV**

The chair presented his proposals, namely, by the end of June this year, each FSC member in the Asia-Pacific region should identify at least one possible next FSC member candidate from his/her sub-region and should identify at least one possible next vice president candidate from his/her sub-region.

The chair pointed that since our region is quite big, and is actually the biggest in terms of area as well as the number of the countries among IFCS Regions, the Vice-President for our Region will not be able to assume his responsibility without cooperation from other FSC members and other countries.

Iran requested to extend the deadline as the deadline proposed was too short.

The proposals were agreed by participants with an amendment; changing the deadline from the end of June this year to the end of July this year.

Iran requested to prepare a draft tentative classification of the Governments into the “3 sub-regions”, namely East and South-East Asia sub-region, South and South-West Asian sub-region, and the Pacific sub-region. The chair mentioned that the Vice-President would prepare a draft and send it to the SGM members within this week.

The chair mentioned that the Vice-President would formally send a letter to all the registered focal points of the Asia-Pacific countries, as agreed at the Tokyo Regional Conference in last October.

At last, the chair briefed Japanese position that the Vice-President have consulted with relevant authorities in his country, and the relevant authorities in Japan agreed that Government of Japan will not be a candidate for the Vice-President in the next term. The chair explained that the Vice-Presidency from our region was taken by China from 1995 to 1997, Korea from 1998 to 2000, and his country from 2001 to 2003, and all of them were from the East Asian sub-region only. Furthermore, Thailand is expected to take an important role during the next term of the IFCS, therefore, he personally, but strongly hoped that there should be candidates from other sub-regions, namely South Asia, South-West Asia and the Pacific, in terms of geographical balance.

#### **5. Regional Group Meetings at Forum IV**

The chair presented his proposals, namely, (i) each Steering Group Meeting member should go through all the relevant Forum IV documents, and should prepare draft regional comments on the six items (A3, Hazard data generation & availability; D5, Acutely toxic pesticides - risk management and reduction; E3, Capacity building and assistance; Addressing the widening gap among countries; OSH; and SAICM) to be discussed during the Forum IV and, (ii) one of the Steering Group Meeting member should be a candidate

for the Regional Rapporteur at the Forum IV, who will prepare a regional report to be included into the Forum IV report.

With regard to preparing draft regional comments, Thailand mentioned that Thailand is a member country of the Working Groups for A3, D5, Addressing the widening gap among countries and SAICM, but could not take a lead to develop draft comments for any item because Thailand is the host country for Forum IV. PNG with a support from Iran, was requested to take a lead to develop draft comments for “addressing the widening gap” which is only one WG that PNG belonged to. Japan took account of Thai situation and offered taking a lead to develop draft comments for A3, D5, E3 and SAICM.

The representative of Iran agreed that it is the only one member of the OSH from the Asia-Pacific Region, and that Iran would take a lead to develop draft comments for it, expressing a need to check the participant to OSH WG from his country.

With regard to the Regional Rapporteur at the Forum IV, Republic of Korea offered to assume it.

SGM agreed that Korea would be nominated as the Regional Rapporteur at the Regional Meeting during the Forum IV.

## **6. Other business**

The chair again reminded participants of the IFCS Questionnaire for the purposes of the President’s Progress Report for the Forum IV.

Participants agreed that the Vice-President would organize the next SGM as a teleconference if a need would arise.

END

## ANNEX

**4<sup>th</sup> IFCS Asia-Pacific Steering Group Meeting/Teleconference  
Participant List**

Vice-President	Japan	Mr. Tsutomu Matsuda
	Iran	Mr. Ali Reza Hajizadeh
	Japan	Mr. Ichiro Tsunoi
		Mr. Minoru Kawashima
		Mr. Mitsuo Matsumoto
		Ms. Mimi Nameki
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Seukwoo Kang
	Thailand	Ms. Pornpit Silkavute
Apologies:	China	Mr. Zhong Bin
Absent:	Papua New Guinea	Ms. Katrina Solien