

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

**Chairpersons' Summary
November 20, 2025**

Chairperson: SODENO Reiko
SHIBATA Yasuyuki

(Opening of 16th POPsEA Workshop)

- 1 The 16th Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in East Asian Countries commenced on November 18, 2025 at Bayside Hotel Azur Takeshiba, Tokyo, Japan.
- 2 The workshop was organised by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ). Government officials and technical experts from 10 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea (ROK), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam), Secretariats of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, online) and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS) participated in the Workshop.
- 3 Dr. SHIOZAKI Takuya, the secretariat of Workshop, Japan Environmental Sanitation Center started the workshop by welcoming opening speaker.
- 4 The opening address was delivered by Mr. TSUKADA Gen-ichiro, Director, Chemical Safety Division, Environmental Health Department, MOEJ.

(Designation of Chairpersons and Adoption of Agenda)

- 5 Prof. SODENO Reiko, Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT) and Dr. SHIBATA Yasuyuki, Emeritus Researcher, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) were designated as the chairperson and co-chairperson of the workshop, respectively.
- 6 Participants confirmed and adopted the draft agenda.

(Background and Objectives)

- 7 Participants noted the following presentations:

- (1) Introduction to the 16th Workshop by Mr. NISHIKAWA Genki (MOEJ), and;
- (2) Overview of the Past Activities of the Environmental POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries (POPsEA project), by the Secretariat.

8 Participants clarified the criteria for siting the background monitoring.

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

9 Participants noted the following presentations:

- (1) Progress and Future Plan of the Capacity Building under POPsEA by the Secretariat, and;
- (2) Status of the Capacity Building of POPs Analysis by the delegate from Thailand, the Philippines and ROK.

10 Participants noted following points:

- (1) The linkage between POPs monitoring activities and climate change mitigation
- (2) Availability of GC-MS/MS for the PCDDs/DFs and PCBs monitoring
- (3) The procedure for providing information on laboratories to the BRS Secretariat and contributing to the Laboratory Databank operated by UNEP
- (4) The procedure for participating in the Interlaboratory Assessment to be organized by UNEP
- (5) Availability and significance of GC/MS technique for the analysis of PFAS
- (6) Distribution of technical manuals on POPs analysis and harmonization of the analytical methods for POPs monitoring between Japan and ROK

11 BRS Secretariat noted the significance of sharing the harmonized technology at the global level.

(Future Direction of Global Monitoring Plan and Global Environment Facility (GEF) Global Chemical Monitoring Programme for the Fourth Global Monitoring Plan and Effectiveness Evaluation)

12 Participants noted the following presentations:

- (1) Future Plan towards Fourth Global Monitoring Plan and Effectiveness Evaluation of the Stockholm Convention by BRS Secretariat;
- (2) Progress and Implementation plan of UNEP/GEF Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme in Asia and Pacific by UNEP, and;
- (3) The plan of compiling the Asia Pacific regional report toward global report, by TAKAZAWA Yoshikatsu (NIES, Japan).

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

- 13 Participants noted the presentation by each member country.
- 14 Participants raised the significance of site re-location for the sustainable implementation of POPs monitoring in the East Asia sub-region.
- 15 The Secretariat highlighted the importance of implementing applicable POPs monitoring capacity development programmes among the POPsEA member countries.

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

(Review of the Policy Group Output)

- 16 Participants agreed to revise the reference to the “Fourth Effectiveness Evaluation” to “Fourth Global Monitoring Report” or “Fourth Global Monitoring Report and Effectiveness Evaluation,” consistent with terminology used under the Stockholm Convention.
- 17 Mongolia received clarification on the adjusted monitoring schedule. It was noted that the schedule is indicative and will be updated in line with progress in national capacity development.
- 18 The Policy Group summary was endorsed.

(Review of the Expert Working Group Output)

- 19 Participants agreed to specify the term “guidance document” as the “POPsEA guidance document”.
- 20 Participants took note of Mongolia’s proposal to prepare a scientific publication. It was acknowledged that any publication will require the prior endorsement of all participating countries and agreement on the use of national data.
- 21 References to satellite information will be expressed as “remote sensing data,” without naming specific agencies.
- 22 Revised wording was agreed to reflect the use of additional remote sensing information, the application of statistical methods and support for the preparation of scientific papers.

- 23 The Expert Working Group summary and the draft subregional report were adopted with the agreed amendments.

(Review of the Draft Chairpersons' Summary)

- 24 It was clarified that the laboratory databank is operated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), while the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Secretariat maintains the documentation submitted to the Conference of the Parties.

- 25 References to the "Fourth Effectiveness Evaluation" will be amended to "Fourth Global Monitoring Report" or "Global Monitoring Plan and Effectiveness Evaluation," consistent with established terminology.

- 26 The draft Chairpersons' Summary was approved for finalization following incorporation of the agreed changes.

(Closing of the Workshop)

- 27 The importance of sustained regional cooperation in support of the Stockholm Convention and the Fourth Global Monitoring Plan was underscored.

- 28 Upon closing, the participants expressed their sincere appreciation to the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and the Secretariat for their efforts to host and organise the 16th Workshop

- 29 The workshop was formally closed.

Appendix 1: Participants List

Appendix 2: Policy Group meeting Summary

Appendix 3: Expert Working Group meeting Summary

Appendix 1

Participants List

Cambodia

RO, Channarith

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MUDZARAP @ MANSOR, Mohd Shahrin

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SURENJAV, Enkhtuul

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Environmental Management Bureau Central Office

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United Nations Environment Programme

Secretariat

Japan Environmental Sanitation Center
Environmental Sciences Department

SHIOZAKI, Takuya: Senior Manager

KASHIMA, Yuji: Senior Manager

HORIUCHI, Yutaka: Deputy Director

TAKEUCHI, Tomonori: Manager

BAN, Satomi: Manager

KAJI, Fumio: Chief

Appendix 2

16th Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in East Asian Countries

Policy Group meeting November 19, 2025 Summary

Chairperson:	SODENO Reiko, Japan
Cambodia:	Channarith RO
Indonesia:	Widyaningrum SIWI
Japan:	NISHIKAWA Genki
ROK:	CHUNG David
Lao PDR:	Dalivanh LUANGLATH
Malaysia:	Nur Ain Husna AMIRUDDIN
Mongolia:	Batzorig LKHANGVASUREN
The Philippines:	Stephen YECPOT
Thailand:	Piyanan UDOMTANG
Viet Nam:	Uyen PHAN Thi To
BRS Secretariat:	Kei OHNO
UNEP:	Haosong JIAO
Resource person from Japan:	SUZUKI Noriyuki
Secretariat:	SHIOZAKI Takuya, HORIUCHI Yutaka, BAN Satomi and SUGIMOTO Mitsuyo

(Future Direction of POPSEA and Contribution to the Fourth Global Monitoring Report and Effectiveness Evaluation)

- 1 Participants noted the following presentations:
 - (1) Implementation plan of Supersite Monitoring in Viet Nam by Viet Nam
 - (2) Future Implementation Plan of the Background Monitoring under the POPSEA Project by the Secretariat
- 2 Participants noted the plan of future implementation of cooperative POPs monitoring under

the POPsEA project as follows:

Draft implementation plan of POPs monitoring under the POPsEA project

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Japan	M-S	M-S	M-S	M-S	M-S	M-S
Republic of Korea	M-S	M-S	M-S	M-S	M-S	M-S
Thailand	Q-S	Q-S	Q-S	Q-S	Q-S	Q-S
the Philippines	Q-S	Q-S	Q-S	Q-S	Q-S	Q-S
Viet Nam		Q-S			Q-S	
Mongolia			S-C			S-C
Indonesia		S-C			S-C	
Cambodia				C		
Lao PDR						C
Malaysia	C					

M-S: monthly-supersite, Q-S: quarterly-supersite,
S-C: strategic-cooperative, C: cooperative

- 3 Participants recognised consideration on the re-location of the monitoring site
- 4 Participants noted the consideration on the further capacity development programme after confirming the existing capacity and expectation of the parameter(s) to be improved.
- 5 Participants noted the significance of the collaboration of POPsEA project with UNEP/GEF GCMP project.

(Finalising of Sub-regional Report of POPsEA project)

- 6 Participants noted the following presentation:
 - (1) How to finalize and get approval of the Sub-Regional Report of POPsEA Project by the Secretariat.
- 7 The Secretariat explained the procedure for finalising the 4th Sub-regional Report, and the proposal was accepted.

(Calling of the co-hosting country of the Next POPsEA Workshop)

- 8 Participants noted the following presentation:
 - (1) Proposal of calling of co-hosting country of the next POPsEA Workshop by the Secretariat
- 9 Participant recognised that Thailand or Viet Nam will be decided for the venue of the next POPsEA workshop in 2027 with communicating after this workshop.

The Policy Group meeting was closed.

Appendix 3

16th Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in East Asian Countries

Expert Working Group meeting 19 November 2025 Summary

Chairperson:	Dr. Yasuyuki SHIBATA
Cambodia:	Visal VAT
Indonesia:	Siswanto Adi WIJANARKO
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ROK:	Sukmin YU
Lao PDR:	Thilakone SISOUPHANH
Malaysia:	Mohd Shahrin MUDZARAP@MANSOR
Mongolia:	Enkhtuul SURENJAV
Thailand:	Methawaj RUNGSIRIWORAPONG
the Philippines:	Sammy AYTONA
Resource persons from Japan:	
	Dr. Takumi TAKASUGA
	Dr. Yoshikatsu TAKAZAWA
	Prof. Takeshi NAKANO
Secretariat:	Tomonori TAKEUCHI, Yuji KASHIMA and Fumio KAJI

(Progress and Results of POPs Monitoring under the POPsEA)

1. Participants noted the results of supersite monitoring in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, those of supersite monitoring in Okinawa, Japan, the results of cooperative monitoring in Terelj, Mongolia, and those of cooperative monitoring in Khao Yhai National Park, Thailand, reported by the delegates from Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia and Thailand, 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. The secretariat proposed additional clarification of data acceptance criteria.
 - The data with surrogate recoveries between 40 and 120 % will be accepted while those outside of the range will be shown as reference values.
 - When either operational blank or travel blank is detected, blank-subtraction by using the higher one of the two will be conducted and the subtracted data will be accepted when it is more than twice the blank value, deleted if it is equal or less than the blank, and shown as reference value if it is in between the blank and twice the blank.

Participants discussed and agreed to this proposal.

4. According to the criteria, almost all monitoring data were accepted except for the following:
 - Aldrin was shown as reference value while dieldrin, trans-chlordane, PCB#118, 105, and 138 were deleted in HV sampling data in Mongolia.
 - Aldrin was shown as reference value while dieldrin was deleted in HV sampling data in Thailand.
5. Participants shared information regarding QA/QC method in Republic of Korea and in Japan. It was requested that preparation method of surrogate will be written in guidance document of POPsEA project.

(Review of the Sub regional report of POPsEA Project)

6. Secretariat explained compilation plan of the sub regional report with examples of trend analysis and long-range transport in this sub region by showing PCB#11, HCH, and DDTs data.
7. Participants raised ideas including the use of additional information, such as remote-sensing data, to analyse POPs monitoring data more efficiently, as well as applying statistical method to the data and supporting the publication of scientific papers.

(Latest Topics on POPs Monitoring)

8. Participants noted presentation on current monitoring situation and trend on hexachloro-1,3-butadiene (HCBd) by Dr. SHIBATA.

The Expert Working Group meeting is closed.