

**THE 2nd WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF PERSISTENT
ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs) IN EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES**
Chairperson's Summary

15th December 2003

1. The 2nd Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries ("the Workshop") was held in Tsukuba, Ibaraki prefecture, Japan on 14 and 15 December, 2003. The Workshop was hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the National Institute for Environmental Studies. Members from 10 countries in the East Asian region participated, including senior governmental officials and technical experts from Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, and the Republic of the Philippines; senior governmental officials from Indonesia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Singapore; and technical experts from the People's Republic of China and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Also in attendance were several experts from the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Chemicals and Global Environment Facility (GEF) and a technical expert from the GEF/UNEP Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) Programme.
2. Dr. Masatoshi Morita, Executive Acting Director of the National Institute for Environmental Studies, made an opening speech, in which he highlighted the importance of cooperation in tackling the problem of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
3. The Workshop shared information on international activities to evaluate the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention, including the outcomes of UNEP Chemical's workshop on Global POPs Monitoring Programme (GMP) held in March 2003. The Workshop was informed that draft guidelines on environment monitoring will be developed by GMP experts by March 2004.
4. In order to develop regional strategies, the Workshop discussed four issues which were also the subject of the GMP workshop:
 - Sample Matrices, Site Selection and Sampling Techniques;
 - Substances and Analytical Techniques;
 - QA/QC and Data Treatment; and
 - Data Communication.

Recognizing the necessity of information on the levels of POPs in the environment, the Workshop agreed that further efforts should be made to fill in the gaps in the data.

5. Based upon the results of the above discussion, the Workshop then discussed future projects for the region.

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan expressed its willingness to support regional activities on environmental monitoring by:

- providing technical support for sampling (e.g. air sampling);
- supporting the analysis of samples collected in the region, by offering training for POPs analysis; and
- contributing to data validation, QA/QC and the treatment of the data gained through above methods.

Participants welcomed Japan's offer and agreed to consider possible cooperation in these activities. In January 2004, The Ministry of the Environment of Japan will invite participating countries in the workshop to participate in trial phases that will start in 2004. The countries wishing to support these activities in the region are expected to contact Japan by the end of February 2004. The Republic of Korea expressed its general support of Japan's proposal and stated that the Republic of Korea will announce specifics of its contribution later. The Republic of Korea also stated that it was willing to contribute to the region's information warehouse on national/regional level activities related to POPs monitoring.

The Workshop determined that an expert-working group — the establishment of which was recommended in the first Workshop in 2002 — will discuss further the details of the proposed activities. The Workshop recognized the importance of both confidentiality and transparency of data.

6. The Workshop further discussed possible projects for the expert-working group. Options include the establishment of criteria on sites/species selection and the introduction of bioassay and bioanalytical tools. Some participants noted that the experts for the working group should be selected by government; others suggested that the Workshop should select candidates by considering the existing lists of experts participating in other related projects. The Workshop discussed the definition of region and concluded that the definition should be refined by reference (inter alia) to the resolutions made by delegates to the Stockholm Convention.
7. The Workshop acknowledged that financial and technical assistance are integral to promoting POPs monitoring in the East Asian region, and, therefore, further cooperation with international organizations was vital. In addition, the Workshop noted that UNU's ongoing activity in East Asia is a good model of capacity-building in the region.
8. The Workshop agreed that the outcome of this Workshop should be reported to the first conference of parties of the Stockholm Convention and the relevant international organizations/institutions, including the UNEP Chemicals.
9. The Workshop recommended supporting regional efforts to establish an appropriate framework for environmental monitoring of POPs in East Asia by taking into account the various conditions relevant to each of the countries in the region.
10. The Workshop agreed that further discussions on designing regional monitoring of POPs in the East Asian region should be continued in the third Workshop. The Ministry of the Environment and the National Institute for Environmental Studies of Japan have expressed their willingness to host the next Workshop.
11. The Workshop expressed its deep appreciation to the experts from UNEP Chemicals, GEF and GEF/UNEP PTS Project who contributed to the Workshop. The Workshop also expressed its gratitude to the Ministry of the Environment and the National Institute for Environmental Studies of Japan for having made an important contribution to this Workshop.