



Press Release

For Immediate Release
22 September 2009

Chemicals Management Workshop

The 2006 Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management established the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which is a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world. SAICM has as its overall objective the achievement of the sound management of chemicals (SMC) throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment. This "2020 goal" was adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 as part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

In March of this year, the Government of Belize, through the Department of the Environment, hosted in Belize City a workshop to facilitate understanding between officials responsible for development planning and officials responsible for chemicals management in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The workshop was held for the Integration of the Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning Processes. This is often referred to as "mainstreaming" environmental issues in the development policies, plans and programmes of governments.

Since then, the Belize SAICM Initiative has been advanced further under the Department of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, with assistance from the partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). As such, the Belize SAICM Initiative is organizing a "Project Launching Ceremony and Inception Workshop" in order to build awareness of the SAICM Project in Belize and the important benefits associated with sound management of chemicals in national development plans.

This event will be held on September 23-25, 2009, at the Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel (Toucan Hall) in Belize City. Through this medium, all media houses are hereby invited to attend the launching ceremony on September 23, 2009 starting at 9:00 am.

For further information please contact:

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