

Speech by Dr Tay Kin Bee
Chairman, Singapore Chemical Industry Council Limited

Our Guest of Honour, Dr Amy Khor, Minister of State for the Environment and Water Resources, Distinguished Guests, 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 2011 and Responsible Care 2010 Awards presentation ceremony

Minister of State, Dr Amy Khor, thank you for taking the time to grace our event this evening.

Many of us would be glad to see the back of 2008 and 2009 which were times of great volatilities in the market. Now that is behind us the economic rejuvenation and presence of growth opportunities in Asia has prompted companies to intensify their investment interests in this region. Colossal growth trends such as rapid urbanization and rising Asian middle-class are increasing demand for energy and chemical products within Asia. In an effort to acquire these opportunities, multinational corporations will require an operation centre in Asia to service the regional market.

Singapore, occupying a prime spot at the heart of Asia, is well positioned to undertake this role in meeting the region's energy and chemical demand. This is especially feasible given Singapore's reputation as a world-class energy and chemical hub with excellent infrastructure and a trusted environment for investors to execute their projects.

2011 marks 21 years of the Responsible Care Program in Singapore which is a key milestone of the Responsible Care journey since its adoption in 1990. It has evolved over the years and now includes companies within the chemical industry supply chain such as logistics providers and chemical distributors.

As a flagship programme for the chemical industry worldwide, it drives continuous improvement in the areas of Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) performances of the industry. Through Responsible Care, the key message of maintaining HSE standards regardless of circumstances is constantly being emphasized.

Responsible Care, although a voluntary programme, boasts about half of SCIC's members as signatories today. I strongly encourage companies present today who are not yet part of this initiative to seriously consider pledging your commitment and be part of the Responsible Care community here in Singapore. Not forgetting our faithful advocates, Responsible Care Awards is the platform where the hard work and efforts by signatories in implementing the Responsible Care Program are being recognized.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the Responsible Care Awards 2010 mark its 10th Anniversary since inception. The Responsible Care Awards process was revamped in 2009 to shift away from the voluntary participation process to an all inclusive participation approach where by all RCP signatories whom have submitted their assessments are being considered for the RC award so as to give recognition for good implementation where it is due. I am glad to note the number of companies being recognized for their implementation efforts have been increasing ever since.

Responsible Care Program, an exclusive programme created by the Chemical Industry for the betterment of the industry, has also gained recognition from the regulatory authorities. The ongoing involvement of industry and

government representatives from MOM, NEA and SCDF, whom are part of the panel of judges, has also proven to be a good partnership. As part of our continued collaboration, part of the CERT audit elements of SCDF where synergy has been identified would also be incorporated into the submission requirements for the next upcoming submission exercise.

The Responsible Care guidebook has been revised by the RC Committee and I'm pleased to launch this new edition of the guidebook this evening and this handy guidebook aims to bring you a step nearer towards fulfilling the commitments as a signatory.

2011 is also the International Year of Chemistry (IYC), an initiative of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The Unifying theme of "*Chemistry—our life, our future*", is a worldwide celebration of the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of humankind

Joining the world in this celebration in 2011, SCIC has lined up a series of half-day talks which will culminate in a Symposium towards the end of the year. The talks focus on topics such as the 'World of Chemicals & how they affect our daily lives', 'Responsible Care and the Industry's Commitment to Sustainability' as well as the 'Importance of Chemical Industry to our economy', to name a few.

Through IYC we aim to increase the public appreciation of chemistry in meeting world needs and also give us a very good opportunity to highlight the contributions of the chemical industry to the general public. This is also to encourage interest in chemistry among young people and to generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry. This platform has proven its effectiveness in meeting our objectives as the 1st IYC talk held on 8 March saw

an overwhelming turnout of 320 participants including the community, academia, industry and the government agencies.

Lastly, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the recipients of the Responsible Care 2010 Awards and the SCIC Appreciation Awards. Special recognition goes out to the panel of judges who have devoted their valuable time to painstakingly review all the applications, conduct site visits and select the outstanding practitioners.

Ladies and gentlemen, the principles of Responsible Care are not limited to chemical companies only, and they are applicable to most businesses, especially in manufacturing and transportation. We seek your continued support and partnership to promote the spirit of Responsible Care beyond the SCIC membership so that together we can build a better chemical industry for us all.

On behalf of SCIC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank DuPont Company (Singapore) Pte Ltd for sponsoring the Responsible Care 2010 Awards. I would also like to thank the SCIC organizing team for their tremendous efforts in organizing this event.

I wish all of you a wonderful evening and to the award winners, congratulations once again.

Thank you.