

EDITORIAL ECETOC ON-BOARD: CONTRIBUTOR TO THE REACH IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME (RIP)

In 2004 the European Commission offered two phases of their REACH Implementation Programme (RIP) for tender. These pertained to:

- The 'Chemical Safety Report and Safety Assessment' (RIP 3.2), and
- The 'Testing Information Requirements on Intrinsic Properties of Substances' (RIP 3.3).

ECETOC took part in the winning consortium comprising RIVM (Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu, The Netherlands), BfR (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung, Germany), BAuA (Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin, Germany), Oekopol (Institut für Ökologie und Politik, Germany), DHI Water & Environmental (Denmark), TNO (Nederlandse Organisatie voor toegepast-natuurwetenschappelijk onderzoek), KEMI (Chemicals Inspectorate, Sweden) the Danish EPA (Environment Protection Agency), The Environment Agency (UK), and INERIS (L'Institut National de l'environnement industriel et des risques, France), and led by CEFIC to bid for the scoping studies for RIP 3.2 and 3.3 and the preliminary guidance document for RIP 3.2. Both bids were successful and the projects started in January 2005

The basis of ECETOC's contribution in both projects was to provide the science base for the 'Intelligent Testing Strategy' in RIP 3.3 and for

the 'Safety Report' in RIP 3.2. In carrying out the projects, the RIP 3.2 consortium adopted the Targeted Risk Assessment Report, produced by an ECETOC Task Force as its core approach. The RIP 3.3 project benefited both from the work done by the ECETOC Information Requirements Task

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Force and from the content of several ECETOC Technical Reports, which were used to guide the work in the RIP 3.3 'End Point Working Group'.

In order to guide the project and define a broad stakeholder science base, the consortium was guided by the archive of ECETOC's work over the years as well as scientific contributions from other consortium members. This resulted in very lively debate and in the great majority of cases, consensus was built. In the small number of cases where this was not possible, the points of disagreement were clearly defined for subsequent work in later phases of the programme.

ECETOC member companies were very generous in contributing the time of their people, in what has been a very resource-intensive exercise. ECETOC thanks them for this contribution and in particular, thanks the individuals who committed much personal time and effort to ensure that the projects' time lines were met.

Following a series of stakeholder expert group meetings that were staged at key points during the projects, the final reports were submitted in July and were well received by the Commission.

The ECETOC participants have since reviewed the value of taking part in such consortia and have concluded that:

1. ECETOC was able to inject the science of our task forces into the consortia output in a way that would not have been possible without direct participation;

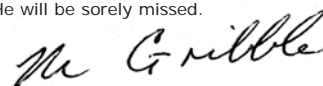
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SG CORNER Our tragic loss of Dr. Tom Feijtel

It is with great sadness and a feeling of immense loss that all those, including industry scientists associated with ECETOC, learnt of the tragic death of Dr. Tom Feijtel on September 19th after an unfortunate bicycling accident. All our thoughts and condolences have been extended to his immediate family who will feel and know the greatest loss of such an outstanding individual; a person who was giving of himself, his knowledge and his expertise without boundaries.

Within the ECETOC organisation, Tom has been contributing for more years than most people can remember, as a Task Force member and additionally as a very active member of the Scientific Committee since 1998. Together with his ecotoxicology colleagues he has driven the environmental programme of ECETOC on behalf of its member companies to achieve a level of scientific recognition of which they can all be justifiably proud. And at the same time, he brought tireless enthusiasm to the broader activities of the Scientific Committee to help ensure that the credibility of industry scientists involved with the manufacture and use of chemicals was beyond reproach. His scientific talents were respected and appreciated within his company, Procter & Gamble, by regulators and academia on a global basis and by his myriad of industry friends and colleagues everywhere.

As we all move forward in a world that allows only momentary respite, there will be a void within ECETOC as a result of Tom's passing that will be close to impossible to fill or overcome. I feel sure that the ECETOC Board, the Scientific Committee, the Secretariat and all those dedicated persons, who have worked, known and been associated with Dr. Tom Feijtel over the years, will remember him with great fondness as a person who aspired to great things in everything he did, including his dedication to ECETOC. He will be sorely missed.



Dr. Michael Y. Gribble
ECETOC Secretary General

| Inside this issue |

> Editorial	1
> SG Corner	1
> Upcoming Workshops	2
> Upcoming Meetings	2
> Recently Published Reports	2
> ECETOC In Brief	2
> Subscribe to our e-Newsletter	2

ECETOC Activities

(...continued from page 1.)

2. The quality of science in industry has been displayed and found to be a significant contributor to the development of regulation;

3. The resource strain was very high and many of the other programmes that ECETOC has been running with the aid of its members scientists have had to be delayed as a result.

4. The science network that is key to ECETOC's forward progress has been reinforced following the interactions in the projects.

The next phase of this initiative is currently being considered by the European Commission. Our membership has made it clear that they see ECETOC taking a role. With this in mind, the commitment of resources will need to be managed carefully in order to leverage the best impact of ECETOC's science.

RECENT Workshop

ECETOC-EEMS-LRI Symposium and Workshop

5 July 2005, Kos Island, Greece

At this year's annual EEMS (European Environmental Mutagen Society) conference in July, ECETOC and EEMS jointly organised two sessions with the co-sponsorship of LRI (the Cefic Long-range Research Initiative).

The sessions, which were entitled "Biomarkers and Molecular Epidemiology - Present state and future trends" and "Environmental genotoxins and children's health" sought to (i) Review the state of the science in the fast developing area of biomarkers in identifying exposure to environmental stressors and subsequently in the field of molecular epidemiology,

and (ii) Address our current understanding of the role of genotoxic environmental agents in childhood disease.

Papers based on the aforementioned Symposium and Workshop presentations will be published as a special issue of Mutation Research (Elsevier) in 2006.

For more information, please visit:

www.eie.gr/eems2005/scientific-program.html

2005 ECETOC SCIENCE AWARD

Presented at Eurotox

11-14 September 2005, Kracaw, Poland

The 2005 ECETOC Science Award has been presented to Ms. Carolina Wijnheden of the Institute of Environmental Medicine at the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, for her and her co-authors' poster: "Effects of TCDD on the Osteoblastic Cell Line UMR-106". The scientific relevance of the results of this project is that this cell line may be a suitable in vitro model system for studies on mechanisms behind the effects of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds on bone tissue.

For this year's science award, ECETOC collaborated with EUROTOX (European Societies of Toxicology), who presented 3 young scientist awards at its annual meeting held in Kracow, Poland on 11-14 September 2005.

ECETOC's prize (of €2000) was awarded for an outstanding poster presented under the theme: Persistent Organic Pollutants – Integrated Exposure and Risk Assessment. The criteria applied for the evaluation of the posters were originality and potential impact of the research project, adequacy of the methodological approach adopted, scientific value of the results, as well as care, quality and clarity of the presentation.

To download a copy of the winning poster presentation, visit www.ecetoc.org

ECETOC In Brief

ECETOC, European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology Of Chemicals, was established in 1978 as a scientific, non-profit making, non-commercial association, financed by 50 of the leading companies with interests in the manufacture and use of chemicals. A stand-alone organisation, it was established to provide a scientific forum through which the extensive specialist expertise in the European chemical industry could be harnessed to research, review, assess and publish studies on the ecotoxicology and toxicology of chemicals.

Website

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FORTHCOMING Workshop

Nanomaterials

7-9 November, 2005, Barcelona, Spain

Nanotechnology involves creating and using molecules a few billionths of a metre in size. Evaluating the potential hazards of this technology and its products is an emerging area in toxicology and health risk assessment.

This Workshop is designed to provide fundamental information to better understand the rapidly developing field of *Testing Strategies to Establish the Safety of Nanomaterials*. An appreciation of the chemistry and corresponding material science issues related to nanoscale particle composition as well as evolving airborne exposure assessment methodologies are absolute prerequisites to a better understanding of the health impacts of nanomaterials.

For more information, please visit:

www.ecetoc.org/Default.asp?PageID=150

RECENTLY PUBLISHED Reports

JACC Reports

No. 48 Hexafluoropropylene
CAS No. 116-15-4

Documents

No. 44 Guidance for the
Interpretation of
Biomonitoring Data



FORTHCOMING Meetings

November

7-9 > Nanomaterials Workshop
Barcelona, Spain

15 > Board
10:30 - 15:00
ECETOC, Brussels

December

16 > Scientific Committee
ECETOC, Brussels

15 > outREACH Event
Hosted by
Hofmann - La Roche
Basel, Switzerland

Next Edition ...

Look out for a special edition with details on ECETOC's new membership categories and publication prices.

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR ECOTOXICOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY OF CHEMICALS

Av. E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4 (Bte) 6 B-1160 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 675 3600 Fax: +32 2 675 3625 VAT: BE 0418344469

For more information about ECETOC and/or the content of this e-newsletter, please contact us info@ecetoc.org