



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

"Environmental Protection is Everybody's Business."

### Chemicals Management Workshop

The 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.

The Government of Belize, through the Department of the Environment, is hosting a workshop to facilitate understanding between officials responsible for development planning and officials responsible for chemicals management in the Latin America and Caribbean region at the Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City on 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

The workshop being held in Belize is one of four regional workshops funded by Norway in coordination with the UNDP/UNEP Partnership Initiative (PI) 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.

The regional workshops have two main objectives:

1. Advance SMC mainstreaming into development planning within developing countries and countries with economies in transition through increased dialogue and understanding between national agencies responsible for chemicals management and national agencies responsible for development planning. This includes **improving** collective understanding of the:
  - a) Rationale for why it is important for developing countries to mainstream chemicals management priorities into national development plans consistent with the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy;
  - b) Terminology and approaches for mainstreaming chemicals management issues into development plans;
  - c) Issues, opportunities and potential barriers to overcome for prioritizing and mainstreaming chemicals management issues in development planning;
  - d) Progress so far in the area of mainstreaming.
2. Contribute to the preparation of an **Information Document** to be provided to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2). The Information Document will assist to strengthen discussions at ICCM2 on mainstreaming from the practical experience perspective of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Information Document will be produced out of the

experiences of all four regional workshops. As such, workshops participants will be contributing to a document with global contributions.

Both of the objectives for the workshops are based on the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy where it is stated as one of the objectives under the thematic area on “Capacity-building and technical cooperation: “To include capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals as a priority in social and economic development strategies, including national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategy papers and country assistance strategies, and to make chemicals an important part of national policy.”

The workshop is being funded by the Government of Norway, through UNEP, and hosted by Belize. Officials from the Ministries of Environment, Health, and Economic Development of Belize, Honduras, Ecuador, and Chile are expected to attend.