Global Silicon Council (GSC)/
ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Platform (ARCP) Workshop 2026
30 September to 2 October 2026
Singapore



The joint Global Silicones Council (GSC)-ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Platform (ARCP) Workshop was successfully held in Singapore from 30 September to 2 October 2026, bringing together more than 130 participants, including over 60 attendees in person and 70 joining virtually. The workshop was attended by regulators, industry representatives, academics, consultants and international experts from across ASEAN and beyond, as well as representatives from international organisations, regulatory authorities and chemical industry associations, including OECD, UNEP, ICCA, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Australia's Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS), Chemistry Australia, Responsible Care New Zealand and Indian Chemical Council (ICC).

Approximately 42% of participants had attended previous ARCP workshops, reflecting the continued value of the platform in fostering sustained engagement, knowledge building and long-term regional collaboration. Together, participants exchanged experiences, strengthened regional partnerships and explored emerging priorities in chemicals management.



The 2026 workshop was particularly significant as it marked the 10th anniversary of ARCP. In his welcome remarks, Mr Terence Koh, Executive Director of the Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC), reflected on ARCP's decade-long journey in advancing regulatory cooperation across ASEAN. What began as a platform to facilitate dialogue between regulators and industry has evolved into a trusted regional forum promoting regulatory convergence, building capacity and the sharing of implementation experiences. He highlighted the significant progress made by ASEAN Member States in strengthening chemicals management frameworks and implementing Globally Harmonized System (GHS). He also emphasised that continued collaboration, knowledge sharing and capability development will remain essential as the region addresses emerging challenges such as chemical risk assessment, sustainability and circular economy initiatives.



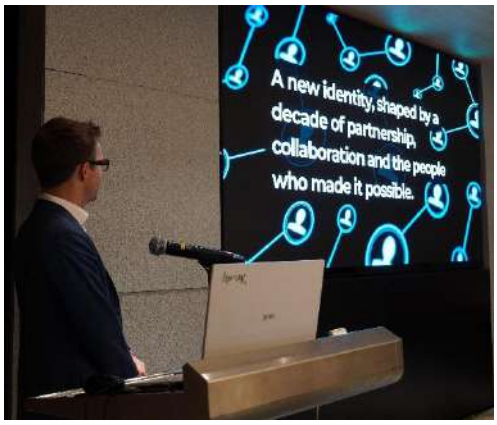
In his opening address, Mr Thomas Teo, Director of the OSH Specialist Department, Occupational Safety & Health Division, Ministry of Manpower of Singapore, re-iterated the importance of the GHS as the foundation of effective chemicals management and highlighted the need for regulatory convergence and continued capacity building to support successful implementation across the region.

A New Identity for a New Chapter

As ARCP celebrates its 10th anniversary, participants were introduced to a new ARCP logo, representing a decade of collaboration and the platform's continued journey towards greater regulatory alignment and partnership across the region.

ARCP
ASEAN REGULATORY COOPERATION PLATFORM

The eleven converging arrows represent the ASEAN Member States working towards common regulatory objectives. The gold centre signifies shared achievements, while the circular design reflects ARCP's commitment to equal participation, collaboration and consensus-building.



A **commemorative video** specially created for the occasion then took participants on a nostalgic journey through ARCP's evolution over the last ten years. Featuring memorable milestones, longstanding partnerships and the people behind ARCP's success, the video reflected on the platform's enduring mission of connecting people, building trusted platforms and strengthening collaboration across the region. Together, these principles have formed the foundation of ARCP's work over the past decade and continue to support a stronger ASEAN community where countries can learn, collaborate and succeed as one community. The ARCP Organising Committee extends its appreciation to Mr Fabien Henry, ARCP Co-Chair, whose dedication and creativity brought this special tribute to life.

Day 1 - ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Platform (ARCP) & Day 2 - Chemicals Risk Assessment Practices

The workshop commenced with a Trade Panel Discussion, setting the context that chemical regulations do not operate in isolation. Regulatory developments can have significant implications for trade, market access and supply chains. Hence, it is important to balance regulatory objectives with the facilitation of trading activities.



The sharing session on the **evolving chemical management regulatory landscape in ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region** opened with an overview by Jeff Li, who shared significant developments in ASEAN's chemicals management frameworks over the past decade. He also highlighted the influence of ARCP in facilitating regulatory dialogue, knowledge sharing and capacity building, which have collectively supported greater regulatory convergence across the region.

ASEAN GHS 7+ is a successful collaborative initiative developed by regulators and industry to promote greater alignment in GHS implementation across ASEAN. It supports an aligned approach in hazard communication, facilitating trade and reducing unnecessary regulatory divergence, demonstrating the tangible impact that ARCP has delivered over its first decade.

This was followed by updates from regulators and experts from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and India on recent developments within their respective jurisdictions. Beyond reporting regulatory developments, this year's country sharing provided a forward-looking assessment of chemicals management systems through the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) and its building blocks. The sharing highlighted current capabilities, identified gaps and challenges. Participants also gained valuable insights into emerging trends in chemical inventory management, GHS implementation, new substance notification systems, risk assessment and

risk management approaches, reinforcing the value of continued regional cooperation and knowledge exchange

The session on **Overview of Chemical Risk Assessment Practices in the Asia-Pacific Region** provided participants with insights into how different jurisdictions are applying risk-based approaches to chemicals management. Dr Janith Wickramaratna, Director of the Assessment and Inventory Section, shared an overview of the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) and Australia's approach to chemical risk assessment and inventory management.



From Japan, Mr Kenji Harigaya of METI presented Japan's chemicals management framework and Mr Tomohiko Goshima shared Japan's experience in conducting exposure assessments and risk assessments under the Chemical Substances Control Law (CSCL). These presentations highlighted the importance of integrating hazard and exposure information to support science-based and proportionate regulatory decision-making.



The workshop also featured a session on the **Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)**, previously known as SAICM, which provides a voluntary framework for countries and stakeholders to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their lifecycle. As many economies continue to develop and enhance their chemicals management systems, the GFC serves as an important platform for capacity building, partnership development and resource mobilisation.



Sallie Yang of UNEP provided an overview of the framework's goals, objectives and priority areas, while Alejandra Acosta (ICCA), Bob Diderich (OECD) and Lorissa Farrell shared insights on survey findings, funding opportunities and lessons learned from capacity-building initiatives.

Participants to look out for a post-workshop webinar on GFC in preparation for upcoming International Conference 1on GFC. From 16 to 20 Nov 2026 in Geneva

The ARCP Virtual Workgroup discussions covered:

Globally Harmonized System (GHS)



Discussions under the ARCP Virtual Working Group on GHS highlighted continued progress towards greater alignment of classification and labelling requirements across ASEAN. A sharing by Mohd Fadhil Bin Haji Abu Yazid, Malaysia's Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) showcased the country's implementation experience and ongoing efforts to transition to newer GHS revisions, providing valuable practical insights for regulators facing similar implementation challenges. The discussions also reinforced that GHS is more than a framework for classification, Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and labelling. As a common language for hazard communication, GHS serves as an important tool for regulatory alignment and trade facilitation, helping to reduce non-tariff trade barriers and improve market access. It was recognised that the convergence efforts led by the ARCP VWG on GHS has complemented the broader work of the APEC Chemical Dialogue, extended collaboration beyond ASEAN to support greater alignment across the Asia-Pacific region. The session reaffirmed the importance of peer sharing and regional cooperation in advancing chemical safety, regulatory convergence and economic integration.



New Substance Notification (NSN)



Through breakout discussions, participants examined how the ASEAN NSN Guidance Document could be applied by countries with differing levels of regulatory maturity. The exchanges identified common challenges, priority capacity-building needs and practical actions that could be pursued over the next 12 months. The discussions reinforced the role of the guidance document as a valuable reference for strengthening risk-based chemicals management and supporting the gradual development of New Substance Notification frameworks across ASEAN.

Discussion on New ARCP Virtual Working Groups

Two new ARCP Virtual Working Groups (VWGs) on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Risk Management was further discussed during the workshop, reflecting emerging regulatory priorities across the region. Through breakout discussions and some industry best practice sharing, participants exchanged views on potential areas of collaboration, capacity-building needs and the value that these workgroups could bring to ASEAN.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



Ms Uttara Ramaswany, industry member of SCIC shared some industry perspectives and experience on Singapore's Mandatory Packaging Reporting (MPR) as well as practical considerations for developing EPR frameworks. This was followed by breakout discussions to explore opportunities for regional alignment, priority product categories, implementation readiness and regulator-industry engagement.

Risk Management (RM)



Mr Nick Zovko first shared an outline of Australia's experience in adopting risk-based approaches to chemicals management. Discussions highlighted key principles including proportionality, transparency, stakeholder consultation and evidence-based decision-making. Participants also contributed views on the risk management tools available within their jurisdictions and identified areas where practical guidance and knowledge sharing could support more effective regulatory decision-making across ASEAN

Interested regulators and industry representatives are welcome to join the new VWGs and contribute to the development of future ARCP workstreams.

ICCA (International Council of Chemical Associations) Developments and Updates



The session on ICCA developments provided participants with updates on two key global industry initiatives. Mr Barry Dyer highlighted the continued evolution of the Responsible Care® programme, which remains a cornerstone of the chemical industry's commitment to improving safety, health, environmental performance and transparency beyond regulatory compliance.



Ms Sue May Teoh provided an update on ICCA's 30x30 Ambition, which aims to support 30 countries in developing effective chemicals management systems by 2030. Drawing on lessons learned from past projects, the session shared recent progress, funding opportunities and practical guidance for future initiatives, while highlighting how partnerships between governments, industry and international organisations can accelerate capacity building and implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC).

Introduction to the ARCP Chemical Risk Assessment (CRA) Guidance and Chemical Prioritization for ASEAN





Led by the co-leads of the ARCP CRA Virtual Working Group, Dr Kate Heim and Dr Hien Le, the afternoon session on Day 2 focused on strengthening risk-based chemicals management through practical applications of the ARCP Chemical Risk Assessment Guidance and ASEAN Prioritization Tool.

Participants were introduced to the guidance document, which outlines a structured approach to chemical risk assessment, covering key steps from chemical inventory development and prioritization to risk characterization and risk management. Building on this foundation, participants participated in hands-on exercise using the ASEAN Prioritization Tool and worked through practical case studies to understand how chemicals can be prioritized for further assessment based on hazard and exposure considerations.

A copy of ARCP guidance documents is available via SCIC website: https://scic.sg/asean/#

Through the breakout discussions, participants explored the application of the tool under different data availability scenarios exchanged views on common implementation challenges, and identified practical approaches to support evidence-based decision-making. The session demonstrated how these resources can help strengthen risk assessment capabilities and support the progressive adoption of risk-based chemicals management across ASEAN













Day 2 concluded with a session by Ms Cissie Yeung on **Confidential Business Information (CBI) and the Proper Use of Safety Data Sheets (SDS)**. The session highlighted the importance of balancing regulatory transparency with the protection of proprietary business information. While regulators and customs authorities may require information to verify compliance with chemical control and import requirements, requests for full formulation disclosure can present challenges where legal requirements and CBI protection mechanisms are not clearly defined. The session also featured a special recorded message from former UN GHS Sub-Committee Chair, Maureen Ruskin, who shared perspectives on the principles of CBI protection under the United Nations Globally Harmonized System (UN GHS).

It was re-iterated to the participants that SDSs are intended to communicate hazards and safe-use information rather than disclose complete product formulations. Consistent with UN GHS principles, only relevant hazardous ingredients above specified thresholds are generally required to be disclosed. The discussion reinforced the importance of ensuring that SDS information remains fit for purpose while appropriately protecting CBI. Participants were also introduced to an APEC guidance document on best practices for managing CBI during customs clearance, which serves as a useful reference for both regulators and industry. A copy is available via:
https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2025/12/225_cd_best-practices-effective-management-of-confidential-business-information-%28cbi%29-during-inwards-customs-clearance.pdf?sfvrsn=c857f123

Day 3 Interactive Risk Assessment Case Studies: Advanced Tools

Led by the Global Silicones Council (GSC), the third day of the workshop was focused on building practical risk assessment capabilities, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of the key components of a risk-based chemicals management framework.

Through a series sharing covering problem formulation, exposure assessment, hazard assessment, risk characterization, risk management and risk communication, participants gained insights into how scientific data and evidence can be integrated to support regulatory decision-making. The sharing emphasised the use of tiered and proportionate approaches to risk assessment, ensuring that assessment efforts are aligned with the level of concern and available information.

Practical case studies involving substances such as BPA, D4 and metals, allowing participants to apply risk assessment concepts in realistic regulatory scenarios was incorporated. A key takeaway from the day was the importance of moving beyond hazard-based approaches towards risk-based decision-making that considers both hazard and exposure, enabling resources to be focused on chemicals of greatest concern while supporting effective protection of human health and the environment.



Special thanks to the speakers and support team from members of the Global Silicon Council (GSC) including Mr Karluss Thomas, Dr Kate Heim, Ms Kathy Plotzke, Ms Kristen Smith, Ms Ellen Mihaiach, Mr Jon Arnot (University of Toronto) and Ms Alexandra Rinehart

The networking dinner and reception served as an effective ice-breaker, allowing participants to connect informally, build rapport and expand their professional networks in a relaxed setting.



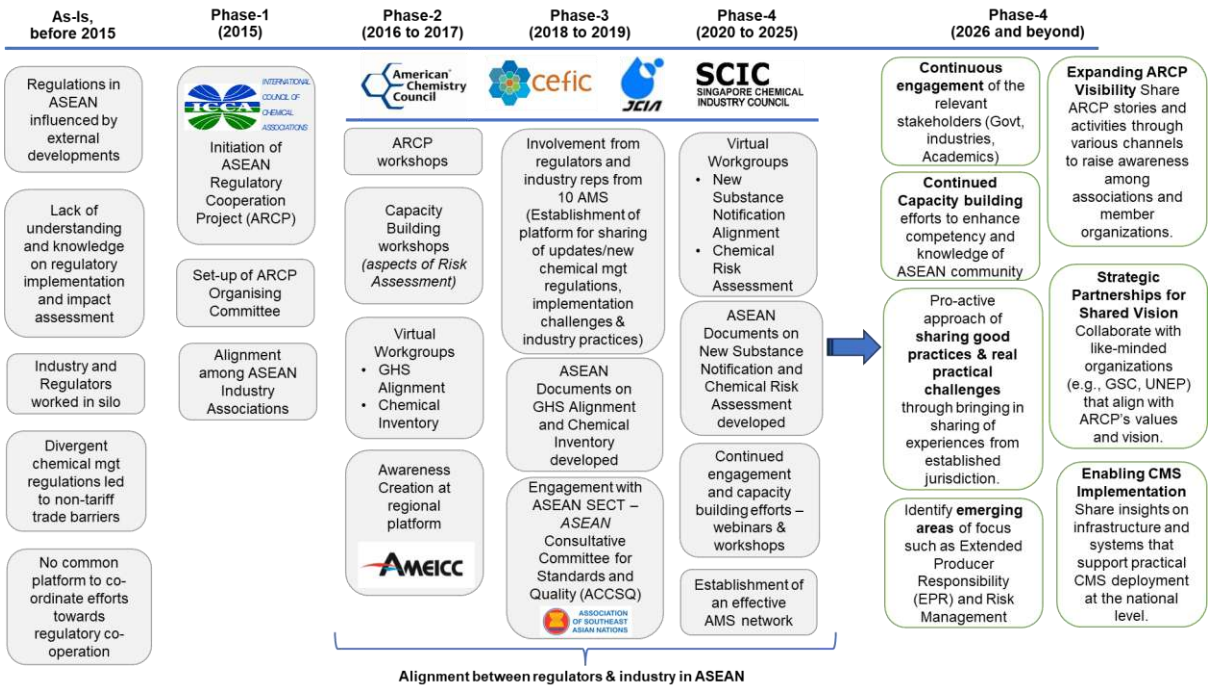
Looking Ahead

Ten years ago, ARCP was established with the vision of creating a platform where regulators and industry could come together to exchange experiences and advance chemicals management in the region. A decade later, that vision continues to guide our path forward.

The workshop demonstrated that while ASEAN economies may be at different stages of regulatory development, they share a common commitment to chemical safety, capacity building and regional cooperation. Building on the momentum generated over the past decade, ARCP will continue to serve as a catalyst for collaboration, helping the region navigate emerging challenges and seize new opportunities in chemicals management.

With the unwavering support of ASEAN Member States, industry, academia and international organisations, we aspire to elevate ARCP into an even more influential platform for regional collaboration, innovation and capacity building.

We invite experts, thought leaders and practitioners from Product Stewardship, HSSE, Regulatory Affairs, Digital Transformation and related fields to contribute their knowledge, experience and passion. Together, we can transform challenges into opportunities, bridge capability gaps and build a lasting legacy for future generations. The journey ahead belongs to all of us. As one ASEAN community, we can achieve far greater impact together than any of us can alone.



Contributed by:
ARCP Organising Committee

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