Japan Chemical Industry Association

JCIA

Responsible Care®
OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY
Foreword

The chemical industry supplies chemical products and raw materials for various products and industries from automobiles to personal computers and cell phones, and at the same time its products are widely used in plastics, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, textiles, detergents, paints and agrochemicals - thereby contributing to the improvement of people’s lives and the development of other industries.

In addition, the chemical industry is expected to make substantial contributions to the development of biotechnology and IT technology, which are important for the 21st century, including the development of products and technologies to solve the world’s global warming issues and thus can be considered as an indispensable industry for achieving affluence and high living standards.

The Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) has about 180 member companies and about 80 organizations engaged in the manufacturing and handling of chemical products and related services. Under the basic idea of "coexistence and co-prosperity with society," JCIA has continued to undertake activities for almost 60 years to fulfill its mission of promoting the stable development of the chemical industry and thus contributing to the economic prosperity of Japan and elevation of its living standards.

Also, as Japan’s representative member of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) consisting of the world’s chemical associations, JCIA has engaged in voluntary global initiatives to resolve issues faced by chemical companies and associations throughout the world, including matters related to the environment, the safety of chemicals and measures to prevent global warming.

Four pillars of activity - Implementation of 'CARE'

To effectively and efficiently manage industry-wide and global issues, it is important to lead the activities of individual companies and associations towards mutually desired goals. JCIA bases its activity on four pillars expressed by "CARE". They are:

1. Communication: Promotion of mutual understanding and establishment of relationships with society and stakeholders through exchange of opinions and information. Communications activity to promote understanding of the potential of the chemical industry.
2. Advocacy: Presentation of the chemical industry’s views and policy recommendations to the government and related parties.
3. Research: Collection of knowledge and information on the handling of chemicals and various research projects (such as development of risk assessment method).
4. Education: Explanation of research results and other information for the education and training of member companies and organizations.

Based on these four key functions of C.A.R.E., we at JCIA are committed to continuing our contribution to the resolution of environmental issues including global warming and the sustainable development of society. We promote environment protection, human safety and health by staying true to the spirit of Responsible Care, a worldwide chemical industry initiative founded on the principles of self-regulation and responsibility.
JCIA at A Glance

■ Name:
Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA)

■ Established:
April 1948 - JCIA formed as a voluntary association
June 1991 - Incorporated as a legal entity

■ Mission:
As the leading trade association of the Japanese chemical industry, JCIA seeks to promote the healthy development of the chemical industry through research and study of production, distribution and consumption relating to the chemical industry and research and study of various issues relating to technology, labor, environment and safety of the industry and planning appropriate measures and actions, thus contributing to the economic prosperity of Japan and the betterment of the national standard of living.

■ Activities:
1. Research and study on the production, distribution and consumption of chemical products.
2. Research and study on issues concerning technology, labor, environment, safety, etc. as well as planning and promoting measures and actions.
3. Commendations for outstanding achievement in new technologies or safety records.
4. Collection and dissemination of information, communications and cooperation with related organizations in Japan and overseas.
5. Public outreach and advocacy activities, workshops and seminars.

■ Officers:
Chairman  Kenji Fujiyoshi (Chairman, Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.)
Vice Chairman Kyohei Takahashi (Representative Director, President, Showa Denko K.K.)
Michio Takeshita (President & Representative Director, Ube Industries, Ltd.)
Kazuo Sugie (Representative Director, President & CEO, DIC Corporation)
Naofumi Negishi (President, Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd.)

Director General Tetsuo Nishide

■ Committees:
Policy Coordinating Committee; Public Relations Committee; International Activities Committee; Economy and Tax System Committee; Labor Committee; Technical Affairs Committee; Environment and Safety Committee; Chemicals Management Committee; Responsible Care Committee.

■ Fiscal year:
From April 1 to March 31 the next year
Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) represents Japan in the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), an organization of chemical industry associations representing about 40 countries. We address issues of national or international significance that may have bearing on the future of chemical manufacturers and associations in Japan and abroad.

The challenges facing the chemical industry require actions in Japan and, at the same time, global-scale, integrated measures including the coordination and exchange of information with the world’s chemical organizations. JCIA responds to these challenges and aggressively promotes the activities of its Policy Coordinating Committee and other standing committees through the following activities:

- Reinforcing our response to environmental, safety and health issues at home and abroad.
- Further promoting measures to prevent global warming.
- Implementing ICCA’s priority activities (Energy & Climate Change, Chemical Policy & Health, and Responsible Care®).
- Advancing communication and public outreach activities.
- Responding to the radical reform of Public Interest Corporations systems.

Topics

1. Activities representing Japan’s chemical industry

JCIA works promptly to serve the needs of society and its members such as by addressing the issues that are common to the industry and global issues that individual companies, organizations and associations find difficult to cope with.

(Activities in Japan)
- Advocates chemical industry views, opinions, and policy recommendations to regulatory authorities.
- Presents policy proposals and recommendations to other related parties.
- Sits on or recommends individuals who should sit on government advisory councils and expert committees.
- Communicates regulatory news and information to JCIA members.

Recent Major Achievements
1. Provided industry opinions in the government review of the regulations on chemical substances, the environment, and occupational safety and health.
4. Worked on environmental and quality control standards, and promoted standardizing initiatives such as chemical laboratory accreditation system, including necessary education and training.
5. Launched an e-mail news network with elements such as "JCIA EHS Net", "REACH Net", "Trade Net", "Japan-China Net", "Finance & Economy Net", and "PR Net" to members.
(Activities Overseas)
★ Participates in international activities relating to the assessment of chemical safety centering on ICCA; continues joint voluntary research initiatives; and promotes activities relating to Energy & Climate Change Leadership Group (Japan is the chair county of the group).
★ Participates in various international conferences to present JCIA views and recommendations, and promotes information exchanges with the chemical industries of the United States, Europe and other parts of the world.
★ Works to achieve global harmonization of standards relating to the environment, safety and health.

Recent Major Achievements
1. Participated in ICCA voluntary activities relating to the management of chemicals including ICCA High Production Volume (HPV) Initiative (hazard assessment of high production volume chemical products).
2. Participated in ICCA Long-range Research Initiative (LRI): industry's voluntary and long-range research program on the safety of chemical products.
3. Response to SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management) and GHS (Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of Chemicals).
4. Response to Europe's Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and CLP (Classification, Labeling and Packaging Regulation).
5. Participated in activities relating to the management of chemicals organized by OECD and other bodies.
6. Participated in APEC Chemical Dialogue (APEC public-private dialogue program).
7. Contributed to the regional exchanges and discussions on various issues relating to Asia by holding the Japan-China Integrated Forum on Energy Saving and Environment, the Asia Pacific Responsible Care Conference, and others.

2. Promoting the Responsible Care Initiative

First launched in Canada in 1985, Responsible Care is an initiative of chemical companies worldwide. The top management of companies voluntarily commits to "secure environment, safety and health", make improvements based on voluntarily established goals, make the results public, and have dialogue and communications with society. In Japan, through the Japan Responsible Care Council (JRCC, established in 1995), we are engaged in guiding Responsible Care activities not only in Japan but also in other Asia Pacific regions. In 2005 or the 10th anniversary, JRCC approved "RC World Charter" and is now aiming at further improvement of RC activities.

★ Promoting information disclosure and effective communication.
★ Extending Responsible Care activities and securing objectivity and transparency.
JCIA in Action

Recent Major Achievements
1. Held Responsible Care workshops and gatherings for members.
2. Held dialogue meetings with local communities (students and consumers), published "RC reports" and held meetings to report the results to the public.
3. Implemented verification procedures to ensure transparency and reliability of Responsible Care activities.
4. To advance Responsible Care activities in Asia, we took a leadership role in operating the Asia Pacific Responsible Care Organization, and dispatched experts/lecturers to Asian countries.
5. Held meetings of advisors.

3. Responding to environmental, safety and health issues

JCIA facilitates implementation of various programs for environmental preservation, process safety and disaster prevention, promotion of occupational safety and health, and management of chemical safety. To achieve these goals, we undertake research studies of related issues, including the latest trends at home and abroad, and communicate our findings to interested parties.

★ Sharing EHS information among member companies, as well as promoting research and study activities in cooperation with interested organizations and groups.
★ Promoting various workshops, seminars, and educational programs.

Recent Major Achievements
1. Gathered information on the current situation on climate change, air and water pollutants, and industrial wastes, and promoted reduction measures through voluntary action plans and responded to the post-Kyoto Protocol.
2. Promoted the adoption of Occupational Safety and Health Management System (OSHMS).
3. Promoted work on a program to facilitate gathering safety information on chemicals, Japan Challenge Program or a joint initiative of the Japanese Government and industry.
4. Promoted a new initiative (Japan Initiative of Product Stewardship -- JIPS) based on product stewardship.
5. Investigated PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register) substances that are unique to JCIA and followed up the voluntary management activity for volatile organic compounds (VOC).
6. Worked for the introduction of GHS in Japan (Revision of Material Safety Data Sheet to meet the requirement of GHS).
7. Conducted a survey voluntarily about candidate dangerous substances under the fire prevention law and promoted the control of chemicals.
8. Coordinated and promoted with relevant organizations to make an adjustment between the relevant laws on transportation of dangerous products and UN recommendations. Promoted the use of Emergency Response Cards (so-called Yellow Card) in Japan.
9. Responded to the movement toward Green Purchasing by users.
4. Promoting communication and public outreach activities

To promote greater public confidence in chemical products and their use, JCIA is committed to providing information on the safety of chemicals and the contributions made by chemical products to society. JCIA’s website allows members and other stakeholders to keep themselves up-to-date on the latest chemical industry news and trends.

★ Facilitating effective communication with stakeholders to build a good relationship with them.
★ Introducing the chemical industry’s voluntary actions that address EHS issues and increase public awareness and understanding of the potential rewards and risks of chemical products and of the issue of global warming.
★ Raising awareness of the usefulness and future potential of chemicals, and working to increase public understanding and interest in the science of chemistry.

● Recent Major Achievements
1. Organized dialogues with consumer groups, relevant agencies and media, and participated in the "Roundtable Conference on Chemicals and Environment" organized by the Ministry of Environment.
2. Published brochures on the themes of environment and chemicals safety.
3. Conducted "Dream Chemistry 21" campaign (a summer holiday chemical experiment show for children, a senior high school chemistry contest grand prix, dispatching of representative students to the International Chemistry Olympiad, and preparing for the 2010 Olympiad to be held in Japan).
4. Issued a publication called "Chemical Industry of Japan", and provided information through the website.
5. Announced JCIA’s positions on global warming.

5. Reinforcing cooperation among chemical industry-related associations

To promote the integration of common functions and reinforce the functions of Japan’s chemical industry associations, we aimed at furthering the coordination among chemical industry associations with the integration of the offices of eight associations, including JCIA, in November 2003 as the first step.

★ To strengthen and increase the influence of policy recommendations and communications within the chemical industry as a whole.
★ To make adjustments to the missions and functions of chemical industry associations and integrate their common functions.

● Recent Major Achievements
1. Promoted post-Kyoto Protocol response activities and support for energy saving and environmental technologies as well as communications activities to cope with global warming at "Council on Measures against Global Warming, Chemical Industry Associations".
2. Shared information and held seminars and lectures through "Communication Coordination Meetings of Chemical Industry Associations".
The Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) is organized into the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, Meeting of Councilors, Auditors, the Policy Coordinating Committee, business-specific committees and the Secretariat. The General Assembly, which is composed of all JCIA member companies and organizations, is the supreme decision-making body. The Assembly resolves important issues related to JCIA management, as well as the business plan, budget and financial statements. The Board of Directors consists of the Directors elected from among the member companies and resolves issues related to JCIA business and activities. The Meeting of Councilors is empowered to deliberate on issues that require urgent attention, as well as on issues referred by the Board of Directors. It can also present its opinions to the Chairman.

Consisting of JCIA Chairman, JCIA Vice Chairmen and chairpersons of other JCIA standing committees, and representatives of major companies in various sectors of the chemical industry, the Policy Coordinating Committee deliberates on, and reviews important issues concerning the chemical industry, including those related to the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA). From an overall viewpoint, the Committee develops suitable measures for those issues and assures their implementation.
Public Relations Committee

- Promoting communication and public outreach activities aimed at improving the reputation and credibility of the chemical industry.
- Developing the general understanding of the usefulness and potential of chemistry and the chemical industry.

International Activities Committee

- Promoting global collaboration on trade policy issues in the chemical industry as a representative of the Japanese chemical industry.
- Promoting collaboration between the chemical industries of Japan and China.

Economy and Tax System Committee

- Investigating and studying the current economic situation at home and abroad as well as the trends of the chemical industry, corporate organizational laws, regulation and deregulation.
- Investigating government or ministerial ordinances for implementation and studying tax measures for improving business management and competitiveness.
- Summarizing the view of the chemical industry on tax system.

Labor Committee

- Promoting appropriate countermeasures for the issues related to human resource systems.
- Increasing mutual understanding between labor and management through periodic meetings of the “Chemical Industry Labor and Management Council”.
- Working on the project of developing the next generation of human resources managers.

Technical Affairs Committee

- Investigating and studying the issues of production technology and technological development of the chemical industry.
- Working on the issues of climate change and promoting the international coordination and domestic response relating to ICCA-focused themes (Energy & Climate Change).
- Gathering information and investigating issues relating to electricity use by chemical companies and response to the reform of the electricity industry.

Environment and Safety Committee

- Assessing recent trends related to domestic and international issues concerning the environment and safety and making society aware of the position and opinions of the chemical industry.

Chemicals Management Committee

- Responding to laws and regulations relating to chemical management both at home and abroad (Chemical Substances Control Law, REACH, etc.) and within international organizations.
- Promoting international collaboration and domestic measures on ICCA activities relating to Chemical Policy & Health, including HPV, LRI and GPS.

Responsible Care Committee

- Advocating and promoting Responsible Care activities at home and in the Asia Pacific region.
- Promoting international collaboration and domestic measures on ICCA activities relating to Responsible Care.