

Welcome Address by Dr A. Chockalingam  
Chairman of the Singapore Chemical Industry Council  
SCIC Annual Dinner 2010 /  
Responsible Care Awards 2009 Presentation  
Pan Pacific Hotel Singapore  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, 7:00 pm

Our Guest of Honour, Mr Iswaran, Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and Education, Representatives from the Government Agencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good evening to all of you.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Singapore Chemical Industry Council's Annual Dinner 2010 and Responsible Care 2009 Awards presentation ceremony.

We have just entered into the fourth month of the year 2010, having left the memories of 2009 at the back of our minds. The year has been fairly positive thus far recovering the very unsettling period last year. The cyclic nature of the chemical industry is well known. However, one message has remained consistent over the cycles, a message that SCIC has been a strong advocate of all these years: Regardless of circumstances, Health, Safety and Environmental standards must never be compromised.

This has been our stand from inception and through Responsible Care, will continue to be our key message for the years to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are all well aware that chemicals are key building blocks that have contributed to the comfortable standards of living that we enjoy today. The chemical industry is the provider of these blocks. Sustainability means that we must be in the position to continue being this important provider for the years to come, and to provide them in a safe manner, to our employees, to the community and to the environment.

Globally, the International Council of Chemical Associations, ICCA, recognised the need to raise this commitment to a new level and in January 2009, made the decision to include the statement “Our Commitment to Sustainability” to the Responsible Care logo. In Singapore, we encouraged Responsible Care signatories to adopt the new logo and stand alongside with SCIC in making known this commitment of the industry.

Responsible Care, the flagship programme of the chemical industry worldwide to improve HSE performances, is being practiced in 53 countries, of which 12 reside in the Asia Pacific region. It has evolved over the years to keep relevant to the times and to include companies within the chemical industry supply chain such as logistics providers and chemical distributors. As a voluntary programme, slightly more than half of SCIC’s members are today, signatories.

Senior management commitment by way of signing up for Responsible Care is the first step. The more difficult part is living up to the commitment in the day to day operation of the business. The

Responsible Care Awards, since its inception in 2001, has been recognising companies that have delivered on their commitments to Responsible Care. What we would envisage is to encourage every SCIC member company to eventually become a Responsible Care signatory, adopt the codes of management practices and strive for continuous improvement. Self assessment is the first step that makes way for further improvement. I am extremely pleased to report that 87% of the signatories have completed the self assessment for 2009, this is a 7% improvement over the previous year.

The Responsible Care Committee took a bold move to revamp the Responsible Care Awards process last year. The overall objective is simple: We must give recognition for good implementation where it is due and not leave it to a voluntary participation process. I am pleased to note therefore that this move has paid off, judging from the increased numbers of companies who will be recognised for their implementation efforts this evening.

On behalf of SCIC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank LTH Logistics (Singapore) Pte Ltd for sponsoring the Responsible Care 2009 Awards. It is highly appreciated that a local SME, committed to Responsible Care is sponsoring this event. I hope this encourages other SMEs to actively participate in the Responsible Care programme, a practice that is also recognised by the regulatory agencies here in Singapore.

I would also like to thank the SCIC team of Terence, TJ, Kah Boon, Agmer, Wennie and Eric for their tremendous efforts in organising this event.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to the recipients of the Responsible Care 2009 Awards and the SCIC Appreciation Awards. Special recognition goes out to the panel of judges from the industry, MOM, NEA and SCDF who have devoted their valuable time to painstakingly review all the applications, conduct clarification meetings and select the outstanding practitioners.

Mr Iswaran, thank you for gracing our event this evening,

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish the award winners, congratulations one again and a pleasant and enjoyable evening to all of you.