

CATALYST

SPIK NEWSLETTER



CICAC 2025 Assembly Strengthens Customs-Industry Partnership

NOV 27

The 4th General Assembly and 10th Meeting of the Central Customs Industry Consultative and Advisory Council (CICAC) was on November 27, 2025, at the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers Of Commerce & Industry, Inc. (FFCCCI) Headquarters in Manila.

The event commenced with an unveiling of a commemorative marker entitled "The Centuries of Cooperation Between Customs & Industry" by BOC Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno which is meant to represent the long-standing collaboration between the BOC and the trade sectors.

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CICA 2025 continued...

At the assembly, BOC Commissioner Nepomuceno reiterated his calls for continued collaboration to address customs issues. Mr. Victor Lim, President of Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers Of Commerce & Industry, Inc. (FFCCCI), welcomed all attendees. Of particular note, Mr. Rex Daryanani, Chairman, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (Phils.), shared BOC's current performance, which highlighted the organization's growth and shortcomings. Ms. Olivia Lim Pe-Aw, President of the Distilled Spirits Association of the Philippines, also submitted a proposal to institutionalize the CICAC using legislation to promote the council's mandate as a permanent branch.



SPIK President Gretchen F. Enarle, and Director Aldrich Bentilan represented the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), inducted as CICAC member in March 2025, during the event. In collaboration with other industry partners, they presented the signed Manifesto of Support to Commissioner Nepomuceno. SPIK's involvement further strengthened its commitment to customs modernization and regulatory reforms.



Such collaboration of the customs and industry is vital, as this is the only way forward beyond clearance delays through harmonization of standards and better digital coordination which our trade partners, both those in import and domestic industry that we work with, should be able to resolve all discrepancies resulting from such. The CICAC Assembly is a vital outlet to ensure better cooperation, transparency, and service levels in Philippine trade facilitation.

20th Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting Highlights: DOST-ITDI Unveils 2026 Project Plans

NOV 03

The 20th Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) chaired by Dr. Annabelle V. Briones, Director DOST-ITDI, organized an online meeting last November 03. This gathering was aimed at raising critical projects, programming parables, and intensifying interaction with the industries.



The DOST-ITDI presented its comprehensive program offerings across its six major areas: Chemicals and Energy, Environment and Biotechnology, Food Processing, Materials Science, Packaging Technology, and Standards and Testing. In addressing the critical sectoral requirements in energy-efficient, environment-friendly, food system technology, cutting-edge material research, creative packaging solutions, and quality and standards alignment sought by the country's industries.

Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK)	
Areas of interest of SPIK	Industry needs identified by SPIK
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agriculture-chemical 2. Construction-chemical 3. Semiconductor / electronics-chem cluster 4. Renewable energy-chem cluster (bio-based) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve chemical supply reliability 2. Industry-academe collaboration 3. Strategic chemical investments through Green Lanes 4. Promote sustainability through Responsible Care 5. Introduce safer materials and processes 6. Support the creation and implementation of local and national standards, certification, and testing 7. Regulatory simplification or deregulation



DOST-ITDI itdi.dost.gov.ph

During the gathering, Dr. Briones also updated the 2025 DOST-ITDI Tech Clinic, scheduled for November 11 at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City has the theme of Energy Efficiency through Science and Technology. As a venue for identifying technology gaps and developing partnerships to promote sustained industrial growth, the Tech Clinic assumes even greater importance.

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20th Industry continued...



The 20th IAC meeting resulted in a comprehensive show of major industries and organizations, including PPIA and SEIPI. Others were representatives from DOST-ITDI and major corporations such as Nestlé, PhilFoodEx, SPIK, PCAPI, and BOI officials.



The meeting began with a recap of past agreements to maintain momentum. The three sub-working groups gave reports on developments. **Engr. Albert Samuela**, SWG1 Lead, gave the progress update of Industry-Academe Collaboration being taken forward, he announced the successful deployment of ASCEND Playbook and Online Collaboration Platform that will facilitate partnership between academia and the chemicals industry.



Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, SWG3 Lead, informed members of the work undertaken by the Ease of Doing Business sub-group, focusing on regulations such as the FDA Policy on Household Urban Hazardous Substances (HUHS), IRR on Controlled Chemicals, and other PDEA and DDB regulations through which regulatory compliance and operational efficiency are to be enhanced for industry players.



Members of the sub-working group on Responsible Care, headed by **Engr. Reinier Bagabay**, declared its continuing support for sustainability and responsible actions in the chemical industry.



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PCIR Working Group Advanced Industry-Academe Collaboration and Regulatory Improvements in 6th Meeting

NOV 05

The 6th PCIR Working Group (WG) Meeting was held on 05 November at the Boardroom, Penthouse of the BOI Industry and Investments Building in Makati City. Chaired by Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa, the Executive Director of BOI, and co-chaired by Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, SPIK President and Industry Co-Chair. The group met to discuss the progress achieved by the industry in line with the next step monitoring outlined.



PCIR Working Group cont....



This was followed by other agenda items presented by Ms. Geraldine Buela of BOI, such as finalization of arrangements for the Philippines to host the AMEICC Working Group on Chemical Industry in 2026, and presentation of project proposals that will need support from international mechanisms such as the Global Framework for Chemicals (GFC) and International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA). The group also discussed the Joint Administrative Order on the adoption of GHS Version 8.

The meeting ended with transcripts of the agreement and road map, underpinning a collaborative approach to driving the growth, regulatory environment, and international relationships of the Philippine chemical industry.



PCIR ASCEND Chemical Industry Roadshow (AdvenChIR) 2025 Inspires Future Engineers

NOV 08

The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) and the Philippine Board of Investments (BOI), with the support of the Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers (PIChE), recently concluded the PCIR ASCEND Chemical Industry Roadshow 2025 (AdvenChIR). The virtual event took place on November 8, 2025, and sought to deepen young students' interest in and motivation for career opportunities within the chemical industry throughout the Philippines.



High school and college students, industry leaders, and faculty champions participated in a dynamic community dedicated to growing the chemical engineering field in the country. This successful initiative was made possible through the partnership of PIChE, SPIK, and BOI's Academe Industry Matching Program (AIM!).

Engr. Reinier Bagabay, SPIK Responsible Care Committee Chairman, officially opened the event and stressed the importance of industry, academe and student working together to foster sustainable growth in the chemical sector. In his opening remarks, Engr. Bagabay underscored how vital to Philippine chemical industry development the PCIR ASCEND Chemical Industry Roadshow is and what further direction such undertakings need in the future. "I encourage all attendees to take this occasion to learn, engage, and build networks that will open the road for fresh, responsible practices in their careers ahead," said Engr. Bagabay.



Engr. Albert Samuela, who represented both the Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers (PIChE) and the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), offered

important views on present trends and future opportunities for chemical engineers.



Meanwhile, **Mr. Lian Derick Layog** from DKSH Philippines and also the Responsible Care Council looked at sustainable industry practices, which focus not just on environmental protection or social responsibility, but also on how innovation and moral standards are shaping today's chemical sector.



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PIChE Batangas Chapter Vice President **Engr. Airra Mhae Ilagan** gave concluding remarks, emphasizing the continued need for proper devotion and further study for chemists or researchers to maintain a successful career. "I hope you'll keep curious and mindful. Your passion and persistence drive the future," said Ilagan.



NOV 11

DOST-ITDI Tech Clinic 2025 Highlighted the Crucial Role of Energy Efficiency

The Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) concluded the 2025 Tech Clinic titled "Energy Efficiency through Science and Technology" on November 11, 2025, at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City. At this event, participants from government, industry, and universities came together for the purpose of further promoting the development of energy-efficient systems throughout the Philippines.



In the welcome ceremonies, Dr. Janet F. Quizon, Deputy Director for General and Technical Services of DOST-ITDI, warmly welcomed everyone and set the tone for a day of promoting advanced energy efficiency through science and technology.



Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr., Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), delivered the online keynote speech. Secretary Solidum's remarks echoed the point that sustainable energy practices bring dual benefits. "Collaboration is important among government, industry, and the academe in energy efficiency efforts. This is crucial not just for environmental reasons but also as a driver of economic profitability," Solidum said.



Following the keynote address, **Dr. Annabelle V. Briones**, Director of DOST-ITDI, presented the institute's energy initiatives. She conveyed the message that energy is both the lifeblood of an economy and also a major source of carbon emissions into our atmosphere, pointing out a latest move towards improving use efficiency in line with principles from science or technology.



Engr. Alexander Ablaza, President of the Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance, Inc. (PE2), explained the state of energy conservation and its prospects in our country. He spoke of current trends in this field, as well as pointing out what kind of future lies ahead.



Respectively, for each energy efficiency circuit at the conference, there was a session of reverse-pitching nature:

Cluster 1: Energy Service Companies, with Mr. Raymond Marquez, Managing Director of EconoServ Solutions International, Inc.

Cluster 2: Energy Efficiency Services Sector, presented by Mr. William Alcantara, Managing Director of Vega Energy Services

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In the afternoon, participants, including the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), broke into discussion groups according to their individual circuits to look at challenges and analyses. They then reported back on what they had come up with for actionable strategies to promote energy efficiency.



Overall, at the 2025 DOST-ITDI Tech Clinic, the crucial role of energy efficiency to economic development, eco-and environmental sustainability within this country was once again underscored. The conference paved the way for stronger partnerships and solutions to promote energy in more efficient ways.



Process Safety Management: Workshop Focuses on Identifying Gaps, Designing Standards, and Driving Improvement

NOV 14



The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), together with the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PCAPI) and Saltegra Consulting, presented a workshop on Process Safety Management: Identifying Gaps, Designing Standards, Driving Improvement on November 14, 2025. The entire day event was designed to reinforce learning about and apply Process Safety Management (PSM) in the chemical industry, including interactive workshops and participation.



The program started with an opening remark from Engr. Luzviminda A. Angeles, President of the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PCAPI).

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Engr. Jose Maria S. Batino, OSHC Executive Director, set the tone of the seminar with an informative presentation on the Department Administrative Order (DAO) under Republic Act 11058, delineating the regulatory backdrop for workplace safety.



A highlight of the morning was the comprehensive session led by **Engr. Reyson Dave Dela Cruz**, Operations Manager of Saltegra, recapped key points from previous PSM webinars and analyzed recent industry incidents to reveal gaps in PSM elements. This session provided participants with critical insights to assess their current safety practices.



The series of workshops provided participants in applying theory to practical solutions, consisting of hands-on activities that involved identifying gaps in current processes, performing a stoplight safety evaluation (PSM) of the system, writing PSM standards specific to the project, and creating a roadmap for continuous improvement. These workshops were facilitated by **Engr. Justine Robert Tolentino** and **Engr. Lorie Jhane Refuerzo** from Saltegra.

The seminar-workshop is a comprehensive event to advance process safety management across all sectors, participated by 30 individuals, was witnessed by Honorable **Engr. Maricris Vines**, PRB Chairperson for Chemical Engineering.



Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, President of SPIK, thanked everyone who made the event impactful. In conclusion, Engr. Enarle reiterated the shared value of safety, accountability, and continuous development.

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ARCP Webinar Strengthened ASEAN Chemical Management

NOV 21



UNSCEGHS

United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UNSCEGHS)

- Specialized body operating under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) focused on chemical safety
- Composed of experts nominated by UN member states and international organizations with relevant expertise
- Helps to facilitate international trade by providing a consistent framework for the classification and labeling of chemical hazards

ChemPro Consulting International

Dangerous Goods Regulations - International & National

Regulates Up-date 2026 versus 2025

OCEAN Transport: International Maritime Organization (IMO) IBC-Code

AIR Transport: ICAO IATA IBC-Code

LAND Transport: Dangerous Goods Transport Regulation (ADR)

ChemPro Consulting International

Engr. Reinier Bagabay

The ASEAN Regulatory Co-operation Platform (ARCP) Mini Webinar that took place on 21 November 2025 successfully united more than 100 industry and government participants across ASEAN member countries including the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK). The emphasis is on promoting knowledge and cooperation in chemical management in the region.

Ms. Rebecca O'Donnell, Associate Director of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), provided an update on dialogues on the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) at the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts (UNSCEGHS). She shared some of the work done by different informal working groups (e.g. Potential Hazard Issues groups, Germ Cell Mutagenicity groups), and highlighted some budget implications for UNSCEGHS work.

After that, Mr. Roman Luth, Executive Director of ChemPro Consulting International, offered an overview of recent international regulations for the transport of dangerous goods by sea, air, and by road. He also described continued roadblocks with cross-border trucking and presented new UN numbers. Mr. Luth stressed compulsory Dangerous Goods Training, detailing recent events attributed to the unawareness and inadequate training of supply-chain staff.

The webinar was presented jointly by the Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC), American Chemistry Council (ACC), European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), and Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA), with its support drawn from ASEAN Chemical Industries Council (ACIC) and various ASEAN member states such as Myanmar, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

NOV 26

RC Council Wrapped Up 2025 with Key Initiative Reviews and Regulatory Updates

Engr. Reinier Bagabay, the chair of the RC Council, and RC Council Tri-cord Director **Malou Formalejo** closed their year-end meeting by reviewing key initiatives and regulatory matters related to the chemical industry. The meeting showcased the Council's success under the Philippine Chemical Industry Roadmap (PCIR), including coastal cleanup work and a series of RC trainings for industry professionals and higher education institutions (HEIs). These trainings were conducted by the industry-academe subworking group, headed by **Engr. Albert Samuela** — the group's contribution to knowledge-sharing and capacity building across sectoral-level efforts.



The meeting also featured regulatory communications, focusing on

Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Philippine National Police (PNP), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Bureau of Customs (BOC). The enhanced functionality of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's (PDEA) Online Application for Certification and Exemption Information System (OACEIS) Version 2 was also acknowledged by membership, which simplified processes for controlled chemicals, increased the efficiency of regulations, and made compliant systems more efficient.



In addition, the Council discussed the current RC verification procedure and agreed plans were made to grow the RC audit community by 2026. This step is to better ensure responsible practices are sustained across the industry, which can strengthen program implementation and oversight.



It ended with a friendly Thanksgiving and a gift exchange, which helped reinforce the comradeship among the members and their shared commitment to responsible care. RC Council is committed to the future progress of the chemical industry: continuous improvement, compliance with the law, and the continued progression of the



TWG ON CONTROLLED CHEMICALS CONVENED TO REVIEW DRAFT IRR OF RA 9516



The Technical Working Group (TWG) on Controlled Chemicals met on November 28, 2025, at the Board of Investments (BOI) in Makati City. Key organizations represented in the session included the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), Integrated Chemists of the Philippines (ICP), Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (APMP), Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD), Department of Science and Technology – Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI), Philippine National Police- Firearms and Explosives Office (PNP-FEO), and BOI.



During the meeting, the TWG reviewed the draft Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for Republic Act (RA) 9516 regarding the control of specific chemicals, line by line. Careful consideration through the development phase was crucial to ensure regulation would be comprehensive, clear, and effective in the management of controlled substances.



The TWG members involved in this work underscore the multi-sectoral nature of regulatory oversight and the capacity-building that is expected of regulatory bodies, actors, and level players. The goals were to create better regulation, incentivize compliance, and ensure the responsible use of chemicals to protect public health and safety. This activity was an important step to strengthen the mechanism of chemical regulation and coordination with research in the country.



SAMAHAN SA PILIPINAS NG MGA INDUSTIYANG KIMIKA
CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

ugly sweater

FOOTY

DEC
17

11:00am
SAVOY HOTEL
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