

# CATALYST

## SPIK NEWSLETTER



### SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF ASCEND PROGRAM MARKS NEW ERA IN INDUSTRY-ACADEME COLLABORATION FOR PHILIPPINE CHEMICAL SECTOR

OCT 17

The Philippine chemical industry is entering a new phase of innovation and growth, as the Accelerating Schools and Chemical Industry Engagements for Nurturing Development (ASCEND) program takes off. Spearheaded by the Board of Investments (BOI) and Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), ASCEND will connect academic and industrial expertise to accelerate applied research, drive sustainable modern solutions, and prepare graduates for success in dynamic chemical field requirements.



Held on 17 October 2025, at Sotogrande Hotel Katipunan, the event was seen as a key milestone in pursuit of an objective under the Philippine Chemicals Industry Roadmap to build an ecosystem that prioritizes applied research; sustainable innovation and skills development dovetailed to industry requirements.

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## SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF ASCEND Cont....

Kicking off the event, BOI Executive Director **Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa** highlighted the need for schools and industry to work more closely together to have a positive effect on human capital development.



SPIK President **Engr. Gretchen Enarle** expressed the same vision, emphasizing industry's influence on determining curricula and research activities.



**Engr. Albert Samuela**, ASCEND Program Lead & SPIK representative gave an interactive live demo of the ASCEND Playbook and its new centralized collaboration platform. The Playbook is an indispensable resource to standardize the approach on best practices and structure partnerships between academia and industry.



Ways to fund said projects were tackled by **Dr. Ruby Raterta**, Chief Research Management and Development Division of DOST-PCIEERD. She stressed the importance of government backing for collaborative research and innovation.



One of the spotlight activities was Industry-Academe Reverse Pitching sessions where in industry set out their key challenges and collaboration expectations from academics. Speakers were **Mr. Joshua Tan**, Product Design and Development Manager of First In Colours, Inc., and **Atty. Jhezzarose L. Fajardo-Galorio** - Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation's Personnel & Training Officer.



The ceremonial turnover of ASCEND Playbook Project to Executive Director Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa, Engr. Gretchen Enarle, President of SPIK and Engr. Albert Samuela, ASCEND Program Lead, meant a significant move in mutual strength between the chemical industrial and institutions of higher learning. Through this symbolic ceremony, the common cause of the Board of Investments, SPIK, and project leaders is clearly defined: to provide industry with a comprehensive guidebook that bridges partnerships and meets the new demands of Philippine chemicals business.



Projects such as ASCEND and AIM! BOI and partners envisage a strong innovation-led collaboration ecosystem. The goal of this partnership is to increase Philippine competitiveness and sustainability, and to contribute positively on the long-term development of the Philippine chemical industry, equipping graduates with skill sets suited for the industry while performing R&D that is aligned with the evolution of domestic players.

# Asian Chemicals Forum 2025 Unites Global Leaders for World-Class Chemical Management in Asia

OCT 09



The Asian Chemicals Forum (ACF) 2025, held on October 8-9 at ITC Maratha in Mumbai, India, brought together over 25 global experts, regulatory authorities, and industry leaders to advance the dialogue on responsible chemical management across Asia.



Jointly organized by the Regulatory Representatives and Managers Association (RRMA) and the Helsinki Chemicals Forum (HCF), with Global Product Compliance (GPC) as the principal sponsor, ACF 2025 served as a premier international platform focused on Chemical safety and regulatory compliance, Sustainable industrial practices, Capacity building for SMEs, GHG compliance and CBAM preparedness. The event featured keynote addresses from representatives of UNEP, OECD, ECHA, and the European Commission, reinforcing its global stature.



The conference tackled pressing issues through expert-led panels and roundtables, including Global Regulatory Impacts on the Asian Market, Challenges and Opportunities under the "Make in India" Initiative, GHS Developments and their implications. Former SPIK Vice President for External Affairs Engr. Albert Samuela participated as a panelist sharing valuable insights on Philippines and ASEAN regulatory developments impacting Asian industries. ACF 2025 emphasized the importance of cross-sector collaboration. Together, they explored harmonized regulatory frameworks and shared best practices to shape the future of chemical governance in Asia.



# A Roundtable Discussion for the External Review of PAGTANAW 2050



On October 14, 2025, the NAST PHL convened a Roundtable Discussion for an update on PAGTANAW 2050, the Philippine strategic foresight in science, technology, and innovation (ST&I) until 2050. NAST PHL President **Dr. Jaime C. Montoya** and Academician-in-Charge, Updating of the PAGTANAW 2050: The Philippine ST&I Foresight **Dr. Fortunato T. De La Peña** led the event at UP Diliman.



Keynote talks by business, Engr. Dante M. Briones, Chairman and CEO of SasonbiSolar, Maj. Gen. Elmir S. Dela Cruz (Ret.) Former Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, Electronics, and Information Systems, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Engr. Nicanor S. zzScience and Technology (PFST), featured a wide range of issues affecting future ST&I paths, including risks, unknowns, and black swan events.



Key industry figures, including Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle of SPIK as reactors, who provided their responses to the document's strengths, weaknesses, and emerging concerns.



The conversation produced evidence-based perspectives that can be considered in revisiting PAGTANAW 2050, making it more responsive to a changing domestic and global context while responding powerfully to Filipino aspirations. It was also where the government, industry, and academe came together and collaborated in shaping the country's ST&I future.



# 2025 GOLF TOURNAMENT

## a Successful Celebration of Champions and Sponsors



The SPIK Golf Tournament took place last October 17, 2025 at the Hallow Ridge Filipinas Golf, with 48 eager players taking to the greens for a day of golf and fun. Special thanks to **Mr. Jose Raquel Santos** from the SPIK Ways and Means Committee, and to **Ms. Antonette Fallarme & Ms. Charisse Balibay** of the SPIK Secretariat for ensuring that all details leading up to the event were arranged meticulously!

The tournament was supported by numerous Hole Sponsors, namely: Philippine Resins Industries., Inc., Philippine Prosperity Chemicals Inc., Avestronics Industrial Sales and Services Inc., Suntra International Trading Corporation, Maple Way, Halchem Industrial Sales, Inc. and Texicon Agriventures, Inc.



Minor Sponsor TNC Chemicals, Inc. along with Belle Corporation, Triple T Industrial Products and were the other backers of the affair.



A great collection of sponsors made the tourney a roaring success. CB Andrew Philippines, Inc. headed the Platinum, while the Gold Sponsors were BASF Philippines Incorporation, Petronas and Chemlux, Inc.

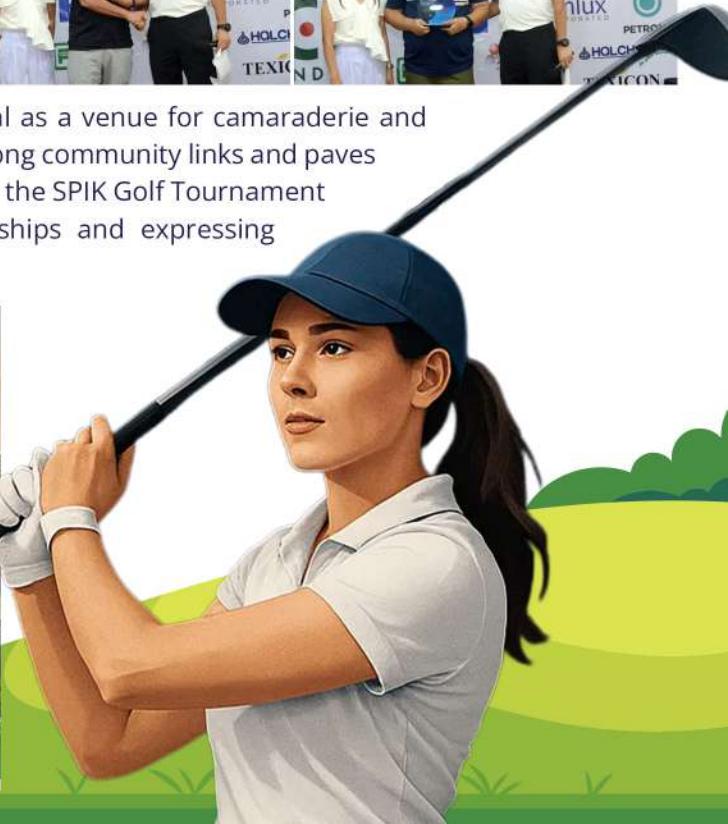
# 2025 GOLF TOURNAMENT

## a Successful Celebration of Champions and Sponsors

Awards were given for the best performances: The Low Gross Champion title went to Mr. Ahmad Faisal Asra of Petronas. Mr. Emmanuel Sanchez of Khaleb Chemicals was declared Champion Class A. While Mr. Patrick Panlilio for MSpectrum grabbed the top spot for Class B Champion. Ladies Champion for Ms. Nicole Aguilar was also feted on the same occasion.



The SPIK Golf Tournament remains a key annual event, it is critical as a venue for camaraderie and friendship and in the true spirit of corporate partnership. It carves strong community links and paves the way for collaboration that drive growth and innovation. In addition, the SPIK Golf Tournament is maintained as an important platform for establishing relationships and expressing outstanding achievement in the chemical industry.



# Advancing Responsible Care in Asia-Pacific: Highlights from the 2025 RCLG Meeting in Bali, Indonesia



The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) Responsible Care® Leadership Group (RCLG) held its 2025 meeting on October 20-21 at the Sofitel Nusa Dua Hotel in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, bringing leaders together to reinforce engagement and cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region.



Chaired by **Mr. Jeff Kovacs** of ExxonMobil and **Mr. Yoshizumi Sasaki** of Sumitomo Chemical, the two-day event included both onsite meetings and virtual participation through Zoom. Chairman Kovacs welcomed new regular members and congratulated the diverse Asia-Pacific chemical community on the continued advancement of Responsible Care programs.



Opening the morning session, RCI Chairman, **Mr. Edi Rivai**, addressed delegates and highlighted Indonesia's important contribution towards chemical safety and sustainability in the region.

During the first day, delegates from Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan, China, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and the Philippines presented comprehensive reports on their individual Responsible Care efforts where regional cooperation is taking place. **Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle**, SPIK President, provided an update emphasizing the importance of the association's advocacy programs on regulatory, sustainability, safety, and environmental protection.



SPIK delegates joining the SPIK President were **Director Romeo Dela Cruz**, **Director Reinier Jay Bagabay**, **Ms. Antonette Fallarme** and former VP External Affairs **Engr. Albert Samuela**.



Day 2 saw engagement with global action on GFC update, drug precursor legislation, communication strategies, and progress report on the Africa Task Force. While addressing practical issues, such as scam awareness work and KPI analysis tracking for the industry, the RCLG is developing measurability frameworks aligned with the principles of Responsible Care and introducing a 30 x 30 initiative to further extend RC reach.

Vice Chair **Sasaki** and other leaders provided updates on the progress of the Self-Assessment Tool development, while **Chair Kovacs** led a discussion on the 2025 work plan and budget issues to continue laying out the path for growth and impact.



Concluding the meeting, Chairman Kovacs spoke of the fortitude and tenacity of the members and of having faith that RCLG can continue to bring innovation, safety, and sustainability into the Asia-Pacific chemicals supply chain. Vice Chairman Sasaki agreed, emphasizing the strength found when working together with common goals towards the Responsible Care spirit.

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## cont... Advancing Responsible Care ...



The 2025 RCLG meeting in Bali reiterated the joint commitment of business and government leaders in the region to support the highest standards of chemical stewardship, while continuing regional collaboration to address evolving challenges in health, safety, and environmental excellence.



OCT 22

## Empowering Leadership and Innovation at the 18th Asia Pacific Responsible Care® Conference 2025 in Indonesia



The 18th Asia Pacific Responsible Care ® Conference (APRCC) which took place on 22 and 23 October, 2025 in Nusa Dua Resort, Indonesia brought together industry leaders, experts and regulators to strengthen the safe use of chemicals in the region. The program under the theme **Empowering Responsible Care® Leadership: Advancing Chemical Safety and Security for Sustainable Industry**, focused on the key role that leadership plays in promoting sustainable chemistry and protecting people, communities, and the environment.

**Mr. Jeff Kovacs**, Chairman of ICCA Responsible Care® Leadership Group, with **Mr. Yoshizumi Sasaki**, Chairman of the Asia Pacific Responsible Care® Organization (APRO) and **Mr. Edi Rivai**, Chairman of Responsible Care® Indonesia (RCI) led discussions about sustained leadership in action within the chemical industry. Their investment in promoting a culture of accountability was echoed both in plenary sessions at the conference.



In the first session, on Responsible Care® Leadership and Continuous Improvement, leadership stressed the indispensable role in driving continuous enhancements in chemical safety and sustainability. The panel, moderated by Mr. Daniel Forest, American Chemistry Council (ACC), and composed of Mr. Jeff Kovacs (ICCA RCLG), Mr. Yoshizumi Sasaki (ICCA APRO), Mr. Barry Drayer (RC NZ), and Mr. Terence Koh (SCIC), shared their experiences and strategies for strengthening Responsible Care® practices around the region.



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The second session on **Global Chemical Management**, which brought together **Ms. Sue May Teoh** (ExxonMobil), **Ms. Siripon Piya-Arksornsaak** (RCMCT), **Ms. Karen Peng** (Merck Taiwan), and **Mr. Fabien Henry** (Nickel Institute) to address issues such as regulatory frameworks, harmonization efforts, and best practices in managing chemicals globally, was moderated by **Mr. Suttipas Wongsiripon** (RCMCT) as it took place with the ongoing conflict over who should control toxic substances.



Session three focused on **Environment, Social, and Governance** (ESG). Moderated by **Dr. Masayu Elita Hafizah** (PT Evonik), a panel comprising **Mr. Wittaya Guntawang** (PT Chandra Asri Pacific, Tbk), **Dr. Masayuki Fujita** (Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd, JCIA), **Mr. Bernard Leong** (PCS Pty. Ltd, SCIC), and **Dr. Masamichi Nishihara** (Kyushu University) stressed the need to introduce ESG standards into chemical industry operations, which are for sustainability, respond to climate change, comply with carbon regulations, and investigate emerging clean energy sources such as hydrogen.



In the fourth plenary session, **Plastic Circularity: Innovations for a Sustainable Industry**, **Mr. Hanggara Sukandar** (PT Trinseo Materials Indonesia) as moderator, led **Mr. L. Adypurnama Teguh Sambodo** (Deputy for Food, Natural Resources, and Environment, Ministry of National Development Planning), **Mr. T. Bagus Tri Lusmono** (PT Asahimas Chemical), **Mr. Fahrurrozi** (PT INEOS Aromatics Indonesia) and **Engr. Albert Samuela** (SPIK), in an exploration of the regional plastics pollution driven through circular economy initiatives, examines the efforts by industry partners, especially outside traditional plastic



In the fifth session, **Chemical Safety Management**, **Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle** (SPIK President) led discussions with **Ms. Laila Fitri Handayani** (PT BASF Indonesia), **Mr. Kevin Li** (AICM), **Mr. Singgih Setiawan** (PT Chandra Asri Pacific, Tbk) and **Mr. Barry Dyer** (RCNZ) about ways to enhance chemical safety through improved processes, risk assessments, being ready for emergencies, and involving all stakeholders in industry shared responsibility.



The sixth session, **Chemical Security Management in Industry**, was hosted by **Mr. Dato' Muhtar Hashim** (CICM). With **Mr. Riswan Sipayung** (PT Dow Indonesia), **Mr. Muhammad Anas Danial** (CICM), **Mr. F. Purwanto** (PT Pupuk Kaltim) and **Mr. Daniel Forest** (ACC) as panelists, it emphasized the need for security and safety to mesh

## cont... Empowering Leadership...

nicely to mitigate risks of sabotage, theft, or terrorism not only within chemical plants but also throughout supply chains.



Finally, in the session on **Smart Industrial Safety for a Sustainable Green Chemical Industry**, **Dr. Atsumi Miyake** (Yokohama National University) was moderator. **Mr. Tomoya Soma** (Argopilot Corporation), **Dr. Masayuki Tanabe** (JGC Corporation), **Dr. Yoshiyuki Yamashita** (Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology), **Dr. Taufiek Bawazier** (Ministry of Industry of Indonesia), **Mr. Akihiro Yamaguchi** (METI Japan) joined forces in this forum to tackle such next-generation techniques of industrial safety as AI, IoT, and digitalization, particularly where they relate to problems led by aging equipment, creating a largely unemployable workforce, not only disasters but its management across industries in-plant safety systems.



The conference also featured active participation from delegates of the Chemical Industries Association of the Philippines (SPIK), including Directors **Engr. Romeo Dela Cruz**, **Engr. Reinier Bagabay**, **Engr. Albert Samuela** and **Ms. Antonette Fallarme**. SPIK's participation illustrates the Philippine chemical industry's commitment to Responsible Care practices and safety innovation, as well as its work across Southeast Asia on sustainable chemical management.



At the end of the conference, **Mr. Rivai**, **Mr. Sasaki**, and **Mr. Kovacs** re-emphasized the key elements of cooperation, collaboration, and leadership in Responsible Care® to facilitate future progress in the years leading up to the next RCCC in 2027.



The organizing committee, led by the Responsible Care® Indonesia, with **Mr. Setyabudhi Zuber** playing a key role in coordinating the event's logistics and ensuring its success, showed a strong commitment and high level of leadership to bring together industry stakeholders, regulators, and experts for meaningful dialogue on a way forward in chemical safety, security, and sustainability work across the region.

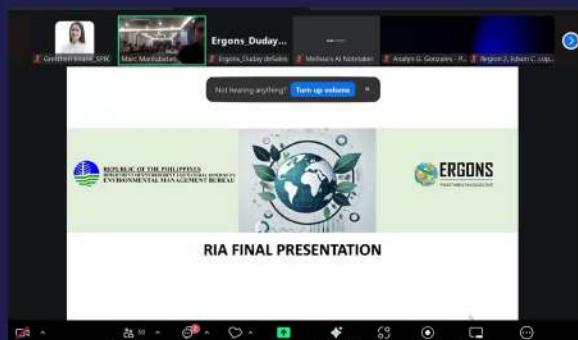


# DENR-EMB CONDUCTED FINAL PRESENTATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON BASEL CONVENTION AMENDMENTS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE ROADMAP



On October 27, 2025, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), conducted the Final Presentation for the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) on Basel Convention Amendments and Hazardous Waste Roadmap Projects. The activity was held at Conference Room A, AQMTC Building, DENR-EMB, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, and had a hybrid mode.

**Dr. Duday De Sales** of Ergons Project Marketing Consultant, made presentations of the RIA, providing outcomes from the assessment's findings and implications.



In addition, **Dr. Florencio Ballesteros Jr.**, also from Ergons Project Marketing Consultant, introduced the strategic Hazardous Waste Roadmap as a key feature of his presentation.



The **Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika** (SPIK), thru its President Engr. Gretchen Enarle, took an active role in the consultation. The key results of the RIA were presented, and strategic directions for hazardous waste management in the Philippines were identified.



The involvement of SPIK was substantial in terms of enhancing perspectives and contributions towards consolidating the implementation modalities for the Basel Convention Amendments and hazardous waste-related initiatives. The interactive dialogue stressed common challenges facing the industry's influence and governments in promoting environmentally friendly practices.

The public consultation phase of the event was led and moderated by Engr. Irvin G. Cadavona, Officer-in-Charge of the Hazardous Waste Management Section. DENR-EMB expressed appreciation to the stakeholders in this significant step towards fortifying the country's hazardous waste management mechanism.

# Philippines Explores Deposit Return System to Boost Plastic Recycling and Circular Economy

OCT 30



On 30 October 2025, a workshop titled **Deposit Return System in Philippines for Circularity – A Powerful EPR Mechanism** was held at Seda Hotel Vertis North, Quezon City. This workshop was a crucial milestone for all take government, industry, and civil society stakeholders to present the results of the Deposit Return System Feasibility Study – Phase 2 and a steppingstone for the country to achieve 80% plastic waste recovery by 2028.



The workshop was co-organized by the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), GIZ, and WWF Philippines. The main topic of the workshop was the possibility of implementing a DRS in the Philippines to achieve a dramatic increase in beverage container collection through an incentive-based system that encourages consumer input, enabling closed-loop recycling and reduced dependence on virgin materials.



During the opening remarks, **Mr. Geir Michalsen**, Deputy Head of Mission at the Royal Norwegian Embassy, emphasized the importance of international collaboration in advancing sustainable waste management solutions.



In her keynote message, **Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh**, Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), underscores the important task of the Deposit Return System in reaching the Philippines' ambitious goals for retrieving plastic waste. She also stressed that DENR remained committed to promoting incentives, effective Extended Producer Responsibility arrangements for sustainable waste management, and environmental protection.



A message of support came from WWF Philippines, all stressing the importance of joining forces in Waste Management and Circularity.



The context was provided by Liezl Stuart-Del Rosario, WWF Philippines Policy Manager, explaining why the feasibility study was needed in the first place, the study objectives: defining the DRS concept, concluding about the Philippines beverage market, a system possible design, developing a financial model, and suggesting pilot projects.



During the workshop, a copy of the feasibility study was formally presented to the Philippine government through **Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh**.



In the end, Dr. Nicole Kranz, Head of Climate Action and Disaster Resilience project cluster, GIZ Philippines, presented a summary of the main insights and set a roadmap of commitments, roles, next moves towards DRS integration in EPR.



They were followed by an Open Forum moderated by GIZ with the participation of a Panel by Earth Care Consulting, TOMRA, DENR-EMB, and Civil Society, and private sector, an open exchange of perspectives and answers to the audience.



It was followed by the main presentation by **Mr. Rauno Raal** and **Mr. Kaupo Karba**, Earth Care Consulting Inc., including the Study methodology and key findings: state of Waste Management in Philippines, the implementational financial and operational model of DRS, and stakeholders' perception. The team of consultants explained the opportunity and challenges and prepared actionable recommendations with proposed next steps.



Representatives from the private sector, including members of **Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika** (SPIK), participated in the workshop. This links business perspective with policy making, as well as civil society efforts. And it's where Philippine circular economy goals can begin to take form in a practical manner.



In his closing remarks, **Mr. Julius Guirjen**, Program Manager of WWF Philippines, expressed appreciation to all those present for their active involvement. He also reminded everyone how important it is that people come together in order to advance the Deposit Return System.

The Workshop on DRS in the Philippines was a significant event in advancing the country's circular ambitions through evidence-based feasibility of plastic waste recovery improvement for DRS. The outcome of the feasibility study and broad stakeholder engagement creates a collaborative path for pilot testing and future DRS national implementation.

# Philippine Delegates Attend OPCW Workshop on Peaceful Use of Chemistry in Seoul

OCT 30



Two delegates from the Philippines participated in the OPCW Workshop on Peaceful Development and Use of Chemistry for Member States in the Asia Region, which was held in Seoul, South Korea, from 28 to 30 October 2025. Hosted by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), this brought representatives from across Asia to promote the peaceful use of chemistry.

The Filipino participants were Atty. Jhezzarose L. Fajardo-Galorio of Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation and Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) and Mr. Arjay C. Cubos, from Unilab, Inc. and Integrated Chemists of the Philippines (ICP). The Filipino participants were Atty. Jhezzarose L. Fajardo-Galorio of Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation and Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) and Mr.



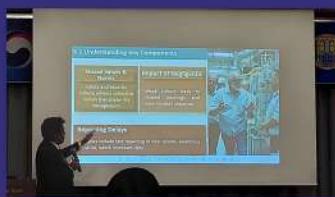
The workshop covered topics such as the categorization and identification of chemicals with dual-use applications, security across the chemical supply chain, and chemical safety and security chain, and chemical safety and security culture into individuals' understanding at all organizational levels.



One of the sessions was conducted by **Mr. Han-gi Kim**, Global Safety Engineer from Merck Germany, on what his company is doing in terms of artificial intelligence for chemical production operations and facility maintenance.



**Dr. Rohan Perera**, former Special Advisor and Senior Programme Officer at the OPCW, delivered a presentation during the workshop. He stressed the need for international cooperation to minimize the misuse of chemicals and also emphasized the breakthrough methods for continuous monitoring of chemical dynamics to secure their peaceful, safe use.



The workshop was also conducive to regional cooperation, attracting representatives from 18 other countries from the region, such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.



Within the program, **Mr. Jai Hoon Kim** of Korea Chemical Industries Association (KCIA) organized a tour in the National Museum of Korea where participants were exposed to rich Buddhist legacy of Korea.



The programme was closed by **Mr. Tae-eon Kim**, OPCW Programme Officer who expressed hope that the learnings and practical experiences in the workshop will help unified line of real practices of OPCW programmes in participating countries including the Philippines.



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