Editorial

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I can introduce the first issue of ICRL in 2019. After a successful first year we are excited to bring you more insightful Articles, Reports and Case Notes in the coming issues. I am also happy to announce that in the months since the last issue we have made a valuable addition to the Editorial Board. Dr. Goh Choo Ta of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM, National University of Malaysia) brings with him 12 years' experience in the field of chemical governance and chemical safety and we look forward to drawing on his expertise and knowledge as we further develop ICRL.

To mark his inclusion in the ICRL Team Dr. Choo Ta and his colleagues from the Department of Occupational Safety and Health, the Ministry of Human Resources and the Institute for Environment and Development have contributed a fascinating article on the chemical classification and labelling system in Malaysia before and after the introduction of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS). Charting the course of chemical safety regulation in Malaysia since the introduction of the 1967 Factories and Machinery Act up to the present day, Choo Ta et al outline the differences between the two regulations that were introduced to implement GHS in the country – the Occupational Safety and Health (Classification, Packaging and Labelling of Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations 1997 (CPL Regulations) and its replacement, the Occupational Safety and Health (Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheet of Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations 2013 (CLASS Regulations).

In our second lead article, Hanna Skarpos highlights the importance of technical equivalence assessment for active substances in crop protection and biocidal products. In addition to addressing the legal provisions of past directives and two current regulations (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009) and (Regulation (EU) No 528/2012), Dr Skarpos discusses the harmonised procedures for assessing technical equivalence of different sources.

In our Reports Section, Lynn Bergeson discusses an increasingly relevant topic: biobased chemicals. These chemicals, which are derived from plants and other renewables, offer both commercial and regulatory opportunities and challenges and as such deserve our attention. Although Ms Bergeson notes that there are considerable upsides in biobased chemical development as the public rewards alternative to petroleum-based chemistries, she does warn that a keen understanding of TSCA is vital if one aims to successfully commercialise such chemicals in the US.

In our report on South Korea, my colleagues Doris Peters, Ah-Reum Seo and I provide an overview of the legal requirements of the Korean Biocide Regulation (K-BPR) and Korean REACH (K-REACH) and highlight the similarities and distinctions with corresponding EU regulations. As well as noting that recent regulatory developments in South Korea reflect a wider global trend towards stricter regulation, we emphasise the need for increased for global data sharing.

Concluding the issue, Gérardine Garçon provides insight on the recent *Stichting Greenpeace Nederland and Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) v Commission* case. In her thought provoking analysis, Dr Garçon argues that the clarification of the Emissions Rule will be largely welcomed by industry. At this point I would like to thank everybody who contributed to this issue of ICRL and remind you that if you would like to submit a report or article, or have any suggestions, please contact me or our Executive Editor Jakob McKernan. In the meantime, please enjoy Issue 1/2019 of the *International Chemical Regulatory Law Review*.

Dieter Drohmann
Managing Editor