

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS PROVE EVEN MORE USEFUL DURING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Singapore, 26 March 2009 – It is often during difficult times that the true worth and value of industry associations get tested and established.

Very often these associations are as affected as their member companies during such times. However, associations such as the Singapore Chemical Industry Council choose to turn adversity into further opportunity to provide support and assistance.

Speaking at the industry association's annual dinner and Responsible Care Awards presentation, SCIC's chairman, Dr A Chockalingam made mention that it was all the more important for the council, which represents companies across the chemical industry supply chain, to rise up and take leadership.

“It is key for SCIC to be the voice for its members in such times, whether it is engaging key agencies to address cost concerns, working with other agencies to provide training funding and support, or helping the industry address manpower concerns”, said Dr Chockalingam. He further added that the council has been working with agencies such as EDB, WDA and SPRING Singapore to tap on the various funding schemes made available so as to benefit its members.

Of equal importance was also the industry's commitment to ensure that Health, Safety & Environment standards and performances were not compromised amidst the current climate. Dr Chockalingam highlighted this as the evening also saw some 19 companies receiving various categories of awards to recognise their achievements in the implementation of the Responsible Care Codes of Management Practices.

Said Dr Chockalingam, “Our focus and commitment towards Health, Safety and the Environment will not change amidst the economic situation. Through our Responsible Care programmes and collaborations with various regulatory agencies, SCIC will continue our relentless efforts to improve the HSE standards and performances of the chemical industry. SCIC would also like to ensure our stakeholders of our commitment as we continue to build for ourselves a robust industry for tomorrow.”

Responsible Care is an international voluntary initiative of the chemical industry to operate to strict environment, health and safety guidelines - often beyond what is required by regulations - so as to co-exist safely and in harmony with the environment and the community. In Singapore, it is guided by six codes of management practices covering community awareness and preparedness; distribution; employee health & safety; pollution prevention; process safety; and

product stewardship. Achievement, Gold and Excellence Awards are given for companies' performance in each code. An exemplary individual effort to promote the adoption of Responsible Care in Singapore is also acknowledged with the Individual Award.

This is the eighth year the Responsible Care Awards are being given out since they were launched in 2001. It is open to members of SCIC who are signatories to Responsible Care. Companies conduct self-audits and submit entries for the various codes, and these submissions are reviewed by a panel of judges, comprising members from the industry and representatives from the Ministry of Manpower, National Environment Agency and Singapore Civil Defence Force. Clarification meetings and site visits are also conducted before the results are finalised and endorsed by the board of the SCIC.

Please refer to Annex for complete list of Responsible Care Awards 2008 winners.

About the Singapore Chemical Industry Council Limited (SCIC)

The SCIC is the official body representing the chemical industry of Singapore in the private sector. Its membership comprises key multinationals, small and medium enterprises, as well as logistics/services providers and traders.

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