

*The Environmental Monitoring Report
on the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
in Japan*



*Environmental Health Department
Ministry of the Environment
Government of Japan*

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PREFACE

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs), such as PCBs and DDT, are transferred across borders and are accumulated in the bodies of living organisms. As a result, POPs are causing pollution on a global scale. For example, they have been detected in the bodies of polar bears and seals.

In order to prevent global environmental pollution caused by such substances, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted in Stockholm in May 2001. The Convention has an objective of reducing or eliminating 12 types of POPs, such as PCBs, DDT and dioxins, through cooperation with countries around the world. Japanese Government seeks early access to the Convention and thereby the early entry into force.

After the Convention is put into effect, it gets more important to make sure of its appropriate implementation. For that purpose, it will be necessary to monitor the levels of the POPs remaining in the environment on a national, regional and global basis. Thus, it will become more crucial to conduct environmental surveys relating to POPs in every country and to share the survey results.

Triggered by the environmental pollution problems caused by PCBs, Ministry of the Environment of Japan has systematically been carrying out a survey to determine the actual state of environmental pollution caused by chemicals, including POPs, over a 30-year period. This survey has clarified the year-to-year changes in the concentration of several types of POPs in the environment in Japan. The survey also identified the concentration levels of 794 chemicals in the environment. By including these, this survey has led to many achievements. Therefore, in the hope of contributing to international progress in measures to counter POPs, we have developed this report and release it to the international community.

This report comprises three chapters. Chapter 1 shows monitoring data on POPs, which are extracted from the results of the survey to determine the actual state of environmental pollution caused by chemicals. Chapter 2 and Chapter 3, respectively, are summaries of the survey results relating to chemicals other than POPs and an outline of the survey to determine the actual state of environmental pollution caused by chemicals. In addition, in the CD-ROM version, technical guidelines relating to the monitoring of environmental chemicals and so forth have been enclosed as appendix. It would please us greatly if this report were to be utilized as a reference material for measures relating to POPs.

In F.Y. 2002, Ministry of the Environment of Japan initiated higher-level environmental monitoring of all the POPs covered by the Convention in order to contribute to its future effectiveness evaluation. We also plan to release information about new POPs monitoring activities as soon as we obtain the results of the survey.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BHC(HCH)	Benzenehexachloride (Hexachloro cyclohexane)
DDD	Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane
DDE	Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
HCB	Hexachlorobenzene
PBDDs	Polybrominated dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins
PBDFs	Polybrominated dibenzofurans
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PCDDs	Polychlorinated dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins
PCDFs	Polychlorinated dibenzofurans
PCNB	Pentachloronitrobenzene
PCP	Pentachlorophenol
TCTP	Tetrachlorothiophene
TeCDD	Tetrachlorodibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxin
TPN	Tetrachloroisophthalonitrile

F.Y.	Fiscal Year (From April to March)
MOE	Ministry of the Environment
ND	Not Detected
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
TDI	Tolerance Daily Intake
TEF	Toxicity Equivalent Factor
TEQ	Toxicity Equivalency Quantity
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

