

# CATALYST

## SPIK NEWS LETTER



## SPIK Strengthens Industry Ties with BOC through CICAC Membership

MAR 12

The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) recently paid a courtesy visit to Director John Simon, the Director for Administration of the Bureau of Customs (BOC), on March 12, 2025. The meeting, held at the Office of the Commissioner in the Port Area of Manila, saw the introduction of SPIK's officers and board members, including president Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle and Directors Romeo G. Dela Cruz, Malou Formalejo, Mary Grace San Jose, and Doris Torres with Tonette Fallarme.

During the meeting, Director Simon extended an invitation for SPIK to join the Customs Industry Consultative and Advisory Council (CICAC). This significant development opens the door for SPIK to actively participate in discussions and address industry concerns directly with the Council, potentially leading to improved resolutions and policies within the customs sector.

The collaboration is anticipated to strengthen the relationship between the BOC and the supply chain industry, fostering a more conducive environment for business and trade in the country.



## TWG Reviews Proposed IRR Amendments for PNP-FEO Controlled Chemicals



On March 13, 2025, the Technical Working Group (TWG) held its second meeting to review the proposed changes to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) that govern the operations of the Philippine National Police-Firearms and Explosives Office (PNP-FEO) concerning Controlled Chemicals.

The TWG is comprised of representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry-Board of Investments (DTI-BOI), the PNP-FEO, the Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI), Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), and the Integrated Chemists of the Philippines (ICP). The meeting was chaired by the Acting Director of DTI-BOI, Mr. Ronaldo DC Buluran, and was facilitated by the Ms. June Villasanta and Ms. Geraldine Buela also from DTI-BOI.

The proposed amendments to the IRR are the result of consultation aimed at addressing the evolving challenges and demands within the sector. The revisions are expected to streamline processes, reduce bottlenecks, and improve the monitoring and regulation of controlled chemicals. The DTI-BOI emphasized the need for a balance between economic growth and security, advocating for policies that support the legitimate chemical industry while preventing the misuse of controlled substances. In addition, SPIK and ICP representatives provided valuable insights from the industrial and professional perspectives, highlighting the importance of clear guidelines that promote compliance without unduly burdening the sector.

DOST-ITDI representatives, meanwhile, shared technological advancements that could be integrated into the monitoring and enforcement of the IRR. These innovations are envisioned to augment the capabilities of the PNP-FEO in its mandate to secure the country against threats that may arise from the illicit trade and use of controlled chemicals.

The TWG is set to reconvene for further deliberations and to finalize the proposed amendments. Once completed, the revised IRR will be presented to the appropriate authorities for approval. The anticipated outcome is a robust set of regulations that reflect the current state of the controlled chemicals sector and are aligned with international best practices.

MAR 13

## Responsible Care Council Convenes for ReCap 2025 Training Module Review



The Responsible Care Council (RCC) gathered at the DKSH Office on March 13, 2025, to conduct a review of the training modules designed for the upcoming Responsible Care Awareness Seminar, ReCap 2025. The meeting, which focused on enhancing the effectiveness of the training program, brought together industry leaders to ensure the seminar aligns with the current goals set forth in the Philippine Chemical Industry Roadmap (PCIR).

The Council also discussed recent updates from various government agencies that have an impact on the chemical sector. These included new regulations, environmental policies, and safety protocols that member companies need to be aware of to maintain compliance and uphold the high standards of the Responsible Care Program. The Council also touched upon the importance of continuous learning and adaptation to the evolving landscape of the industry.

One of the main agenda items was the verification schedule for SPIK members. The RCC is dedicated to assisting SPIK members in their journey to achieve full compliance with the Responsible Care Program, which is a global initiative aimed at improving the chemical industry's environmental, health, and safety performance. By conducting regular assessments, the Council ensures that all participating companies are on track to meet the objectives outlined in the PCIR.



# Industry Leaders Meet with DOH for Progressive HUHS Regulation Discussions



On March 14, 2025, a significant stride in government-industry collaboration took place at the Department of Health (DOH), as **Atty. Vida Aquino**, the Head Executive Assistant to Health Secretary Ted Herbosa, met with key figures from the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), the Philippine Paint and Coatings Association, Inc. (PPCAI), the Philippine Stationers Association, Inc. (PSAI), and the DTI-Board of Investments (DTI-BOI). This meeting, focused on the regulation of Household Urban Hazardous Substances (HUHS), highlighted the commitment of the DOH to work hand in hand with stakeholders to ensure policies remain both practical and in line with global standards.



Attendees from SPIK, PPCAI, and PSAI presented their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities inherent in the production and handling of HUHS. These industry leaders emphasized the importance of science-based regulations that consider the unique characteristics and realities of their respective sectors. They also shared best practices and innovations that could contribute to the continuous improvement of safety measures and environmental stewardship. The DTI-BOI, for its part, offered insights on how the investment climate could be affected by the proposed regulatory changes and the potential impact on the competitiveness of the Philippines in the



Atty. Aquino expressed her appreciation for the constructive engagement and assured the representatives that their inputs would be carefully considered in the ongoing review and refinement of the HUHS policies. This collaborative effort signifies the government's recognition of the industry's vital role in shaping policies that affect their operations.

By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the DOH is fostering a culture of shared responsibility and inclusive decision-making. The meeting concluded with a positive note, as all parties acknowledged the importance of maintaining an open and transparent dialogue to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

# BOC Marks CICAC's First Anniversary with Expanded Membership & Trade Initiatives



The Bureau of Customs (BOC), under the stewardship of Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, commemorated the first year of the Customs Industry Consultative and Advisory Council (CICAC) with a successful 3rd General Assembly on March 14, 2025. This significant event highlighted the Council's vital contributions to bolstering government-private sector cooperation, which has been instrumental in advancing trade and customs operations. Established in February 2024, CICAC has experienced substantial growth, now comprising 59 central and 122 local member organizations. The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), with Vice President for External Affairs, Engr. Albert A. Samuela, and Director Maria Lourdes Formalejo, was officially sworn in as the newest addition to the Council.

The event was held in collaboration with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII), whose President, **Dr. Cecilio K. Pedro**, underscored the importance of unity among various industries. Throughout the General Assembly, the BOC presented progress reports on regulatory reforms designed to optimize cargo logistics and enhance overall operational efficiency. These efforts are testament to the Council's commitment to fostering a conducive business environment and facilitating seamless trade practices in the country.





MAR 19

## 3rd SPIK Board Convenes: Trade, Security, and Responsibility in Focus

The 3rd SPIK Board Meeting convened on March 19, 2025, at the Dow Office in Alabang. Key discussions included critical issues in trade and industry with the Bureau of Customs (BOC), and the anticipated ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Platform (ARCP) Workshop and Asia-Pacific Responsible Care Conference (APRCC). The meeting also emphasized the importance of Responsible Care activities.

Additionally, the board members touched on capacity building efforts and strategic partnerships to strengthen industry standards. Updates on membership status and public affairs activities were also shared, highlighting the organization's commitment to transparency and stakeholder engagement. The meeting served as a platform to address challenges and explore opportunities in the evolving trade landscape, ensuring SPIK's role as a leader in advocating for responsible and sustainable growth in the region.



MAR 20

## PH Chemical Industry Roadmap Meeting: Advancing Collaboration & Development

The meeting on March 20, 2025, at the BOI Office in Makati City marked a pivotal point for the Philippine chemical sector, as the Main Technical Working Group (MTWG) assembled to assess the progress of the Philippine Chemical Industry Roadmap. This effort brought representatives from the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) led by Vice President for Internal Affairs Engr. Arnold C. Benitez, Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines, Philippine Paint and Coatings Association, and the Department of Science and Technology Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI). Under the guidance of Acting Director Ronaldo Buluran of the Board of Investments, the MTWG aimed to propel the industry forward through strategic discussions and informed decision-making.



The agenda was comprehensive, addressing the review of past agreements, providing updates from Sub-Working Groups focused on Industry-Academe Collaboration (SWG 1), Industry Promotion (SWG 2), and Ease of Doing Business (SWG 3). Notable topics included the ASCEND Program, promotion of top commodities, FDA policies on Household Urban Hazardous Substances (HUHS), COMELEC resolutions, and PNP regulations.

Additionally, the group touched upon Roadmap Strategies 1, 2, and 5, and outlined the next steps for the institutionalization of an R&D Team.

The meeting, organized by Ms. June Villasanta, Ms. Geraldine Buena and Mr. Jericho Fortunato Reyes of the Board of Investments, culminated with a consensus on the agreed-upon actions and a clear roadmap for moving forward.



MAR 20

# Technical Committee on Personal Safety Equipment Convenes for Enhanced Workplace Safeguards

The Technical Committee on Personal Safety-Personal Protective Equipment (TC-PSE) recently held an assembly, with the presence of Engr. Albert Samuela, SPIK's Vice President for External Affairs, serving as the official representative. This meeting was organized and led by the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standards (DTI- BPS).

The event saw key stakeholders, including the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers (PSME), and other professional organizations, converge to discuss and develop comprehensive standards for personal protective equipment (PPE). These standards are crucial in minimizing risks and ensuring the wellbeing of workers across various industries.



The meeting aimed to harmonize local guidelines with international benchmarks, thereby promoting global competitiveness and compliance. The collaboration between industry, relevant government agencies and DTI-BPS signifies a collective effort to enhance safety protocols and for the welfare of workforce. Outcomes of this assembly are expected to positively impact the manufacture, distribution, and use of PPE, ultimately reducing workplace accidents and injuries.

## FDA Meeting Addresses Industry Concerns over New Fees Schedule

MAR 20



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently held a significant meeting on March 20, 2025, chaired by Director General Dr. Samuel A. Zacate. The event saw the attendance of various representative associations, including the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) represented by Director Mary Grace San Jose, the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce (Phils.), the Philippines Stationeries Associations, the Philippine Paint and Coatings Associations, and the Cosmetics, Toiletry, and Fragrance Associations of the Phils.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the issues and concerns related to the newly proposed FDA schedule of fees and charges, outlined in Administrative Order (AO) No. 2024-0016. The AO, which was published on December 28, 2024, following its approval on Dec 09, 2024, aims to address the sufficiency of fees and charges as mandated by Republic Act No. 9711 (Food and Drug Administration Act 2009) and Section 17 of Republic Act No. 9502 Chapter 4.

The discussions focused on the breakdown of costs as per DOF-DBM-NEDA Joint Circular No. 1-2013 and the implementing rules and regulations of Administrative Order No. 31, S.2012. Some key points discussed were the increase in the application fee from PHP 100 to PHP 1,000 and the subsequent decision to lower it to PHP 250 after considering the feedback from the industry stakeholders. Additionally, the FDA's need to enhance the salaries of its assessors and undergo facility renovations was brought to the forefront. It was also agreed upon to establish regular monthly meetings similar to CICAC meetings of the Bureau of Customs (BOC), to maintain open dialogue and address any concerns promptly.

The meeting concluded with the assurance that the FDA would take all concerns into consideration and work towards a balanced approach that benefits both the industry and the public health sector. The proposal for a monthly meeting with the FDA was also well-received and is set to take place throughout the year to ensure a smoother implementation of the new fee structure. This collaborative step is expected to streamline processes and improve overall efficiency within the regulatory framework.



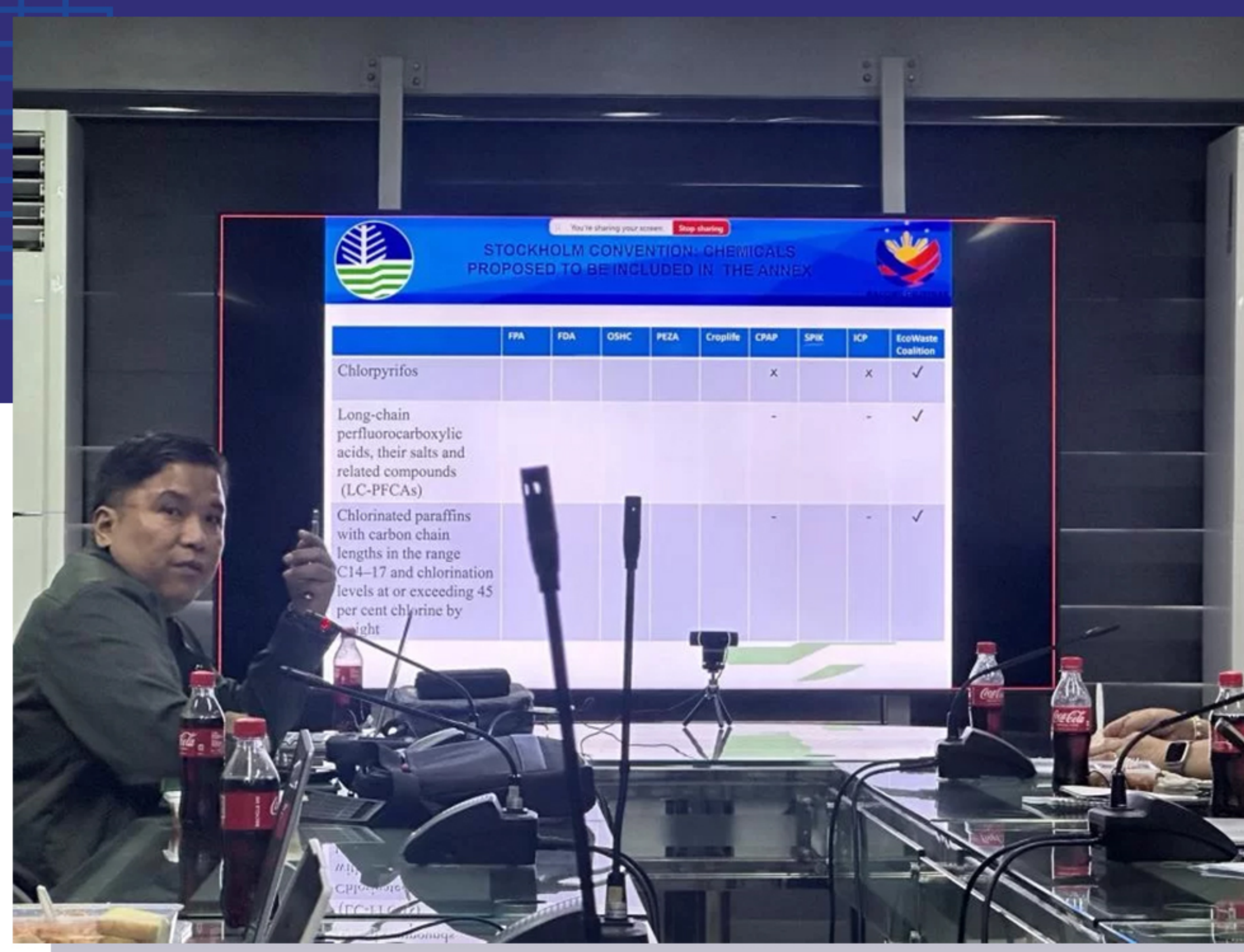


# Inter-Agency Consultation: Adding Chemicals to Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Annexes

MAR 25



The recent inter-agency consultation focused on the impending Conference of Parties for the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, scheduled for April 28 to May 9, 2025. The event, held at the Manila Bay Conference Room in the DENR Compound, brought together representatives from various stakeholder groups, including the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), civil societies, NGOs, Croplife Philippines, the Crop Protection Association of the Philippines, Inc. (CPAP), FPA, FDA, PEZA, and DOLE-OSHC.



The primary aim of the meeting was to deliberate on the proposed additions to the annexes of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, with Engr. Edwin Navaluna, Chief of the Chemicals Management Section (CMS) and Engr. Joel Maleon leading the discussion for chemical management.

The session covered background information on the conventions' matters, analysis of position papers submitted by stakeholders regarding the chemical inclusions, and an exploration of country requirements for the implementation of these Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). This collaborative effort sought to enhance understanding and form a unified national stance ahead of the CoP discussions.



The afternoon was dedicated to a similar dialogue on the Basel Convention, chaired by Engr. Irvin G. Cadavona of the Hazardous Waste Management Section, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all three conventions.

The collective insights and recommendations from these meetings will significantly influence the country's approach to managing and regulating hazardous chemicals and wastes.



# DOST-ITDI Meeting Highlights Energy Efficiency & Pollution Control

MAR 26



The 18th Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting, chaired by Dr. Anabelle V. Briones, Director of the Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI), took place on March 26, 2025.

The event saw presentations from key industry figures, including Engr. Alexander Ablaza, who introduced the Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance (PE2). PE2's mission and objectives were outlined, along with its composition of member companies and organizations, and the potential collaborations it can engage in to advance energy efficiency



Furthermore, the IAC touched on the upcoming technology clinic sessions and the renewal of membership for **Dr. Danilo C. Lachica** of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippine Foundation, Inc. (SEPI), **Mr. Danny C. Ngo** of Philippine Plastic Industry Association (PIIA) and **Ms. Ma. Josephine B. Gonzales** of Nestle Philippines, emphasizing the importance of continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing to drive innovation and sustainable growth in the industry.

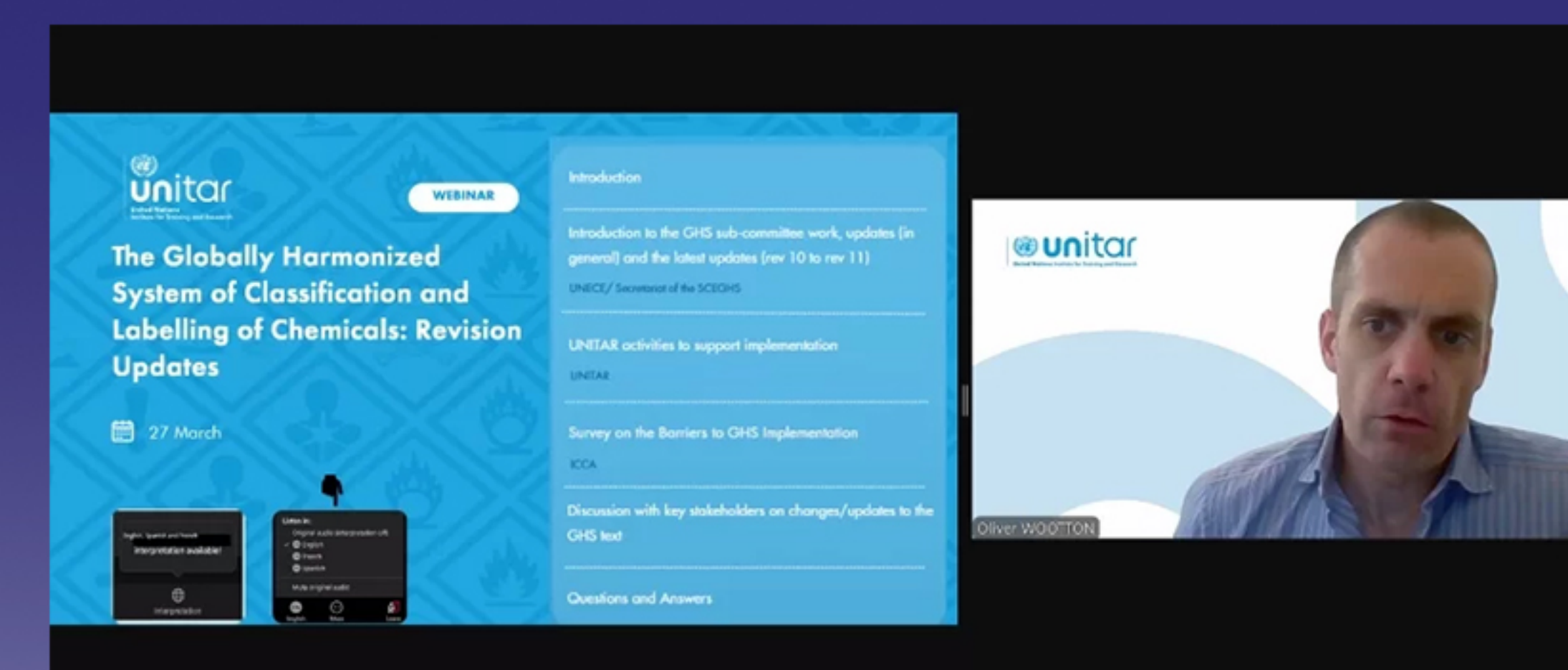
During this meeting, the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) was represented by **Engr. Albert A. Samuela**, Vice President for External Affairs.

**Engr. Norman Giovanni Guevarra** discussed the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines (PCAPI), detailing its initiatives and the impending national convention.



## UNITAR Conducts GHS Revision Webinar Highlights Transition from Rev 10 to Rev 11

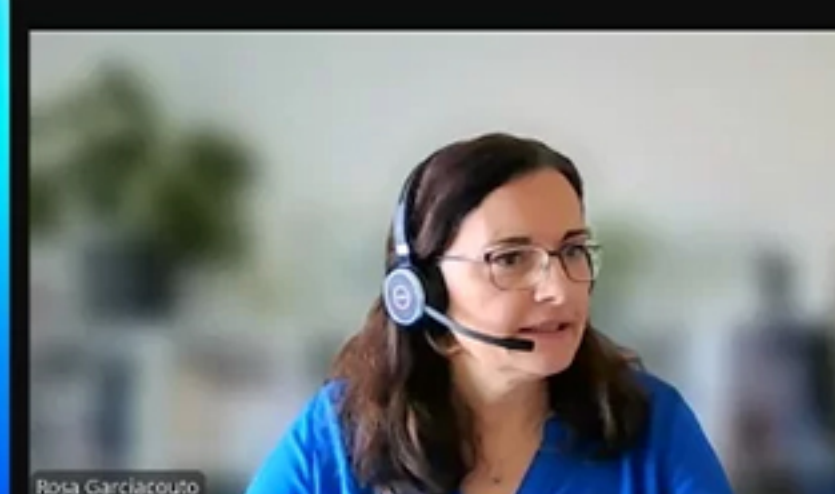
MAR 27



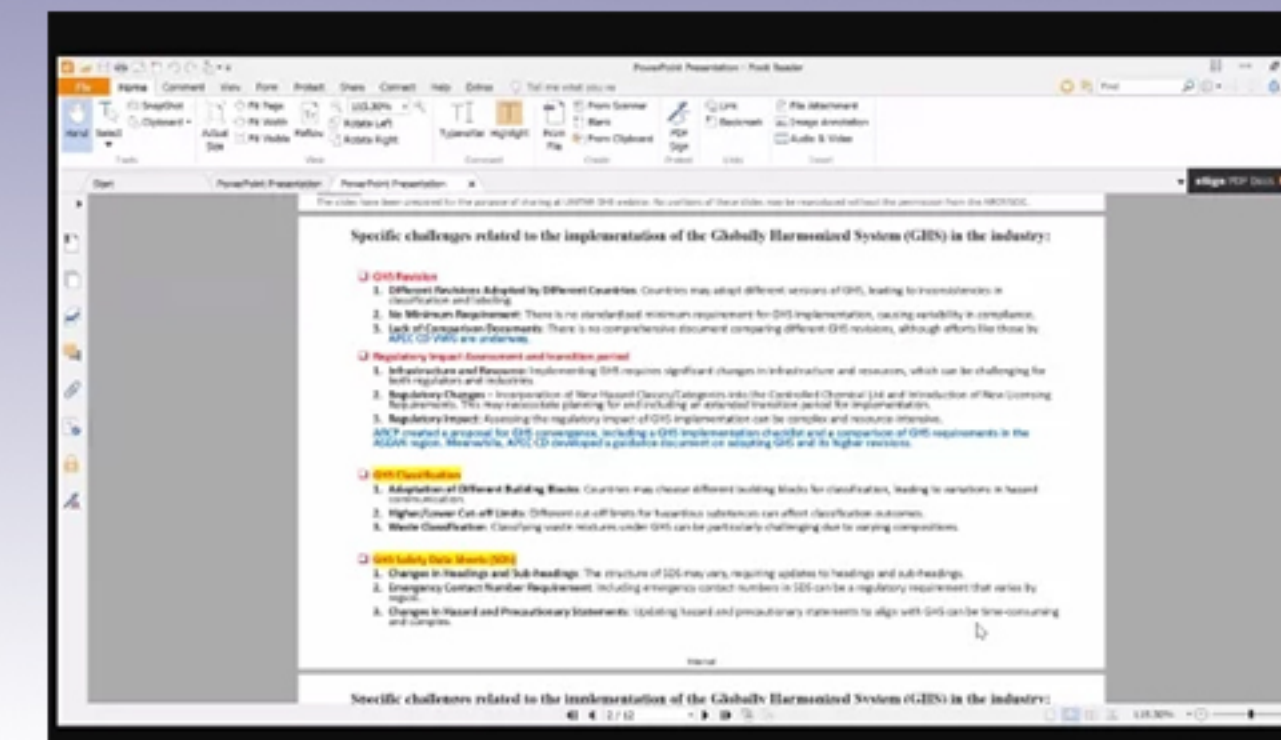
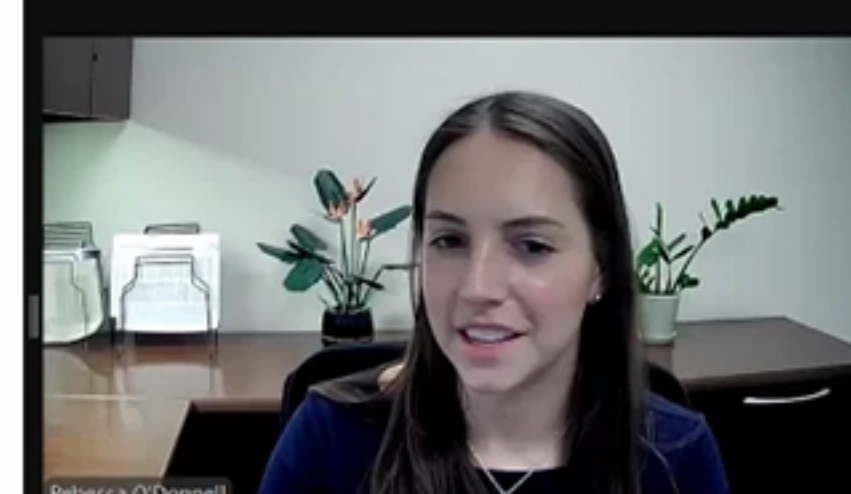
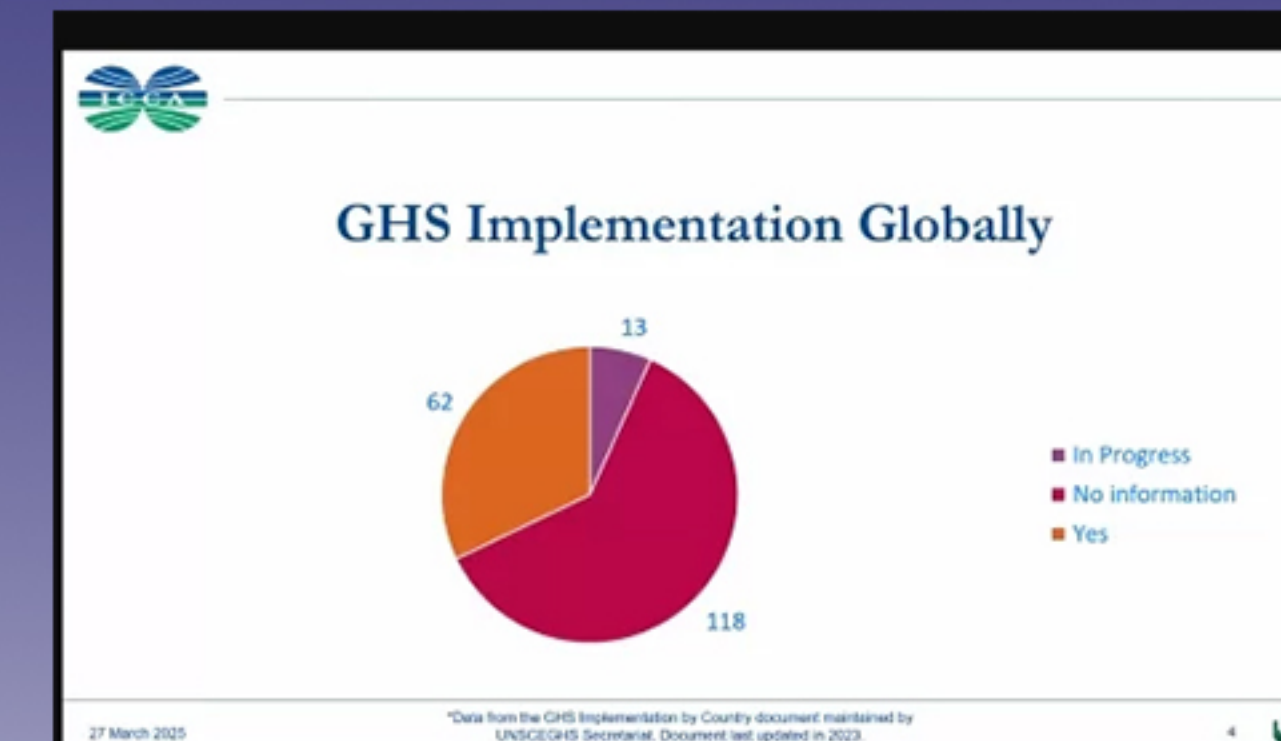
The Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) is an important initiative aimed at standardizing chemical information and enhancing safety for workers, consumers, and the environment. On March 27, 2025, UNITAR hosted a webinar to address the latest updates from Revision 10 to Revision 11, featuring speakers from the UN GHS Sub-Committee, UNCEGHS, ICCA, and ARCP.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE GHS SUB-COMMITTEE WORK, UPDATES (IN GENERAL) AND LATEST UPDATES (REV10 - REV11)**

Rosa Garcia Costa  
Secretary of the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS  
UNITAR webinar 27 March 2025



The event offered an insightful introduction to the GHS's ongoing work and its evolution. Key topics discussed included UNITAR's support activities for GHS implementation worldwide and a survey identifying barriers faced by various stakeholders. The session concluded with an engaging dialogue on changes and updates to the GHS text. Notable speakers from these organizations shared their expertise and facilitated a collaborative conversation about the challenges and strategies for a seamless transition.



This webinar served as an essential platform for international cooperation and the exchange of information, ensuring the continuous improvement of chemical safety communication.