Editorial

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this edition of the International Chemical Regulatory and Law Review. As well as presenting our latest contributions on the legal and policy developments from across the globe, I am also happy to announce that Chemservice has officially partnered with Lexxion in publishing the ICRL. Under this new arrangement, I will take over the Editorial duties of the journal, which from now on will be published as open access. Reflecting the new direction of the journal, our Editorial Board has also some new additions: Kristian Fisher of SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz, Tobias Schulz of Nordostchemie, Ahmet Ecmel Yorganci of REACH Global Services and Volker Soballa of Evonik Industries. I am proud to be able to draw on this growing global network of experts from industry, federations, test institutions and authorities to provide readers with the most urgent updates in our field.

In this current issue, we have included three in depth articles and three reports. Our lead article by Nora Wang, Nadine He and Lancy Chen analyses the management of new chemical substances in China and in particular the MEE Order No. 12, which will take effect as of 1 January 2021. With an enhanced focus on environmental risks, the new scheme is expected to enable more efficient and targeted regulation and contribute to the country's environmental protection efforts.

Staying in Asia, Yu-Jeong Choi and So-Young Lee provide an overview of the regulation of biocidal products in South Korea. It is noted that compared to Korean-REACH (K-REACH), a much more comprehensive set of data is requested for K-BPR, which is basically a replication of the European Biocidal Product Regulation (EU-BPR). The article outlines the procedures for active substance approvals according to K-BPR, as the first significant tasks in the biocidal approval process in Korea.

Our final article, written by Lara Dickens, Managing Director of Chemservice UK and myself, examines the blurry boundary between the classification of biocides and cleaning agents. Due to a lack of clarity in the regulations and the absence of guidelines, especially in borderline areas of applications, the article attempts to differentiate between cleaning agents and a biocide application with an example from the pulp and paper industry to illustrate the relevant circumstances.

Starting with news from Turkey, our Reports Section provides updates from around the world. With the end of the KKDIK pre-registration phase just a matter of weeks away, the report by Yaprak Yüzak Kucukvar is essential reading for anyone aiming to be active in the Turkish market. And for those who intend to enter the cosmetics market in South Korea will find an overview on the status of cosmetics regulation worth reading. This issue concludes with a brief assessment of actions raised against the delegated Commission Regulation 2020/217 by Tobias Schulz.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue and would encourage all of you to reach out, should you wish to contribute to one of the next issues or if you have questions about any of the contributions or the new format of the journal.

In the meantime, have safe and happy holidays.

Dieter Drohmann
Managing Editor