

**Fifteenth Workshop on
Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
in East Asian Countries
November 28-30, 2023, Savoy Hotel Manila, Metro Manila, Republic of the
Philippines**

**Chairpersons' Summary
November 30, 2023**

Chairpersons: SODENO Reiko
SHIBATA Yasuyuki

(Opening of 15th POPsEA Workshop)

- 1 The 15th Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in East Asian Countries commenced on November 28, 2023 at Savoy Hotel Manila, Metro Manila, Republic of the Philippines.
- 2 The workshop was organised by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippines. Government officials and technical experts from 9 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, online) and resource person from Environment and Climate Change Canada participated in the Workshop.
- 3 Dr. SHIOZAKI Takuya, the secretariat of Workshop, Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) started the workshop by welcoming opening speaker.
- 4 The opening addresses were delivered by Ms. YOSHIKAWA Keiko, Director of Environmental Health and Safety Division, Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Engr. Esperanza SAJUL the Assistant Director of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Philippines. They expressed their willingness to contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.
- 5 Prof. SODENO Reiko, Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT) and Dr. SHIBATA

Yasuyuki, Emeritus Researcher, National Institute for Environmental Studies were designated as the chairperson and co-chairperson of the workshop, respectively. The participants confirmed and accepted the draft agenda.

(Background and objectives)

6 Participants noted the following presentations:

- (1) Introduction to the 15th Workshop by Mr. FUKUZAWA Manabu (MOEJ), and;
- (2) Overview of the past activities of Environmental POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries (POPsEA Project), by the secretariat

(Consideration on the Implementation of the Capacity Building under the POPsEA Project)

7 Participants noted the following presentations:

- (1) Progress and Future Plan of the Capacity Building under the POPsEA Project, by Dr. SHIOZAKI Takuya (JESC), and;
- (2) Status of the Capacity Building of POPs Analysis, by the delegates from Thailand, the Philippines.

8 Participants noted the most challenging issues for the capacity building and recognised the significance of easier procurement of the standards and improvement of the accumulated information on the analytical technologies.

9 Participants also noted the Expectation of the Participation in Capacity Building on POPs Analysis, by the delegate from Mongolia.

10 Participants recognised the significance of effective partnership with academia for challenging to expand the scope of monitoring items.

11 Participants noted the Outcome and Future Implementation of POPs Analysis Training Course, by Republic of Korea (Video)

(Result of the Third Global Monitoring Report and Future POPs Monitoring for the Effectiveness Evaluation)

12 Participants noted following presentations:

- (1) Summary of Third Global Monitoring Report and Progress of the Effectiveness

Evaluation of the Stockholm Convention, by Ms. Kei Ohno WOODALL (BRS Secretariat), and;

- (2) Consideration on the Future Sustainability of POPs Monitoring, by Ms. Haosong JIAO (UNEP).

- 13 Participants recognised that the continuous collaboration of POPsEA Project with GEF project will be expected.

(Consideration of Future Activities on POPs Monitoring in the Member Countries)

- 14 Participants noted the presentation of Future Activities on POPs Monitoring in the Member Countries, by the delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- 15 Participant noted the significance of mutual cooperation and continuous communication among the member countries under the POPsEA Project as a framework of the POPs monitoring network in this region.
- 16 Secretariat noted the importance of selection of analytical methodology in accordance with the objectives of the monitoring, as for the analysis of PCBs. Furthermore, no requirement on the number of the monitoring isomers and congeners for the monitoring in the Guidance Document of the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) is also noted.
- 17 Participant noted the requirement of implementing frequency of POPs monitoring and recognised that the monitoring frequency can be decided according to the capacity of each country.
- 18 Participant noted the selection of the POPs chemicals for the monitoring survey in Japan and recognised the consideration on the significance of selection of POPs chemicals for monitoring with the proper frequency.
- 19 Participant noted the interest on the utilisation of private testing laboratories for implementing POPs monitoring as a structure of the monitoring framework of Japan.

The workshop was divided into Policy Group meeting and Expert Working Group meeting on the second day.

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**15th Workshop on
Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
in East Asian Countries**

**Policy Group meeting
November 30, 2023
Summary**

Chairperson: SODENO Reiko (Japan)

Cambodia:	Channarith RO
Indonesia:	Fery WIHASTORO
Japan:	FUKUZAWA Manabu
Lao PDR:	Aloune SAYAVONG
Mongolia:	Enkhtuul SURENJAV
Philippines:	Jose Joel Dedace MALEON
Singapore:	Jia Lin Nikki LEE
Thailand:	Piyanan UDOMTANG
Vietnam:	Yen Thanh NGUYEN
BRS Secretariat:	Kei Ohno WOODALL
Resource persons from Japan:	
	NAKANO Takeshi
	SUZUKI Noriyuki
Secretariat:	SHIOZAKI Takuya
	OSHIKIRI Ayaka

After confirming the summary of Plenary Session on November 29, 2023, Policy Group meeting was opening.

(Future Plan of POPsEA)

- 1 Participants noted the presentation the Future Implementation Plan of the Background Monitoring under the POPsEA, by the secretariat.
- 2 Participant clarified the implementation procedures for the POPs monitoring including the site selection and interval and recognised that the contribution level for

the implementation is considered in accordance with the capacity and budgetary preparation of the member countries.

- 3 POPs sampling in Thailand was planned to implement in 2024 after obtaining the approval of the Thai government. Furthermore, the possibility of implementing over-all POPs monitoring activities in accordance with the progress of the capacity building programme was recognised.
- 4 Participant noted the significance of mutual cooperation in the region.
- 5 Considering the future implementation of GEF project explained by UNEP in the plenary session, the significance of the preparation for applying the possible member countries to the GEF project was pointed out.
- 6 Participants clarified that the monitoring data submitted to COP in 2027 would be accommodated with the GMP4, the regional monitoring report.
- 7 Participants clarified that the monitoring results would be reported to the implementing countries after data quality verification.
- 8 The relocation of the monitoring sites in Sihanoukville, Cambodia and Tam Dao, Vietnam was considered due to the development of those areas.
- 9 The future implementation plan of the background monitoring under the POPsEA was adopted as shown in Annex III.
- 10 Participants noted the presentation of the Future Plan of Capacity Building Activities under the POPsEA, by the secretariat.
- 11 Participants clarified the procedure for joining the Core Laboratories capacity building programme. The document for nominating the Core Laboratories would be sent to the countries which have willingness to join the programme from the secretariat. The designation of the additional Core Laboratories would be considered with the limitation of the budget of the POPsEA project.
- 12 Participants recognised that the target POPs chemicals including new POPs focused

on the Core Laboratories capacity building programme were considered in accordance with the priority of each hosting country.

- 13 Participants recognised the significance of challenge to succeed the obtained skills and knowledge for the sustainability.
- 14 Participants agreed the future plan of capacity building activities under the POPsEA.

(Re-confirmation of Chairpersons' Summary of the POPsEA Workshop)

- 15 Participants noted the proposal on the re-confirmation of the Chairpersons' Summary of the POPsEA Workshop, by the secretariat.
- 16 Participant noted the importance of organising the platform for sharing information including past outcomes, primary agreements and technical documents to be utilised much easier. The secretariat should consider the preparation of website on POPsEA activities for above purpose.
- 17 Participants agreed the proposal on the re-confirmation of Chairpersons' Summary of the POPsEA Workshop.

(Proposal of Next POPsEA Workshop)

- 18 Secretariat proposed Japan as the venue of holding next POPsEA Workshop in 2025. Participants agreed the proposal.

The Policy Group meeting was closed.

**15th Workshop on
Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
In East Asian Countries**

**Expert Working Group meeting
29 November 2023**

Chairperson: Yasuyuki SHIBATA (Japan)

Participants:

Cambodia	Visal VAT
Indonesia	Yunesfi SYOFYAN
Lao PDR	Phetdala FAYKHAO
Mongolia	Undrakh NERGUI
Philippines	Roger Jr. Cayaban EVANGELISTA
Singapore	Natasha Binte JAMALI
Thailand	Suwanna BOONTANON
Vietnam	Hue Thi Minh NGUYEN

Resource persons:

Canada	Tomaz HARNER
Japan	Takeshi NAKANO
Japan	Yoshikatsu TAKAZAWA

Secretariat: Fumio KAJI

Dr. Yasuyuki SHIBATA, the chair of EWG meeting, stated opening remarks and explained outline of the agenda of the meeting.

(Progress and Results of POPs Monitoring under the POPsEA)

1. Participants noted the results of cooperative monitoring in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, the sampling activity in Terelj, Mongolia, the results of supersite monitoring in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, and those of supersite monitoring in Hedo, Japan, reported by the delegates from Cambodia, Mongolia, Republic of Korea (via Video presentation), and Japan, respectively.
2. Participants welcomed the supersite monitoring activities in Republic of Korea and Japan, both of which reported long-term trend data that were qualified through their own QA/QC mechanism and provided basis to support effectiveness evaluation of the

Stockholm Convention.

3. Based on QA/QC assessment, participants agreed to accept majorities of high volume (HV) and passive air sampling (PAS) data on organochlorine pesticides and chlorobenzenes in Cambodia, except those on dieldrin and aldrin by HV. Participants noted inferior reliabilities of chlordanes and γ -HCH data by HV due to their unignorable blank levels.
4. Participants also noted high blank values and inconsistencies in duplicated analysis of some of PCB congeners by HV and PAS, and asked delegate of Cambodia to conduct detailed assessment on all the PCB congeners together with JESC and report the results to the EWG members.

(Evaluation and Consideration of PAS in POPsEA)

5. Participants noted the presentations on Significance and availability of passive air monitoring under the GMP by Dr Tom HARNER (Environment Canada), and Results and future consideration of the implementation of passive air monitoring under the POPsEA by Dr Fumio KAJI (secretariat, JESC).

(Sampling and Analysis Method of HCBd and Dechlorane Plus)

6. Participants noted presentations on Sampling method of HCBd and possibility to add it to target POPs under the POPsEA by the secretariat and Sampling and analytical method of Dechlorane Plus and its trend in Japan by Prof. NAKANO Takeshi (Osaka University).
7. Delegate of the Philippines asked possibility to monitor HCBd by Canister sampling. Chair pointed out insufficient sensitivity of the canister method for the analysis of ambient air HCBd. Delegate of Vietnam asked availability of Japanese HCBd monitoring method and the secretariat agreed to share the relevant information with delegate of Vietnam.