

THIRD WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs) IN EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

Chairperson's Summary

13th October 2005

1. The Third Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries was held in Tokyo (Japan) on 11th – 13th October, 2005. The Workshop was organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and attended by participants from 12 countries in the East Asian region, including governmental officials and technical experts from 8 countries (Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore and Socialist Republic of Vietnam), governmental official from 4 countries (Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Kingdom of Thailand). In addition, experts from United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Chemicals, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), United Nations University (UNU), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) and Stockholm University attended the Workshop.
2. Dr. Kazuko KAMIYA, Director of the Environmental Health and Safety Division, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, provided a welcoming and opening address.
3. Mr. Eisaku TODA, Japan, chaired the Workshop. Participants made presentations on the current situation of POPs monitoring and analytical capacity, and willingness to take part in the Background Air POPs Monitoring Project. Invited experts also made presentations on relevant topics including COP1 decisions, UNEP monitoring guidance document, UNEP GEF project on capacity building for POPs laboratories, experience in AMAP, and the Korean initiative on information warehouse. Copies of their presentations will be compiled in the proceedings of the Workshop.
4. The Workshop broke into two groups, the Policy Group (chair: Mr. Eisaku TODA) and the Expert Working Group (chair: Dr. Yasuyuki SHIBATA, Japan). The Policy Group discussed the following issues:
 - regional arrangement for contributing to the effectiveness evaluation under the Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention
 - Plan for the Background Air POPs Monitoring in East Asia; and
 - Input to the UNEP GEF project on the capacity building of POPs laboratoryThe summary report from the policy group is attached as Annex 1.
5. The Expert Working Group meeting was held as a second one after its meeting in January 2005 in Tokyo. The Group discussed the following issues:
 - Outcome from the Trial Background Air POPs Monitoring
 - Other background air monitoring activities
 - Technical plan for the Background Air POPs Monitoring for FY 2005The summary report from the Expert Working Group is attached as Annex 2.

6. The information from the Trial Monitoring, including the measured data and/or QA/QC information from Indonesia, Korea and Vietnam, was shared in the Expert Working Group. Korea provided the result from its study on the comparison of monitoring methods, but expressed concerns on data quality especially related to the low recovery rate of Aldrin, and the Workshop encouraged the full sharing of data by the Expert Working Group.
7. The summary results from the Trial Monitoring as described in the presentations at the Expert Working Group will be made available to the public as a part of the proceedings from the Workshop. Indonesia, Korea and Vietnam were invited to make any correction to the presentations by the middle of November and submit it to the Secretariat. Further issues for the full reporting of the Trial Monitoring including the data reporting format, evaluation of data quality and consideration of representativeness of background concentration, will be further discussed by means of e-mail communication as well as at the next meeting.
8. The Ministry of the Environment of Japan stated that it has budget for assisting the background air monitoring in three new countries for FY 2005, and also that it continues to request budget after FY 2006. The sampling for FY 2005 needs to be done by the end of December due to the constraints in the budget cycle. Countries that expressed interest in participation were invited to inform the Secretariat about the feasibility of conducting sampling by the end of 2005; ideas on site selection; and equipment needs including the high volume air sampler. The Secretariat will then consider the submitted information and plan for the sampling for FY 2005. There is still possibility for the countries to be selected for sampling in FY 2006. If less than three countries are identified for FY 2005 sampling, there will be room for assisting in the continuation of monitoring in Indonesia and Vietnam.
9. As agreed at the Policy Group, the Ministry of the Environment will act as a secretariat for the field testing of East Asian monitoring arrangement on an interim basis. It will liaise with the UNEP Secretariat to formally involve the countries in this activity, and work toward the submission of an interim progress report to COP2.
10. The Expert Working Group will continue discussion on issues for the establishment of regional monitoring and assessment, including criteria for background station to insure representativeness of a region, frequencies of monitoring, acceptability of existing data, consideration on the use of passive sampling methods as cost-effective means, including comparison with HV data, etc.
11. The Ministry of the Environment announced its intention to host the next workshop in September 2006. Synergies with possible regional UNEP workshop on effectiveness evaluation and also with GEF POPs Laboratory Project will be explored.
12. The Workshop expressed its gratitude to the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the National Institute for Environmental Studies and the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center for their efforts to organize this Workshop. Contribution by all the participants including invited experts was greatly appreciated.

ANNEX 1

Summary of the Policy Group Meeting

12 Oct 2005

Meeting Room 1, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Policy Group Participants List;

Mr. Phet Pichhara (Cambodia), Ms. Yumin Ge (China), Ms. Emma Rachmawaty (Indonesia), Mr. Eisaku Toda (Japan), Mr. Satoshi Sakaeda (Japan), Mr. Hiroyasu Ito (Japan), Dr. Takuya Shiozaki (Japan), Mr. Sivannakone Malivarn (Laos), Mr. Wan Azuan Bin Wan Omar (Malaysia), Mr. Battulga Purevdorj (Mongolia), Ms. Ella S. Deocadiz (Philippines), Mr. Jung-Yong LEE (Korea), Mr. Koh Chin Yong (Singapore), Ms. Nuchida Rungthawornwong (Thailand), Mr. Nguyen Thanh Yen (Viet Nam), Dr. Jeung-Sook Park (NOWPAP), Dr. Russel Shearer (Canada), Ms. Fatoumata Keita-Ouane (UNEP), Dr. Fukuya Iino (UNU).

1. Participants agreed that the effectiveness evaluation in Article 16 is an essential part of the Stockholm Convention and an important element of global efforts against POPs pollution. It was also noted that there is a competition of resources for the implementation of concrete measures for eliminating and reducing POPs.

2. Three options on monitoring were presented for the development of the scoping paper: low-cost option, equal-opportunity option and phased option. The third option, starting with existing programmes and enhancing activities to address regional specific needs depending on availability of resources, was supported as the most realistic one.

3. Participants agreed that East Asian countries will make collective efforts to contribute to the field-testing of the monitoring arrangements toward COP3. The Workshop discussed the following issues for the field-testing.

- Structuring the regional monitoring network
 - ◇ A flexible structure based on national monitoring is recommended. The arrangement should also include international capacity building elements.
- Variation in the degree of involvement of countries covered
 - Where is data generation capacity
 - ◇ Japan, Korea and Singapore have operational monitoring programmes in place
 - ◇ United Nations University operates monitoring in China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
 - ◇ There are other measurement experiences in the Philippines and Vietnam.
 - ◇ Cambodia, Laos and Mongolia have no monitoring experience.
 - How should data be generated (sampling analysis)? By whom?
 - ◇ Sampling and analysis may be done differently. Analysis will be done where capacity exists. Samples may be divided for parallel analyses for capacity building and quality control purposes.

- POPs to be covered
 - ◇ Countries should set their priority on the substances to be measured. First focus may be on chemicals that had been used in the country.
 - ◇ Also PCDDs, PCDFs and co-PCBs should be covered, depending on resources
 - ◇ Other POPs may be covered to provide a comprehensive picture.
 - ◇ The Group discussed criteria for the evaluation of the measured data, and agreed that consideration of global movement and accumulation is needed rather than local evaluation.
- Matrices to be covered
 - ◇ The East Asia Background Air Monitoring covers air in line with the UNEP Guidance Document. Further consideration should be given to other matrices to measure transboundary movement of POPs.
 - ◇ Other media (water, sediment, biota, human) may be covered in national/regional programmes.
- Monitoring frequencies
 - ◇ UNEP Guidance Document recommends minimum once a year, and preferably four times a year for passive monitoring.
 - ◇ High volume sampling may be done weekly, but this will be very expensive.
 - ◇ Realistic consideration by experts is needed on the desirable monitoring frequencies.
- Number of sampling points for regional assessment
 - ◇ AMAP example was noted, where sampling is done at one representative data point from each of ten regions.
 - ◇ This is one of the issues for further consideration in the field-testing.
- How should data be compiled at regional level?
 - Identifying existing data in the region
 - ◇ UNEP Secretariat had requested governments, IGOs and other stakeholders to submit information. It was clarified that primarily brief information on existing monitoring programmes were expected. If data sets are readily available, these should also be submitted.
 - ◇ Participating countries will submit information by the end of November to facilitate the development of the scoping paper for COP2.
 - ◇ The information should also be shared with the Expert Working Group.
 - Acceptability of existing data
 - ◇ The requirements in the UNEP Guidance Document should be referred to. Expert consideration is needed during the field testing as to the application of these requirements to existing data.
 - Data handling and accessibility
 - ◇ Countries will consider the establishment of a data warehouse. This is an issue for discussion at the Workshop on Information Warehouse in Seoul in December.
- Data review and reporting capacity including integration of international data
 - Production of a substantive regional assessment report by a drafting team of experts selected by the Regional Group

- ◇ **AMAP example is noted where the secretariat and Expert Group assume the drafting task.**
- ◇ **A similar structure should be considered. The Ministry of the Environment of Japan will act as a secretariat on an interim basis, and the Expert Working Group will be utilized for expert consultation. Further consideration is needed for drafting arrangements.**
- **Interaction with the global level**
 - ◇ **The result from the field testing will be reported to COP3, where global implication will be discussed.**
- **Gaps and limitations**
 - ◇ **Only Japan, Korea and Singapore have sufficient analytical capacity and regular monitoring experience.**
- **What are the minimum capacity needed (institutional/technical)**
 - ◇ **Technical capacity building and training activities are needed, e.g. in sampling, analysis, and QA/QC. Capacity building needs will further be identified in the field-testing.**

4. The participants were invited to express their willingness to participate in the Background Air POPs Monitoring. Indonesia, Korea and Vietnam expressed their willingness to continue the activities. Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines and Thailand are willing to co-operate and will consider participation. China and Singapore will need consultation within the government.

5. With regard to the POPs Labs Project, participants are encouraged to positively respond to the request for information and participate in the Asia-Pacific Workshop in Beijing in December. The Workshop will discuss appropriate regional arrangement.