

CATALYST

SPIK NEWSLETTER

SEP 24

BUILDING REGIONAL CAPACITY FOR SAFER CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 GSC-ARCP COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP IN MANILA

Between 24 and 26 September 2025, in Manila, the pivotal GSC-ARCP Collaborative Chemical Management Capacity Building Workshop brought together government authorities, industry partners, and foreign experts to help drive chemical safety forward across Asia Pacific. Backed by the Global Silicones Council led by Mr. Karluss Thomas, the Philippines Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Chemical Industries Association of the Philippines, and Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC), this intensive forum enhanced regional capacity in chemical evaluation, risk regulation, and regulatory collaboration.



The workshop started with an introductory message from **Mr. Karluss Thomas**, Executive Director of Global Silicones Council and **Ms. Cissie Yeung**, Co-chairperson of the ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Platform (ARCP), discussing the objectives of the workshop.

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SPIK President, **Engr. Gretchen Enarle**, then formally welcomed the participants, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and shared commitment to chemical safety and environmental stewardship in her message, followed by a keynote speech from **Mr. Reynaldo Lignes**, OIC Director, DTI- Board of Investments Manufacturing Industries Service, highlighting the importance of regional cooperation among ASEAN Member States.



Representatives from 12 Asia- Pacific economies (Australia, Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) presented national regulations structures that identify areas for harmonization and some systemic differences.



UNEP, on the other hand, strengthened international commitment to the safety of chemicals. At the same time, afternoon exercises provided hands-on training in the use of risk assessment methods, including OECD Toolbox and Ecotox databases with the guidance of Australia, EU, and US experts. Participants in the breakout groups identified cooperative options for dealing with persistent organic pollutants (POPs).



Practical case studies were the order of the day on the second, as participants tackled real-life situations dealing with metal toxicity, endocrine disruptors, and POPs. The cross-sector cooperation enabled industry and academic experts to lead regulators through exposure modeling and risk characterization discussions.



A networking party, where participants mingled to strengthen collaboration between them, and officials from ASEAN states gathered earnestly to discuss ways to synchronize their POPs management strategies. Delegates networked with intent, seeking to bring the chemical industry, academia, and policy closer together, while discreetly logging points at which chemical registry systems and rising ASEAN protocols could find common purpose.



During the last day, ARCP's strategic planning was presented as a response to ASEAN's changing regulatory environment. Issues under consideration included AEC/Transparency in the ASEAN Economic Community, trends in regulatory cooperation at APEC, and implications of trade negotiations to the WTO. Emerging priorities were, for instance, EPR schemes, updates to GHS, and chemicals related to plastic pollution. Regulatory news from the EU, USA, China, Korea, and Japan set the tone for breakout into ARCP's workstream consensus building on risk management and EPR implementation.



Members of the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) were joined by representatives from the DTI-BOI, DENR-EMB, DOLE-OSHC, PNP-FEO, and FDA, as well as from Caraga State University, in the event.



The workshop indeed strengthen the foundation of ASEAN in chemical management. By combining scientific quality, regulatory expertise, and hands-on problem-solving, it created feasible ways to establish harmonized standards for protecting human health and the environment. Partnerships with government, industry, and international partners will continue to be essential in the face of such complex chemical safety challenges as the region undergoes growth and transition.





The event was co-organized by Philippines DTI, Global Silicones Council (GSC), ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Platform (ARCP) and Chemical Industries Association of the Philippines, Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC).

30th Meeting of AMEICC Working Group on Chemical Industry (WG-CI)

SEP 02



The 30th Meeting of the AMEICC Working Group on Chemical Industry (WG-CI) was convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2-3 September 2025. The well-attended event was co-chaired by Japan and Malaysia governments and demonstrate their commitment in developing robust relationship and promoting the chemical industry in the ASEAN market.



There was a strong manifestation of collaboration, innovation, and sustainable growth among participating countries to prepare for an integrated and competitive ASEAN chemical market. Conversations focused on protection of the environment, regulatory coherence and on development investment opportunities in line with the group's aspiration to a greener and more economically dynamic future. The results of the gathering will have implications for regional regulations and the advancement of the chemical industry as well as the role of ASEAN in the world's chemical landscape for years to come.

SEP 02

SPIK, Rezcoat, CENRO, and Brgy. Salong Unite for 2025 Calaca Coastal Clean Up



SPIK, Rezcoat, Calaca City CENRO and Brgy. Salong officials already met at a coordination meeting in preparation for the upcoming coastal clean-up event. This joint initiative is set for September 20, 2025, in what is to be the International Coastal Clean Up (ICC) action.



The discussion was initiated by Engr. Reinier Jay Bagabay, SPIK Director and Responsible Care Chairperson and Malou Formalejo, SPIK Director and VP Operations Rezcoat, Inc. They were accompanied by Calaca City CENRO personnel, Brgy. Captain of Salong, Ms. Tonette Fallarme and Engr. Elen Perillo.

The purpose is to raise ecological consciousness and generate local community involvement into conserving the natural beauty and the richness of biodiversity of this sea shore area. The volunteer group will gather all types of trash, including plastics and other items that endanger sea life or harm the coastal environment.



SEP 05

Workshop on Third Countries and G7's Sanctions: Decoupling Risks and Streamlining Compliance



The unprecedented G7 Sanctions against Russia, in the wake of the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, have caused considerable headaches for third states wishing to keep economic ties with it, in line with international law. In reply, Bohdan Bernatskyi, Research Fellow at EUI, Founder of Sanctions Finder and Sofia Maksymiv, Senior Analyst at the StateWatch Think Tank, Trap Aggressor project have been invited to present a "virtual workshop" on "Third Countries and G7's Sanctions: Decoupling Risks and Compliance Streamline" which took place on September 5, 2025 on Zoom.



Sponsored by the Strategic Trade and Management Office (STMO), the event was attended by 100 government officials and industry stakeholders including the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK).



The briefing was intended to provide local businesses with the information on the sanctions framework. It examines what happens when sanctions aren't followed – the legal, financial and reputational impact of not playing by the rules and the role of ethical business in the world economy. In addition, the workshop presented Sanctions Finder, an essential tool in terms of transparency and alignment in line with international sanctions.

SEP 09

MOA Signing of SPIK and Mapua Malayan Colleges Mindanao, Davao City



Engr. Alejandro H. Ballado, Jr., EVP & COO of Mapúa Malayan Colleges Mindanao (Mapúa MCM), and Engr. Albert Samuela, representing the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), formalized their collaboration on September 9, 2025. The signing ceremony, held at Mapúa MCM's Global Classroom, marked a strategic alliance to reshape chemical engineering education.

Witnessed by SPIK leaders Engr. Romeo Dela Cruz, Engr. Reinier Jay Bagabay, and Mr. Rodney Arquiza, the agreement unlocks industry-academe synergies. It establishes pipelines for immersive internships, joint research on sustainable solutions, and community-driven projects—all anchored in responsible industry standards.



Mapúa MCM's delegation included key figures: Mr. Leopoldo D. Aquino, Jr., Ms. Marycon C. Delos Reyes, Engr. Michael G. Calamba, Dr. Gernelyn T. Logrosa, and Engr. Lalaine Joan A. Limbago. Their presence highlighted institutional commitment to advancing professional development and ethical practices.



SEP 10

Industry Consultation on the Proposed Amendments to the IRR of Controlled Chemicals

The Board of Investments (BOI) Executive Director Maria Corazon Dichosa presided over industry consultations on September 10, 2025, on the proposed amendments to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Controlled Chemicals. Delegates from Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), led by President Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, took part in the meetings.

The session focused on a line-by-line review of the draft revisions. Primary goals were to harmonize PNP-FEO licensing processes and to streamline regulatory requirements for chemical manufacturers, dealers, and purchasers. All stakeholders provided technical input to harmonize the regulatory environment with the operating environment and to ensure that simplicity of doing business is in harmony with safety and security.

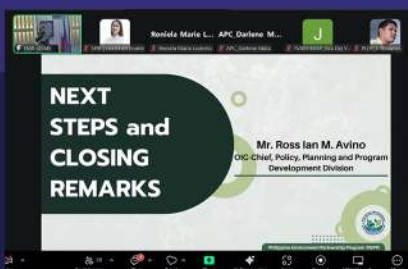


Public Consultation for the Revised DAO on PEPP



On September 12 of this year, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) it held a hybrid public consultation for its revised administrative order to update the Philippine Environment Partnership Program (PEPP). The new DAO intends to raise industry environmental performance standards while promoting industrial self-regulation.

The event was officiated by Ms. Jacqueline A. Caancan (OIC-Assistant Secretary and concurrent EMB Director). Mr. Janus Niño Alpaño (Head, EMB-PEPP) presented the objectives, citing current best environmental practices as policies.



An open forum elicited feedback from stakeholders including the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), representatives from other industry associations and civil society. In closing words, Mr. Ross Ian Avino (OIC-Chief, Policy Division) stressed the need for practical and flexible regulations that promote environmental excellence.



SEP 15

Stakeholders' Meeting on the Development of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 12174v



Government representatives, sectors leaders, academic experts and advocate groups, converged at the Bureau of Fire Protection National Headquarters on 15 September 2025 to come up with the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for Chemical Weapon Prohibitions Act (Republic Act No. 12174).

Anti-Terrorism Council-Program Management Center (ATC-PMC) Director Jose S. Embang, Jr. delivered the opening statement in the key stakeholder meeting. Prof. Irma R. Makalino, MD and Coordinator of CBRN Health Security led the line-by-line review of the draft IRR.



The session built upon earlier writeshops (August 27 and September 3) involving key government bodies. Attendees included representatives from the government- DENR-EMB, BOC, FPA, OTS, DILG, DTI-STMO, DOJ, DOH, PNP; Industry- Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) members; Laboratories- Philippine Institute of Pure and Applied Chemistry (PIPAC) and Academe- UP Manila College of Medicine and UP Institute of Chemistry



RA 12174 passed into law in April 2025 criminalizes the development, production, and use of chemical weapons. It is through this IRR that we come with an effective enforcement and compliance mechanism for the Philippine industries and institutions. The rules in their final version will be presented for executive approval in the coming weeks.

SPIK 178th General Membership Meeting Highlights

Government-Chemical Industry Partnership

SEP 17



The 178th General Membership Meeting, themed **"Synergizing Government-Chemical Industry Partnership for Enhanced Growth & Public Welfare,"** recently convened key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration between the chemical industry and the government.



Opening the program was an invocation and singing of the national anthem of the Philippines, followed by a welcoming speech from **Engr. Joel Malaluan**, Director at SPIK.

while witnessed by **Engr. Arnold C. Benitez**, VP Internal of SPIK and **Engr. Jade Dayag**, SEIPI Industry Analyst Technology.

This is a pivotal step in bringing the chemical and semiconductor industries closer together in collaboration. In their agreement, both organizations have made undertakings that not only will benefit each other but also will produce a model for better business practices. It also provides a basis for joint ventures, which will promote economic growth while ensuring public welfare.



At the 178th General Membership Meeting of SPIK, SEIPI formalized its alliance with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). **Engr. Gretchen Enarle**, SPIK President, and Mr. Cristjan Dave Bael, SEIPI Associate Business Lead-External Affairs, led the signing,



The President's Message was given by **Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle**, SPIK President, with particular emphasis on the necessity for Industry and Government to work together. She discussed how joint efforts are needed to strike a balance between development and environmental preservation. **Engr. Enarle** stressed that sustainable growth would only be possible if partnerships that involve innovation, compliance, and public welfare can be achieved.



In the Keynote message Engr. Joel Maleon, Senior Environmental Management Specialist at the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-EMB), reinforced the Government's policy of moving chemical industry activities towards sustainability and regulation.

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178th GMM continued...



After Engr. Maleon's presentation, an open forum was held to encourage dialogue between the participants. In this interactive session, deeper understanding was found and new channels of cooperation established between government agencies responsible for environmental protection and the chemical industry.



On the program's Sponsor Time spot, Ms. Lina D. Rogel, CEO Of World Safety Supply Center, Inc., presented the latest safety supplies and facilities. Her report emphasized the vital role of safety to the operation of chemical firms and the bearing it carries in protecting workers and the environment.



The meeting ended with a speech from Ms. Mary Grace San Jose, Director of SPIK, who emphasized continued partnership for enhanced growth and public welfare.

SPIK Joins PackPrintPlas 2025

SEP 18



The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) represented by Engr. Arnold Benitez, Vice President for Internal Affairs, joined PackPrintPlas Philippines 2025 last September 18. Presented by Global Link MP Events International Inc. and co-organized with Messe Düsseldorf Asia, the event took place until September 20 at SMX Convention Center Manila.

Encompassing over 9,000 sqm, the exhibition showcased over 300 international brands and welcomed 15,000 industry visitors. PackPrintPlas provides a meeting place for innovation, the formation of business relationships and an expansion of business in packaging, printing and plastics industry. SPIK's role reflects its dedication to leading the chemical sector to play an active part of sustainable solutions.



The opening ceremony photo opportunity was attended by Engr. Benitez alongside other industry leaders, emphasizing the participation of SPIK in moving the sector forward.

SEP 19

BOI Hosts Collaboration Meeting Between Industry Leaders for Economic Development



The meeting of industry leaders held at the Board of Investments (BOI) was presided by Ms Lydia Guevarra, Director IV of the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Resource Generation and Management Service, and Ms Kimberly May Baltao-Chandra of the World Bank. The gathering brought together associations, including the Aerospace Industries Association of the Philippines (AIAP) and Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK).

The participants zeroed in on sharing success stories from different places, exploring how to bring about further development and innovation in the region, and coordinating their strategies to help parts of society that are lagging behind. Both the DTI and the World Bank stressed in their speeches that government agencies, business sectors, and institutions of research should work more closely together for reasons of competition as well as innovation.



This cooperative project is geared to strengthen the aerospace and chemical sectors — industries that are all important elements of our industrial scene.

SEP 19

Responsible Care Awareness Webinar Gears up Philippines' Chemical Engineers for Safety



On 16-19 September 2025, PIChE CAMANAVA and Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) conducted a webinar on Responsible Care Awareness in the Philippines (ReCAP) that gathered approximately 200 chemical engineers to help increase their understanding of chemical safety and environmental accountability. The activity started with welcome remarks from **Engr. Elen Perlado**, of PIChE CAMANAVA, and concluded with a message from **Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle**, President of SPIK.

Key topics included the Responsible Care Overview by Engr. Gretchen Enarle, Mr Lian Layog on Process Safety and Employee Health and Safety; Security and Distribution Codes during the presentation of Engr. Gretchen Enarle and Ms. Janet Marcellana; Pollution Prevention by Engr. Reineir Bagabay, Community Awareness and Emergency Response by Engr. Albert Samuela; and Product Stewardship by Engr. Jocelyn Peña.



Strengthening Compliance to Combat Illicit Drugs through RCS and OACEIS



The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika(SPIK), in partnership with the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines (PCAPI) and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency(PDEA), held the training on Regulation Compliance Service(RCS) and Online Application for Certificate Exemption Information System(OACEIS) at Selah Pods Hotel on September 19, 2025.



The event opened with remarks from SPIK President **Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle**, highlighting the training's importance in strengthening industry compliance.

PDEA experts **DDRO III Niña D. Deniña** and **DDRO II Claire L. Pasicolan** provided regulatory updates and demonstrated the RCS and OACEIS processes. The sessions included Q&A and open forums to address participants' concerns.



The training, hosted by **Engr. Jai Rocamora** of Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation and Responsible Care Council, is essential to the fight against drugs, as it enables the chemical industry to locate and check substances used as raw materials for illegal drug production. The event supports national efforts to secure public health and safety by improving compliance systems.



The program ended with closing remarks from SPIK Responsible Care Chairman **Engr. Reinier Jay C. Bagabay**, who reaffirmed the commitment to industry partnership and regulatory adherence.



This webinar is important in the context of further promoting Responsible Care, an initiative that focuses on health, safety & environmental performance as a serious business commitment by the chemical industry. Overall, ReCAP enhances the contribution of the chemical industry to sustainable development in the Philippines by focusing on responsible innovation and protection of both people and the environment.

SPIK Joins Global Coastal Cleanup in Calaca, Batangas

SEP 20



The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), together with the Calaca City Environmental Office and local officials, participated in the International Coastal Cleanup at Brgy. Salong, Calaca, Batangas. The initiative, held on September 20, 2025, brought 184 volunteers who scoured the shores for debris in a bid to reinforce community-driven environmental stewardship.

The environmental initiative was led by Responsible Care Chairman Engr. Reinier Jay Bagabay and Director Malou Formalejo while sponsors like Rezcoat, Inc., Royal Cargo, Avestronics, Pioneer Adhesives, DKSH Philippines and EKPI, Trans World Trading, Pigmentex, Inc. Connell-Caldic, Wacker, Chemlux, Inc, AWSI came up with indispensable backing.

This event promoted cooperation between companies and communities as volunteers took out garbage from plastic bags to fishing nets. Organizers emphasized the importance of long-term action, with Engr. Bagabay saying: "We did not just collect waste, but we took a stand to protect our marine biodiversity."

SEP 23

Courtesy Call with FDA DG Atty. Paolo Teston: Strengthening Industry-Government Partnership



On September 23, in a significant courtesy call at the FDA Headquarters, **Director General Atty. Paolo S. Teston** joined industry leaders to discuss current challenges and provide a vision for change within the agency. SPIK President **Gretchen Enarle** led the chemical industry group, together with SPIK Director **Romeo Dela Cruz**, PPCA's TF HUHS Chair **Diosdado Cheng**, and DTI-BOI representative **Geraldine Buela**, among others. They emphasized the importance of collaboration between industry and government to advance public health and regulatory efficiency.

DG Teston, who took over at the helm four months ago, displayed a newfound seriousness—visiting with a thick binder of every pending application—and repledged his promise to improve FDA service. He listed structural barriers, including continued office relocation due to earthquake damage, operational constraints resulting from being self-funded, a severe staff shortage, and contentious procurement protocols. Notwithstanding this, DG Teston informed stakeholders that internal transformation is on the rise, as evidenced by his 100% attendance record since assuming the role of DG.



Our priorities are to roll out our Action Center via BPO, transition our Portals into eGov services, upgrade our phone system, and automate LTO renewals based on submissions 180 days before expiration. Larger initiatives are also in progress. These include a move to cloud-based software, hiring 120 new employees as part of an across-the board expansion plan and new fee schedules for 2016. "Better service is on the way," even as he called for patience while the FDA resurrects its foundation of responsiveness and trust.



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