2012 ICARHMA Annual Meeting Hosted by JRAIA in Kyoto, Japan
Future industry trends, refrigerant research project, non-tariff barriers to trade among topics discussed

The International Council of Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Heating Manufacturers’ Associations (ICARHMA) held its Annual Meeting in Kyoto, Japan, October 22 – 24, 2012, with an action-packed agenda of business meetings and networking activities. The Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association (JRAIA) was the 2012 host; Mr. Shinya Okada of Daikin Industries presided as Chairman. Attendees included ICARHMA members from Australia (AREMA), Brazil (ABRAVA), Canada (HRAI), China (CRAA), Europe (EPEE), Japan (JRAIA), and the United States (AHRI). ICARHMA members Eurovent (Europe) and KRAIA (Korea) were unable to attend, but provided valuable information before the start of the meeting.

The meeting began with a preview presentation, Environmental Activities in the Air Conditioning Sector in Japan, by Mr. Satoru Fujimoto of Daikin Industries. The presentation dealt with Japanese research on the flammable characteristics of the refrigerant R-32. The paper will be presented at the International Symposium on New Refrigerants and Environmental Technology, November 8 and 9, 2012, in Kobe, Japan.

Members provided up-to-date reviews of governmental and association activities in their respective regions, on such issues as future industry, regulatory and sustainability trends, energy efficiency and minimum efficiency performance standards (MEPS), labeling requirements, refrigerant policies, certification and market surveillance programs, renewable energy regulations, producer responsibility regulations, and green building codes. Members also shared relevant research projects for refrigerants and discussed the challenges industry face regarding non-tariff trade barriers.

Members agreed that refrigerant choice and energy efficiency remain as major drivers in the global business environment and that absent progress on an HFC phase-down at the international level, the void was being filled by national and regional governments who approach the issue on a regulatory and sometimes tax basis. The effect is increased market uncertainty for the world’s OEMs. Members also agreed that the proliferation of government verification programs to enforce Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) has the potential of creating non-tariff barriers to trade. Members asked the Secretariat to prepare study papers on these subjects.

ICARHMA’s Working Group Meeting will be Sunday, January 27, 2013, in Dallas, Texas, USA, in conjunction with the AHR Expo. The Brazilian Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Ventilation Industry Association (ABRAVA) will host the 2013 Annual ICARHMA meeting in October in Rio de Janeiro.

About ICARHMA
The International Council of Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Heating Manufacturers’ Association (ICARHMA) is an organization that represents a significant share of the global HVACR industry. The nine members of ICARHMA represent
over a US $225 billion industry and over 1,000 manufacturers of heating, cooling, and refrigeration equipment. ICARHMA members represent an industry that employs more than 2 million people in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Europe, Japan, Korea, and the United States. ICARHMA is actively involved in representing the global industry on issues related to energy efficiency, climate change, and environmental stewardship. The Council currently includes members from Australia, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association of Australia (AREMA); Brazil, Brazilian Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Ventilation Industry Association (ABRAVA); Canada, Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI); China, China Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association (CRAA); Europe, European Committee of Air-Handling, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers (Eurovent) and European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE); Japan, Japan Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Association (JRAIA); Korea, Korea Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Association (KRAIA); and the U.S., Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI).