Regional Overview (10 August 2003)

Malaysia : Will implement registration of all cosmetic products on sale in the country starting with Category I products from 1st January 2002, and Category II products from 1st January 2003. Registration includes the submission of Certificate of Free Sale (CFS) and Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).

Thailand : According to a reliable source, Thailand may embark on the fast-track to harmonization of cosmetics by moving directly to a post-marketing surveillance system with a main feature of self-regulation by importers, wholesalers and manufacturers, which will ensure the products they are promoting are of high quality and safe, and the government merely adopts a monitoring role.

INDONESIA : Perksomi, the national trade association has just elected a new board of officials for the term of office Year 2001 to 2005. The President is Mr Tonny Pranatadjaja from P.T. Unlever and the Secretary General is Mr Aswin Adiatiawan.

PHILIPPINES : ASEAN COSMETICS ASSOCIATION, INC. the regional ASSOCIATION is made up of 5 founder members : Perksomi (Persatuan Perusahaan Kosmetika Indonesia), CCIP (Chamber of Cosmetics Industry of the Philippines), TTCMA (The Thai Cosmetic Manufacturers Association), FMM-MCTIG (Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers - Cosmetics and Toiletries Industry Group) and CTFAS. Based in Manila, it becomes a legal body on 21st November 2001. The President for the term of office Year 2003-2005 is Mr Tonny Pranatadjaja from Perkosmi, and the Vice-President is Ms Ketmanee Lerkitcha of TCMA. Mr Tonny Pranatadjaja, ACA Inc. President will be presenting a paper on "Harmonisation of Asean Cosmetic Regulations" in Tokyo on 21 October 2003.

SINGAPORE : CTFAS contributed a "Safety Evaluation/Post Market Surveillance proposal" to the Singapore Health Sciences Authority in June 2001, and the paper was relayed to the Asean body set up to harmonise cosmetic regulations, for deliberation, prior to possible adoption. In December 2001, the CTFAS and the Singapore Health Sciences Authority will jointly undertake a survey amongst importers/ manufacturers and assemblers of cosmetic products on the extent of the need for the issuance of Certificate of Free Sale and Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practice.

JAPAN : Japan's MHLW has recently tightened the regulations, covering the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE / TSE / Mad Cow Disease) on all cosmetics, Quasi-Drugs, Medical Devices and OTC Drugs / Drugs containing materials of animal and human origin. Manufacturers need to check all materials for the "virus" inactivation process, and those materials that do not meet the inactivation requirement require notification and the MHLW approval for use. In practice, all suppliers of raw materials need to furnish a statement confirming that the raw materials are free from BSE. This ruling now covers all countries of origin, (v.s. previously the BSE countries only)

KOREA : The Korea FDA (KFDA) has introduced a Self Audit System for all of cosmetic and drug companies in March 2001. And there were some training and workshop for successful implementation of this self audit system by KFDA. This Self Audit System is similar with cGMP Internal Audit System. Of course as it is made on the base of local regulatory , there is a little different check list. The objective for Self Audit system is to set up a Self Check system by the company itself (as is the standard practice by some companies like J & J and P & G) to prevent recurrence of problem for manufacturing and/ or import of cosmetic and drug. By the self audit system, one has to report the self audit result reports by quarter.