



ACC photos

*CEFIC Director Alain Perroy (left) and ACC President and CEO Cal Dooley (right) exchanged ideas with a wide range of stakeholders at ICCM-2 in Geneva, Switzerland.*

# ACC's Advocacy Success at ICCM-2

By Mary Irace and Ben Zingman

The American Chemistry Council's (ACC's) leadership and participation at the Second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-2)—which was held from May 11 to 15 in Geneva, Switzerland—helped the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) demonstrate the chemistry industry's product stewardship worldwide and affirm the importance of its voluntary efforts to protect human health and the environment. Through both public events and quiet diplomacy at this multi-stakeholder conference, ACC and ICCA scored significant successes.

As previously reported (see *American Chemistry*, March/April 2009, pages 36 to 38), the global industry came to Geneva to demonstrate its product stewardship accomplishments since the first conference (ICCM-1) in 2006. ICCA issued a progress report on the Responsible Care® Global Charter and Global

Product Strategy (GPS), which highlighted the industry's contributions to the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP's) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Of note, GPS will help make more transparent to stakeholders and governments information relevant to assessing hazards, uses, and exposures. (The ICCA progress report is available online at [www.icca-chem.org](http://www.icca-chem.org).)

ACC worked closely with the U.S. government delegation to ICCM-2. In a letter to Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton prior to the start of the conference, ACC President and CEO Cal Dooley wrote, "ACC is committed to going beyond compliance with regulatory systems to ensure the safe production, management, and use of chemicals throughout the value chain."

This proactive, cooperative approach helped win support for ACC's positions throughout the conference, where the



*Celanese Chairman and CEO David N. Weidman (left) and Sabic CEO Mohammed Al-Mady (right) were among those calling upon all stakeholders to work together to improve the management of chemicals.*

U.S. government, as well as other governments, recognized industry's positive contributions to SAICM. ACC and ICCA successfully informed stakeholders and the media about:

- the importance of chemistry for sustainable development;
- the need for a balanced approach to chemicals management that includes both industry initiatives and appropriate government regulations;
- the efforts underway to enhance transparency and information flow between industry and all stakeholders; and
- ongoing efforts by ACC, other ICCA associations, their member companies, and others to build capacity among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) involved in production, especially in emerging economies.

### Panel discussions

At the ICCA high-level round table, ACC Chairman David N. Weidman (Chairman and CEO of Celanese) and Board Member David Kepler (Executive Vice President of Dow) helped explain the industry's efforts and called on stakeholders to work together to improve chemicals management.

They were joined by Mohammed Al-Mady, CEO of Sabic; Ben van Buerden, Executive Vice President of Shell; Bernado Gradin, CEO of Braskem; Jürgen Hambrecht, Chairman of BASF; Reiner Groh, Head of Chemicals for Sasol; Christian Jourquin, Chairman of Solvay and President of Cefic; and Tetsuo Nishide, Director General of the Japan Chemical Industry Association.

In addition to representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), other participants included Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Deputy Secretary-General Mario Amano and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

Industry officials noted the expansion of Responsible Care in Russia, the Gulf States, and China. They also explained how capacity-building activities by companies and associations could help SMEs meet the demands of chemicals management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

UNEP's Steiner called the panel an "extraordinary moment," as both NGO and industry representatives engaged in a constructive, far-reaching dialogue. While he (and others) challenged the industry to do more, he also said, "the fact that nine CEOs from the global chemical industry were together in one place was the strongest sign of commitment I have seen in a long time. I am looking forward to a new level of cooperation with industry."

Journalist Alex Scott wrote in his Viewpoint column for the magazine *Chemical Week* that the senior chemical industry executives at ICCM-2 had "demonstrated leadership worth noting, as their participation has consequences for the entire industry."

ICCA also hosted a panel on 'Modalities of Reporting,' where Debra Phillips, ACC's Managing Director for Responsible Care, explained how companies and other stakeholders might meet SAICM reporting requirements using Responsible Care metrics. This panel, too, featured an open and candid discussion between NGO, government, and industry representatives.

### Hot-button issues

Emerging issues were a prominent and sometimes contentious part of the ICCM-2 agenda. ACC, ICCA, and key governments deflected efforts to put forward a wide scope and an unfocused mandate under SAICM for these issues, which included nanomaterials, chemicals in products, and electronic waste (e-waste). The result was agreement for a step-wise,

focused, and practical approach based on information gathering and sharing, workshops to enhance stakeholder understanding, and improved synergies with other intergovernmental organizations undertaking important work with regard to these issues.

For example, the conference participants agreed to hold a workshop to fully consider end-of-life concerns for electronics. The parties also agreed to phase out the use of lead in paints, especially in developing nations.

The ongoing financing of SAICM and its global chemical management program, another hot-button issue, was resolved through greater calls for all stakeholders to contribute more resources through voluntary, in-kind contributions and direct financing. There was also recognition of the industry's existing in-kind efforts as a significant contribution to the long-term success of the program.

The parties at ICCM-2 called for the 'mainstreaming' of sound chemicals management activity into national development and foreign aid programs and asked international financial institutions to strengthen their support for SAICM. It is likely governments and intergovernmental organizations will continue to be the primary voluntary source of financing for SAICM.

### Recognizing excellence

ACC's Dooley saw the conference as another example of advocacy excellence.

"The work done in Geneva has strengthened ACC's global position and will have a positive impact on future meetings and intergovernmental negotiations," he said. "The proactive approach to chemical management we've seen on the international level is a direct reflection of ACC's strategy here at home. For instance, our call for modernization of the *Toxic Substances Control Act* (TSCA) helped us get in front of a top-priority issue and affirmed our leadership role."

In recognition of their ongoing efforts to guide industry's efforts at ICCM-2, ACC awarded its 2009 Distinguished



*ACC President and CEO Cal Dooley says ICCM-2 helped strengthen the association's global position, with U.S. strategy directly reflected at the international level.*

Leadership Award to the co-chairmen of ICCA's Chemical Policy and Health Leadership Group: Gregory G. Bond, Ph.D., M.P.H. (Corporate Director of Product Safety, Environment, Health, and Safety for Dow Chemical), and Martin Kayser, M.D. (Senior Vice President of Product Safety Regulations, Toxicology and Ecology for BASF). This award was presented at ACC's annual meeting in June. ●

*Mary Irace is Managing Director of Global Affairs and Ben Zingman is Senior Communications Consultant for ACC. For more information about ACC's international advocacy, contact Irace via e-mail at [mary\\_irace@americanchemistry.com](mailto:mary_irace@americanchemistry.com).*



**Polyurethanes 2009 Technical Conference**  
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ACC's Center for the Polyurethanes Industry (CPI) promotes the sustainable growth of the polyurethane industry in accordance with the principles of Responsible Care® by identifying and managing issues that could affect the industry, in cooperation with user groups. This yearly conference features many technical sessions on various topics, with more than 85 technical papers presented over three days. The call for papers

began in November 2008. For more information, visit [www.americanchemistry.com/polyurethane](http://www.americanchemistry.com/polyurethane).

**ACC's Annual Chairman's Dinner**  
Kiawah Island, South Carolina  
November 5, 2009

Each year, ACC hosts a celebratory dinner honoring the leadership and dedication of its Chairman of the Board. Members, partners, and corporate supporters attend this event. For more information about how to participate, please call ACC's meeting services team. ●

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