

How are we to view domestic Responsible Care?

'Be the change you want to see in the world'

These are words of Gandhi, the father of India's civil movement. His words tell us that we must change ourselves in the way that we would like for the world to change, and take part in that change.

Seven years have now passed since the Responsible Care program (RC) set sail to lead a proactive self-imposed change in environmental, safety and health issues, rather than change through regulatory means.

What I feel at this stage, is that RC activity within Korea is slowly losing momentum as time progresses, and the passion of those in the center of leading change has also been stagnating. This can lead to a vicious cycle of 'stagnation of change due to stagnation of changes in the environment' that progresses to 'environment change stagnation due to stagnation of self-imposed change'.

Currently, RC activity in Korea is at a stage where it needs a rest to catch its breath. This is due to the situation that we are in need of assessment of the actions taken over the past few years since RC's application, and focus on setting its future direction. We can look at our current situation as the result of comparing RC-related activity overseas with the views and recognition of RC domestically.

Recognition of RC world wide

In the WSSD meeting held in Johannesburg, in August 2002, RC was formally recognized as a program that contributes greatly to the continuous development of the industry.

RC is currently being pursued in 52 nations around the world, including some of the most advanced chemical industry leading nations, and the numbers are growing.

RC is being introduced by major chemical industry-related organizations like the ACC and CEFIC as the foremost of their activities involving environment and safety.

For example, some RC figures formally being announced by the ACC are:

- Worker safety : 4.5 times the average U.S. manufacturing industry and 2 times that of the chemical industry as a whole.
- 75% reduction in waste exhaust (while production increased 29%)
- 27% reduction in accidents during transportation (11% increase in total transportation volume)
- 37% reduction in accidents during processing in the past 10 years.

In the U.S., all member companies under the ACC must choose one program among RCMS or RC 14001, and it is publicly recognized as very trustworthy.

RC is finding its place as an environment protection and health benefit in itself, and is being developed as a relationship that is part of the chemical industry.

Recognition of RC in Korea

Systemization of environment protection and safety began in Korea with PSM/SMS policy in 1995 and through ISO14001 certification being applied in 1996. RC became standard in Korea at the end of 1999, when the above-mentioned policies became established on site.

PSM/SMS is a safety-management policy that is being led by domestic law and specialist institutions, while ISO 14001 is an international certification that establishes firm placement in their stance. In comparison, since RC is a self-imposed regulatory activity, it is understood that it gets pushed down the order of priority.

Further, the characteristics of many environment and safety-related regulations being mandatory, have distanced 'self regulation' from such activity. It is already difficult to follow various regulations, and it is even more difficult to set proactive goals and make efforts to achieve them.

Unlike foreign examples where RC has become part of environment protection and safety, when viewing the reasons mentioned above it is difficult to erase the feeling that RC has yet to truly be established at the site level in Korea.

To become a more localized RC

It seems that RC organizations in other countries are well embedded while RC in Korea is not well localized. Under these circumstances, I would like to find solutions for this issue.

To begin with, it is true that at the site level RC has focused on the chemical industry image reform rather than as a program for environment, health and safety improvement. Thus, it seems that the more abstract, thoughtful and qualitative aspects were being emphasized, instead of RC as a site improvement program. As a result, it seems that RC is being viewed as 'something good to do, but not problematic if not carried out'.

To redress this imbalance, we are to strengthen RC improvement activities that are centered in RC Codes of Management Practice (COMPs). However, considering the reality of Korea it will be difficult to establish RC at the site level by merely distributing COMPs and leaving member companies to measure performance on their own.

It is planned that RC operation codes and the various environment and safety-related certifications that are currently being used are to be merged into one guide, so that following the 'RC code unified guide book' alone will result in following various regulations, as well as conducting RC code activities. When this work is done and the output distributed to member companies, it will be very helpful in establishing it on site, as well as helpful in increasing the work productivity of RC coordinators.

In addition, to take another step to add objectivity and rationality to the current RC activities that are being only self-assessed, specialists in environment and safety are to be invited for a third-party audit. In the case of overseas countries, third-party audits are being conducted by an outside third party, but in Korea we are planning to have third-party audits in the form of technical consulting for low-performing companies and provide opportunities for stepping up performance levels for companies that are doing well.

Following the RC code unified guide book and third-party audits, another solution for RC establishment at site level is 'RC Awards'. During annual Ordinary General Meetings RC awards will be given to companies after third-party audits, those with excellence in performance, or performance leaps. The RC Awards will become a celebration for those involved in environment, health and safety and they will be organized to build a cooperative relationship structure with related government offices.

Conclusion

RC improves real environment protection, safety, and health at the site level. Its goals are to

reduce losses to a minimum, and improve industry image to stakeholders to gain continuous support.

Among the two goals given, the former will be difficult to achieve unless we actually earn confidence from the RC coordinators that 'the RC program really works and brings notable performance gains'. Unless RC has its base at the site level and provides help, the limits to the program will be apparent.

KRCC, in its seven years of operation, has undertaken external activities such as hosting APRCC and Outreach events, but now will focus on internal improvements. It will make efforts in establishing RC at the site level to provide real help to member companies, and hopes that all parties involved will actively cooperate so that RC becomes basic knowledge and collective interest for all those involved in environment, safety and health.

There is a saying from an old Chinese book that if a tangerine crosses the water it becomes a hardy orange. I believe that with RC becoming the core of environment, safety, and health in the chemical industry internationally, making an effort to bring RC to its full fruition in Korea is worthwhile and valuable enough for those who are involved in the Korean chemical industry.



● Daelim Industrial petrochemical business division has been certified for its safety, health, environment and quality-combined management system

Daelim Industrial(CEO : Joo-Hee Han) was SEQMS 31001:2002 certified for its safety, health, environment, quality-combined management system by KGS-QA/SGS on May 15, 2006. Daelim Industrial has been continuing its efforts to improve not only quality, but environment, safety, and health improvements by continuously gaining certifications in ISO 9001:2000 quality management system, ISO 14001:2004 environment management system, OHSAS 18001:1999 safety management systems

The recent certification for the integrated management system satisfies all the certifications including ISO 9001, ISO 14001and OHSAS 18001, and therefore, it is recognized throughout Korea as well as the rest of the world.

● LG MMA gets Green Energy Excellence award

LG MMA (CEO: Han-Sup Kim) was awarded the grand prize for the '2006 Green Energy Excellence Award' held by the Korea Daily and sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy, Ministry of Environment, and Korea Energy Management Corporation. Other companies such as Kumho P&B Chemicals, Aekyung Petrochemical, SK Corporation and SK Chemicals also gained awards.

LG MMA applied a state-of-the-art green process system that uses a butylene gas-oxidation method. Next-generation PMMA plant systems using bulk curing methods for high-quality PMMA production used on LCD light guide plates, do not produce polluted water, and it is being assessed as a pro-environmental process that allows for PMMA production.

LG MMA not only focuses on pro-environmental processes, but is also taking a role as a leader in energy conservation through its 'Energy conservation and self-imposed green house gas emission reduction agreement' and 'Energy saving program'.

● LG MMA 2006 Environmental Report Published

LG MMA (CEO Han-Sup Kim) published its '2006 Environmental Report'. This report comprises 44 pages of content regarding 'Environment effects and performance', 'Partnerships with stakeholders' and 'Sustainable environment management'.

● KRCC new member

During the first half of 2006 four companies have become new members – Schenker Korea (CEO Martin Bongard), Dongsung NSC (CEO Jae-Hoon Cho), Eka Chemicals Korea(CEO Andrew Leslie), and INEOS Korea (CEO Barry Slater).



● 1st 2006 Public Activities Committee Meeting

KRCC held its first 2006 Public Activities Committee Meeting at the council conference room at 11 am on June 20, with committee chairman Chang-Soo Lee (Rohm and Haas Korea, Director) and eight other members. In this meeting, the '2006 Outreach event plan' was reviewed.

● 2nd 2006 Board of Directors Meeting

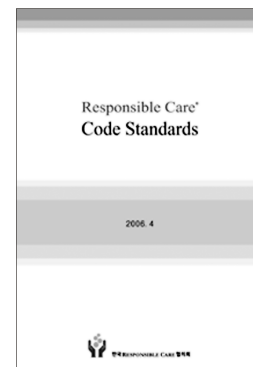
KRCC held the second 2006 Board of Directors Meeting at 2 pm on June 30, at the Seowon Valley G.C with KRCC chairman Bum-Sik Chong and 12 other board members present. The second 2006 meeting was planned as a sporting event. The board of directors reviewed '2006 business status report', and 'Outreach program progress report'.

● 2nd 2006 General Affairs Meeting

KRCC held the second 2006 General Affairs Meeting at 3pm on July 21, at the Lotte Daesan Petrochemical, Daesan plant conference room with committee chairman Joo-hyun Kim and four other members present. The committee reviewed '2006 budget forecast execution report and 2nd half of 2006 business plan report', 'Outreach program funding report'.

● Revised RC code book published

On April 14, the KRCC added two new codes (Distribution, Product Stewardship) to the four previous codes (Employee health and safety, Process safety, Pollution prevention, Emergency response) and expanded and revised the 'Emergency response' code to 'Community Awareness and Emergency response'. The RC code book was revised and published to be distributed to all member companies. With that, Korea has now entered the 6-code system that is standard for RC activity internationally.



● 2005 RC Activity Self-Assessment Results

KRCC conducted a self assessment for RC member companies. There were 43 member companies joined, and average implementation status was assessed as IA (set actions for goals commenced in realizing, but not at establishment level) and each average per code are as follows:

- Employee health and safety code : average score 4.7 (IA)
- Process safety code : Average score 4.5 (IA)
- Pollution prevention code : Average score 4.4 (IA)
- Emergency response code : Average score 4.5 (IA)