

**Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound  
Management of Chemicals  
Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee**

**Summary Record of the Tenth Meeting**

The tenth meeting of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC) of the IOMC was held 29-30 October, at FAO, Rome. The IOCC were informed on the restructuring on-going in WHO in the new administration and the consequent change in responsibilities for programmes concerning chemical safety. Mrs P. Singh, Executive Director, Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments Cluster, had been appointed on an interim basis as the WHO representative to the IOCC.

The Chairman reported on follow-up actions to the request from IOCC members to clarify its linkages to the Governing Bodies of IOMC participating organizations. The IFCS President proposed that attention be called to the practical problems and difficulties for implementation of the IFCS recommendations at ISG3. The IFCS President would be meeting with the Executive Heads of several of the IOMC organizations and the issue could be raised in those discussions. The IOCC agreed to prepare a paper for ISG3 on the matter.

A number of general issues concerning the operating procedures of the IOMC coordinating groups (CGs) and the corresponding responsibilities of the IOCC were discussed. The need for transparency and flexibility was recognized. Criteria for CG procedures will be drafted and circulate to CGs for input. The IOCC will consider the matter and take a decision on the criteria its first meeting in 1999. The CGs will also be asked to consider what information on their efforts would be beneficial to add to the IOMC Internet site.

Reports from the IOMC CGs were reviewed and there was a general discussion concerning possible future mandates for the CG on information exchange. The agenda of the first IOCC meeting to be held in 1999 will include a session on the topic of chemicals information exchange. The proposed Terms of Reference for an IOMC coordinating group on the Assessment of Existing Industrial Chemicals and Pollutants were reviewed and adopted with minor revisions. It was proposed and agreed that a consultant should be engaged by the Secretariat to develop a front end guide (English only) through the existing relevant home pages of the IOMC participating organizations.

The Minutes of the IOMC Project Planning and Proposal Meeting on Unwanted Stocks of Pesticides and other Chemicals convened by UNEP in August 1998 were distributed. An outline for a joint project proposal had been drafted and further discussions were underway.

The draft 2nd edition of the Inventory Summary Report was reviewed. The report will be finalized and distributed at ISG3. The 6th edition of the IOMC Calendar of Events will be published in January 1999. UNEP presented a status report on the development and implementation of the Internet IOMC Information System. The system will be demonstrated at the next IOCC meeting.

UNEP provided a status report on the development of the Governing Council report on enhanced coherence and efficiency. There would be two parts to the report: (1) options and analysis and (2) annex containing statements on each of the organizations and relevant conventions. The report will contain recommendations.

The next IOCC meetings are scheduled to take place during ISG3; the first meeting in 1999 will be scheduled for the April/May time period.