

## The 32nd APEC Chemical Dialogue



The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) attended the 32nd Chemical Dialogue (CD32) virtually last March 1, 2024. The CD32 with the working theme **“Empower. Include. Grow”** was held in Lima Peru. **Mr. Kent Shigetomi**, Government Co-Chair convened the first meeting of the Chemical Dialogue (CD) for 2024 and provided a brief outline of the objectives and operating procedures for the meeting. On the other hand, **Mr. Sergio Barrientos**, who served as Industry Co-Chair welcomed delegates and provided a brief summary of industry-specific developments since CD31.

During the meeting, regulatory updates were provided by the member economies, namely: Australia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, USA and Vietnam. This session allows economies to briefly introduce any regulatory updates. Other topics discussed were status of the work done by various working groups on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence (VWGRCC), GHS, Data Exchange and Marine Debris as well as the updates on several projects on GHS, Preparation Checklist and Guidance on How to Upgrade to Higher GHS Version, G.R.E.A.T. Project, Green Chemistry and the Sound Management of Chemicals Project. The meeting was also a venue to present the outcome of the Latin America Regulatory Cooperation Forum (LARCF), Implementing OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) System Workshop, Capacity Building for Chemical Emergency Response, and Dialogue on Extended Producer Responsibility.

The APEC Chemical Dialogue serves as a forum for regulatory and trade officials and industry representatives to find solutions to challenges facing the chemical industry in the Asia-Pacific region. It reflects APEC members' recognition of the importance of both engaging with the private sector and building public-private dialogue and sustained cooperation for the benefit of both sectors.

## SPIK Participates to the PCCI's Request for Inputs for the ARTA Courtesy Call

As part of the continuing collaboration with different Associations, the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) participated to the call of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) in providing comments on the implementation of Section 17 of Republic Act No. 11032, or the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.

The SPIK provided inputs on the implementation of related laws, rules and regulations of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Food and Drug Administration, PNP- FEO, Comelec, Environmental Management Bureau, Bureau of Customs, and Local Government Units.

The PCCI Investment Policy and Promotions Committee had a Courtesy Call to ARTA Secretary Ernesto V. Perez last March 05, 2024. The meeting agenda included a discussion of issues and concerns regarding doing business at the national and local levels in the country.

# EMB Conducts Public Consultation on Mass Emission Rate System (MERS)

The Samahan Sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) attended the public consultation on the Updating of Section 19 of RA 8749 on the National Emission Standards for Source Specific Air Pollutants (NESSSAP), Establishment of Mass Emission Rate Standards (MERS) for Particulate Matter (PM), Sulfur Oxides as sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>x</sub> as SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Oxides as Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>x</sub> as NO<sub>2</sub>), and Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Establishment of Emission Charge System Pursuant to Section 13 of RA 8749 last January 26, 2024.

In conjunction to this activity, the SPIK submitted a position paper on March 05, 2024 in response to the call of the DENR-EMB for comments, suggestions and inputs on the proposed Department Administrative Order (DAO).

The Association appreciates the efforts of the EMB in coming with this project on the improvement of the emission standards for stationary sources to address environmental concerns, improve air quality, mitigate climate change, and safeguard public health. However, in the position paper highlighted some issues and concerns on seven aspects of the proposed regulation.

## DOST-ITDI Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) TechClinic



The DOST-ITDI held a significant event entitled Technology Clinic on March 14, 2024 (Thursday) at the Dusit Thani Manila, Makati City. The event titled "2024 ITDI TechClinic: The Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 or EPR Law" aims to provide shared methods for the Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) of DOST-ITDI and participants from large-scale plastics packaging companies in the Philippines to jointly act to mainstream the EPR Law (enacted into law in July 2022).

The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) was represented by Director Engr. Reinier C. Bagabay and concurrent Responsible Care Chairman together with the members of the Responsible Care Council. Currently, SPIK President Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle is one of the members of the Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) who was also invited to be part of the ribbon cutting and launching of the official TechClinic logo.



## Meralco The Luminaries, Brighter New World



The Annual Meralco Luminaries Awards held last March 07, 2024 is an event that celebrates the outstanding achievements of Meralco's partners for progress. SPIK President, Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle together with key officers of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, Inc. (CEMAP), Philippine Plastic Industry Association (PPIA) were among the invited guests.

For its 9th year, the company once again paid tribute to its valued partners in the Local Government, Business and Corporate segments during The Luminaries Brighter New World at the Grand Hyatt BGC, Taguig. The selected partners were recognized for their stellar achievements, exemplary positive business outcomes, and collaborative efforts with Meralco, resulting in Meralco and its partners further aspiring for world-class best practices, thought leadership and management of strategies that contribute to nation building.



## Roundtable Discussion on Chemicals of Safety and Security Concerns



The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) was invited to attend the Roundtable Discussion on Chemicals of Safety and Security Concerns last March 14, 2024 at the DILG Napolcom Headquarters. The RTD organized by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) brought together representatives from the government regulatory bodies, academe and research institutions, and selected industry.

During the RTD, President Gretchen F. Enarle was given an opportunity to present the Updated Philippine Chemical Industry Roadmap. She highlighted in her presentation how upcoming regulations may affect the growth of the chemical industry thus emphasized the importance of a Regulatory Impact Assessment.

The RTD aimed to provide a platform for a tri-sectoral collegial discussion on understanding the COSSC life cycle from manufacturing, distribution, transportation, utilization and disposition as well as sharing of existing chemical security mapping tool from the government regulatory agencies perspective. It also aimed to solicit inputs from the perspective of private industry, academe and research institutions and identify ways forward on how to enhance chemical security mapping tool.



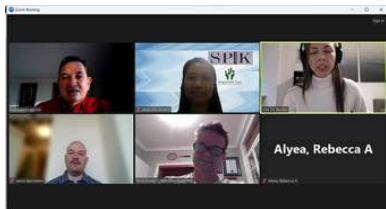
## Courtesy Visit to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency



The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika met the Officers of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) led by Director Derrick Arnold C. Carreon, Chief of Staff, Chief PIO, Director Randy R. Pedroso of the Laboratory Services and Director Atty. Ronnie N. Cudiaof the Compliances Services last March 18, 2024. The objective of the courtesy visit was to introduce the newly elected officers and discuss future programs and projects to reinforce the partnership between PDEA and the chemical industry.

SPIK President Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle highlighted the efficient and effective implementation of PDEA's rules and regulations concerning the Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals (CPECs) as well as the responsiveness of the PDEA personnel at the Compliance Services. During the meeting, PDEA CS explained that exemptions and non-controlled chemicals will be revived when the Online Application for Certification and Exemption Information System (OACEIS) is fully operational to facilitate the digitalization of applications in compliance to the Ease of Doing Business Law. SPIK, however, mentioned some challenges that chemical importers experienced in relation to the Certificate of Exemption and Certificate of Non-Controlled Product. Additionally, PDEA mentioned about the Library of ISSL or the International Special Surveillance List which lists all the dangerous drugs, said document will be shared to BOC..

## Regulatory Advocacy and Information Network (RAIN)



Since January 2024, the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) has been attending the global discussion on chemical importation issues and concerns through the Regulatory Advocacy and Information Network (RAIN) spearheaded by the American Chemistry Council (ACC).

It was reported that several RAIN members have informed that they or their customers in some parts of world have been receiving requests from the customs authority to provide 100% chemical product component information and to submit such data on the customs declaration portal. This practice has been ongoing since May 2023 and has increased since the beginning of 2024. Relatively, in August 2023, ACC drafted a joint industry representation raising the following concerns about the content disclosure requirement: 1.) Non-availability CAS numbers and content percentage 2.) Lack of adequate protection for Confidential Business Information especially for foreign manufacturers exporting to countries and 3.) Manufacturers may not have access to information required by Customs.

## SPIK attends the ICCA Responsible Care® Leadership Group (RCLG) Conference Call



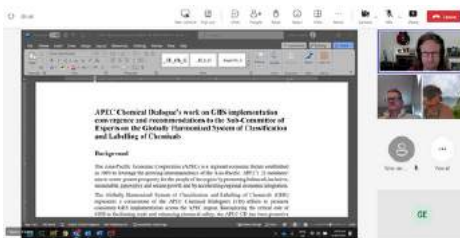
On March 20, 2024, SPIK attended the virtual conference call organized by the ICCA Responsible Care® Leadership Group (RCLG). Steven De Regter of BASF and focal person for the project updated the members of the RCLG on the status of regional implementation plans for the ICCA Self-Assessment Tool (SAT). On the other hand, Sarah Sherwood of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) presented the timing and process for launch of the new KPI webtool.

Finally, Raleigh Davis of ACC provided update on the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) and discuss RCLG role in meeting industry commitments. The meeting was presided by Hidehiko Yashima of Mitsubishi.



## APEC Chemical Dialogue GHS Virtual Working Group (APEC CD GHS VWG) Outreach to UN Sub-Committee of Experts on GHS (UNSCEGHS)

The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) attended the series of virtual discussion last March 18 and 28, 2024 on the work of the APEC CD GHS VWG. The discussions were focused on the message as well as the strategy to be part of the information document for submission to the UNSCEGHS, specifically, the APEC CD position on EU proposal for new hazard classes and raising GHS implementation challenges to the UNSCEGHS.



# SPIK 173rd General Membership Meeting and Induction Ceremony

## The Heritage Hotel, Pasay City March 20, 2024



The overwhelming support and presence of SPIK's general membership, affiliate and partner industry associations such as the Philippine Paint and Coatings Association, Inc. (PPCAI) as represented by its President Mr. Reginald T. Yu, Philippine Plastic Industry Association (PPIA) as represented by First VP Benjamin Chua and Second VP Anthony Ng, Progressive Association of Printing Ink Makers (PAPIM) as represented by Ms. Fedelita Borja, President and Director Antonio Floro and associations like Pollution Control Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PCAPI) as represented by VP-External Affairs Jeremiah Dwight Sebastian were evident and proved that the chemical industry can actively pursue the aspirations elucidated in the Roadmap, with the government agencies as co-owners of the CIR.

The 173rd General Membership Meeting (GMM) which is also the first GMM in the Administrative Year 2024 began on very good note. It is with great pleasure that the SPIK leadership led by President Gretchen F. Enarle express utmost appreciation to the members of SPIK, partner industry associations, government agencies such as the DTI-BOI, PNP-FEO, BOC-EPCD and special guests who responded to the invitation to attend the event last March 20, 2024 at The Heritage Hotel, Pasay City. The theme of the GMM: "Strengthening Connections, Linkages and Partnerships", has been demonstrated by the presence of seventy-one (71) attendees in showing support for the successful implementation of the updated Philippine Chemical Industry Roadmap (CIR) 2023-2028 with the overarching theme: "Enabling Industry Linkages, Sustainability, Safer Materials and Operations and Productivity".



Bureau of Customs - Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (BOC-EPCD) **Assistant Chief Engr. Elvin Enad** gave a very comprehensive presentation about the powers and functions of the EPCD on the Policies, Rules and Regulations on Chemical Importations with regards to CMO 38 2019 which institutionalized the EPCD and expanded the former Environmental Protection Unit (EPU). Engr. Enad emphasized the importance of compliance to all the applicable permits, licenses, certifications and clearances from various government regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction over the entry of imported products and goods through the country's ports of entry. He further explained that importers should be aware of the Bureau of Customs Selectivity Lanes which conducts Assessment, Document Check, Non-intrusive (X-Ray) Examination and Physical Examination and categorizes the imported goods as Green (Low Risk), Yellow (Medium Risk), Orange (Medium to High Risk) and Red (High Risk) to avoid apprehension and forfeiture of imported goods.





Upon the arrival of DTI-BOI Executive Director Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa, who was the inducting officer, the induction of the incoming SPIK Board of Directors and Officers for AY 2024 proceeded immediately, followed by the oathtaking of the Responsible Care Council. In her presentation, Executive Director Dichosa introduced the “Make It Happen” (MIH) in the Philippines Campaign, the brand which will be used for all international investment promotion activities by all public bodies. It was shown that the chemical industry though a net importing industry, came second to the Food Industry in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA) generated from the manufacturing industry in the Philippines in 2023. Likewise, Chemicals stands as Top 7 in terms of Commodity Exports in 2023 which 2.4% of the total value of exports of US\$73.5B. She emphasized that the Chemicals Industry is a Priority Manufacturing Industry that the BOI supports. As such, it is deemed as strategic investments and a qualified manufacturing activity. We should always remember that the BOI is a strategic government agency partner of the Chemicals Industry by providing funding assistance to SPIK in the development of the Chemicals Industry Roadmap 2023-2028 and for which we are eternally grateful.



SPIK also expressed its appreciation to the sponsor of the 173rd GMM, **Mr. Frank Konstanzer**, Country Manager of Endress+Hauser Philippines, Inc. of Endress+ Hauser of Germany. Frank was given the time to make a presentation about the global company and what it can provide the manufacturing industry in the Philippines. Today, Endress+Hauser is a leading supplier of measurement and automation technology for process and laboratory. With 16,000 employees, the company generated sales of EUR 3.3B in 2022. Its own sales centers provide support in over 50 countries, with representatives in a further 70 countries. We are happy that Endress+Hauser is now in the Philippines to provide the technical support to the Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Alliance (AMDev) which is expected to include Process Automation.



Finally, we can claim with confidence that the 173rd SPIK General Membership Meeting and Induction Ceremony was a resounding success. SPIK is also confident that the cooperation and enthusiasm of the SPIK members during the GMM will translate to company initiatives to achieve the aspirations of the Chemical Industry 2023-2028 Roadmap in Enabling Industry Linkages, Sustainability, Safer Materials and Operations and Productivity towards contributing to and advancing the country's progress in achieving the AmBisyon Natin 2040 vision of a Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag na Buhay for Filipinos.