

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

Chairperson's Summary

3rd December 2002

1. A Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries was held in Tokyo (Japan) on 2nd and 3rd December, 2002. The Workshop was hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and participants from 10 countries in the East Asian region, including senior governmental officials and technical experts from 7 countries (Kingdom of Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines, Socialist Republic of Vietnam), senior governmental official from Kingdom of Thailand, and technical experts from People's Republic of China and Republic of Singapore participated. In addition, experts from United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Chemicals, UNEP/ROAP (Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as technical experts from the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and from the GEF/UNEP Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) Programme attended the Workshop.
2. Mr. Hideki MINAMIKAWA, Director General of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, provided an opening address by highlighting the importance of cooperative effort to address the POPs problem.
3. The Workshop shared information on the levels of 12 POPs in the environment in East Asian countries.
4. Recognizing insufficient information on the levels of POPs in the environment, the Workshop agreed that further efforts should be made to fill in the data gaps.
5. The Workshop recognized a need to draw an overall picture of environmental pollution caused by POPs in the East Asian region in response to the requirements of article 16 of the Stockholm Convention on POPs.
6. The Workshop stressed that regional cooperative efforts in the East Asian region are crucial for identifying the environmental levels of POPs.
7. The Workshop acknowledged that availability of financial and technical assistance is a key factor for the promotion of POPs monitoring in the East Asian region.
8. The Workshop discussed five issues that will be discussed at a UNEP Chemicals Workshop on Global POPs Monitoring scheduled for March 2003. Before addressing the five issues, the

definition of this region was discussed. The workshop recognized that the definition of the region should be refined by taking into account various elements (e.g., scientific reasons, existing institutional framework).

- 1) Assessment needs for the Stockholm Convention
 - It was recognized that assessment is needed through acquiring monitoring data on the presence, levels and trends of the POPs in the environment.
- 2) Choice of substances and analytical techniques;
 - Twelve POPs are the priority chemicals to be monitored, although new POPs are to be considered in the future.
- 3) Site selection, matrices and sampling techniques
 - Sampling strategies including sampling sites, environmental media and the necessary monitoring data will be decided.
 - Regional monitoring can also make use of national monitoring programs whose main purpose is to identify sources and national trends of contamination – if the strategy for sampling and analysis can be harmonized with regional programs.
- 4) Quality assurance/quality control and data treatment
 - Importance of QA/QC was recognized by the Workshop.
- 5) Data communication
 - Data communication is necessary for the effective sharing of data between scientists, governmental officials and policy makers, and for informing the general public.
 - Modeling can help prioritize the necessary media for the analysis.

The Workshop recognized the need to establish a working group comprised of experts designated by Governments in the region to discuss more details about the technical issues regarding the regional monitoring plan, including sampling and analytical methods, and harmonization of analytical protocols.

9. The Workshop agreed that the outcome of the discussions described in 8 should be fully reflected in the UNEP Chemicals Workshop on Global POPs Monitoring.
10. The Workshop recommended that regional efforts should be promoted to establish a framework for environmental monitoring of POPs that suits the East Asian region by taking into account all the various conditions relevant to the countries in the region.
11. The Workshop agreed that discussions on technical aspects for environmental monitoring of POPs in the East Asian region should be initiated by having a second Workshop. The Ministry of the Environment, Japan, expressed a willingness to host the Workshop.
12. The Workshop expressed its deep appreciation to the experts from UNEP Chemicals, UNEP/ROAP, GEF, AMAP and GEF/UNEP PTS Project who attended. The Workshop also expressed its thanks to the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, for hosting this Workshop as well as to the National Institute for Environmental Studies for making a great contribution to this Workshop.