

# **Environmental Issues Committee Meeting**

## **1. Sustainable Society and Chemical Industry- ICCA E&CC and Its Activity –**

Speaker: Mr. Bunro Shiozawa, Senior Associate, Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.

Chemical industry has a great potential to play a central role in constructing a sustainable society. International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) has been actively promoting chemical industry's efforts and contributions in mitigating and adapting to the climate change and in constructing a sustainable society as solutions provider and creator. In my presentation, I would like to introduce the activities of the Energy & Climate Change Leadership Group of the ICCA, which is engaging in such advocacy effort, and to state my personal view on a future vision of the chemical industry which I come to see in participating in the work.

## **2. Possibility of environmental load reduction through selection of optimum food packaging: Considering the function of package to reduce food losses**

Speaker: Dr. Takeo Shiina, Professor, Chiba University

Environmental aspect of plastic packaging for food product in relation to food loss will be discussed. The advantage of using food packaging includes quality preservation, provision of the ease and efficiency of handling and transportation, information transfer of the food and packaging, etc. Packaging materials are responsible for the environmental burden in their lifecycle. However, when packaging material is used as food packaging, it preserves the containing food in the distribution processes (transportation, storage, and selling) resulting in the abatement of environmental burden by reducing the losses of food. Therefore, there should be the optimum packaging condition for individual food based on the total environmental load of food and its packaging in the life cycle. Based on this concept, the results of life cycle assessment (LCA) case studies focusing on the global warming and depletion of natural resources by using experimental data of fresh produces will be presented.

## **3. Plastic Waste Management for Sustainable Urbanization in Asia**

**- Lessons from experiences of Japan –**

Speaker: Mr. Hisao Ida, Executive Director, Plastic Waste Management Institute

In many Asian countries, waste is becoming an increasingly serious issue in line with rapid economic growth and greater concentration of the population in urban areas. Plastic waste tends to be regarded as particularly troublesome.

Japan experienced a similar situation during the high-growth period of the 1960s, leading to serious disputes in the early 1970s over the construction of facilities for waste treatment and disposal. Against this backdrop, based on the idea that the plastics and petrochemical

industries could not soundly develop without a resolution to the problem of plastic waste, the Plastic Waste Management Institute was established in 1971 to address the problem in cooperation with national and local governments as well as consumers and related industries.

The rate of landfilling waste plastic in Japan has been reduced to only 7%, and the effective utilization of waste plastic is now 83%, the highest level in the world.

This presentation will describe the history of Japan's efforts to address issues of plastic waste, in the hope that this may be of useful reference to other countries of Asia currently facing urgent challenges regarding plastic waste.

In addition to introducing a legal framework to build a recycling-oriented society, this presentation will highlight efforts by municipalities and citizens using the examples of the City of Sapporo and the 23 Wards of Tokyo, and voluntary initiatives by industry regarding the examples of PET bottles and EPS.