

## ICTA gathers pace

The association's work has made significant progress in recent months following the appointment of management company Brabers. The establishment of three committees has laid the foundation for future outreach efforts

**Elaine Burrige** London

This past year has arguably been the most significant for the International Chemical Trade Association (ICTA). An important change has been the appointment of Dutch company Brabers to manage the association's activities, including the provision of services such as communications and strategy.

"We have taken a lot of time over the years to bring ICTA to its current point, which is a well-funded association that can show value to its members. Brabers will get the structure in place that will allow us to focus on policy and outreach in order to gain recognition of what we are doing with regard to chemicals safety, management and security," comments Doug Brown, member of ICTA's board and vice president of NACD and president/CEO of Brown Chemical.

Brown explains that ICTA has been able to enhance its role with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), with which ICTA is now working more closely to achieve common goals.

In addition, Debra Phillips, vice president of Responsible Care and value chain outreach at the American Chemistry Council (ACC), has been leading work with ICCA on its Responsible Care program and is also collaborating closely with ICTA. Phillips serves as the secretariat for ICCA's Responsible Care leadership group.

"It was a key development for us to solidify those relationships," says Brown.

ICTA has also expanded its membership with a number of individual companies joining, including North American and international entities. A complete listing can be found on ICTA's membership web page: [www.icta-chem.org/membership](http://www.icta-chem.org/membership).

A prime driver for ICTA is to promote the Responsible Distribution and Responsible Care programs around the world.

Talks continue in China, a country where Brown concedes the structure of government and industry can make commercial relationships difficult. However, along with the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters (CCCME), ICTA is now also talking with other industry associations in China to explore

options for cooperation.

Brown says the developing economies are important areas of focus for ICTA, but these are ones where there is less structure and visibility with regard to chemical distribution and it can be difficult to establish an organization.

"How do we reach out to people that might not necessarily want what we



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Vice president, NACD

are trying to communicate and do not have the same level of value?" asks Brown.

"It is a challenge when dealing with multiple cultures and languages but just communicating and being out there so people around the world know who we are and our part in the supply chain is also a major area of opportunity."

NACD's president Eric Byer stresses that outreach and education remains a priority for ICTA going forward. "People really need to recognize the value that chemical distributors provide to the supply chain. Our guys play a really important role between product being manufactured and getting to the end-user.

"They spend a lot of time, money and resources to ensure that products are handled and delivered safely and securely."

He adds the value that ICTA provides in networking and bringing members from around the world together is hugely important and often undervalued.

In recent months, ICTA has been active at meetings and conferences in India, Sweden, Lebanon, Pakistan and Dubai, amongst others. During these visits, ICTA stood for the interests of the chemical distribution industry on a variety of important topics, such as the norms for safe transportation, sustainability, pollution and precursors.

Chemical security is another major driver for

the association. Brown says ICTA is working closely with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on a global basis to get other countries around the world that have no systems in place to recognize the risks related to chemical safety and security.

Another major step within ICTA is the enactment of three committees, namely for transport and security; Responsible Care/Responsible Distribution; and substance, safety, health and environment (SSHE). To date, ICTA has appointed various experts and company members, who are in the process of starting their workflow and setting out their key objectives.

One current area of work and a focal point of the SSHE committee is the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) project, a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world, which is part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

SAICM ends in 2019 and ICTA, along with ICCA and several other industry associations, is involved with the process to develop a new policy framework for SAICM for 2020 and beyond.

ICTA's progress has undoubtedly gathered traction this year and has stepped up its efforts on promoting the secure and responsible distribution of chemicals around the world. ■

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