

IPCS Risk Assessment Steering Group

Minutes

1. The teleconference took place on the 16 March 2006 from 13:00 to 14:00 and was chaired by Dr Stuart Dobson.
2. The participants in the teleconference were S Dobson; R F Hertel, T Inoue; M E Meek; Y Zheng and B Diderich (observer). Apologies were received from C De Rosa. Present from the Secretariat were T Meredith; L Onyon and M Shibatsuji.
3. The Agenda for the teleconference was accepted and the draft minutes from the teleconference of 26 January 2006 approved.
4. Tim Meredith referred to the correspondence confirming the membership of the RASG and on behalf of IPCS once again thanked Members for their continued participation.
5. Lesley Onyon reported on the good progress made with publishing those CICADs approved by the 13th FRB with CICAD on Trichloroethene being shortly added as a final document to the website with CICADs on Cobalt, Heptachlor and Resorcinol not far behind. The approved CICAD on Resorcinol (pre-editing) had been lodged on the OECD Electronic Discussion Group to indicate closure of this issue for IPCS. Some questions on iodine needed to be reviewed by RASG before the Secretariat could proceed with publication. The draft CICAD on Chromium had been received from the authors and the Secretariat would shortly be seeking the views of RASG on peer reviewers taking into account the issues raised. With this event attention would now shift to preparation for the 14th FRB meeting at the end of the year.
6. Following this teleconference the CICAD progress report on the website would be updated (see <http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/cicad/progress/en/index.html>).
7. Two possible sets of dates had been identified for the face-to-face meeting of the RASG (either the week of 8 May or 19 June 2006, Seoul, Korea). Following discussion, it was decided that the latter of the two dates would be better for participation and planning. The Secretariat would contact the host country to proceed with the practical arrangements (for at least a two-day meeting). **Note At this stage the dates have been further precised to be between 21 and 23 June 2006.** The possibility of a third day for a National Workshop has not yet been discussed, but this would now be undertaken with the host country. To facilitate completion of the budget and WHO clearance the Secretariat would write to Members to request whether any of them could contribute towards their own attendance costs. A Draft agenda would also be circulated for input. For planning purposes the budget, agenda and meeting approval formalities should undertaken in the week of 10 April with a view to issuing invitations letters by 15 May. Members confirmed that this planning was acceptable.

8. Members discussed the forthcoming meeting of IPCS Programme Advisory Committee - Steering Committee (IPCS PAC-SC) meeting and noted the copy of the Committee document (IPCS/PAC/SC-6/06.7) and the Coordinators Report on Activities (IPCS/PAC/SC-6/06.3) circulated ahead of the call. It was confirmed that Stuart Dobson would be attending the PAC-SC meeting as Chair of the RASG. Members confirmed their initial contact with Roy Hickman offering thoughts on the CICAD Review. Initial views included the impact of REACH and availability of national supporting documents and the experience offered by Health Canada in preparing more targeted assessments. The Secretariat referred also to a broader review of risk assessment in WHO and offered to circulate an initial background on this for members information. RASG agreed that the face-to-face meeting in Korea would provide for a good discussion of Dr Hickman's discussions paper and the opportunity to embellish views. An opportunity would exist for presentations on relevant themes. Regarding post-REACH implementation the observer from OECD noted that this matter was also one being addressed by OECD assessment programmes.

9. The Secretariat agreed to canvas dates for the next teleconference which would be to confirm arrangements for the face-to-face meeting of the RASG preferably in the weeks 15th or 22nd May 2006.

10. There were no other items of business and the Chairman thanked members for their participation.