

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

Chairperson's Summary

22nd November 2007

1. The Fifth Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries was held at Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto on 20th – 22nd November, 2007.
2. The Workshop was organised by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOE), and participants, both government officials and technical experts, from 10 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam).
3. Dr. Hirotosugu KIMURA, Director of the Environmental Health and Safety Division, MOE, provided opening address.
4. Ms. Yoko MASUZAWA, Associate Professor of Tottori University of Environmental Studies, chaired the Workshop.
5. Participants noted the following presentations:
 - (1) Background and Objectives of POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries, by Mr. Ichiro TSUNOI, MOE;
 - (2) Outcome from the Inception Workshop of the Asia-Pacific Regional Organization Group, by Dr. Yasuyuki SHIBATA, Division Head, National Institute for Environmental Studies of Japan (NIES); and
 - (3) Application of POPs Monitoring Data to the Modelling of Environmental Transportation, by Dr. Noriyuki SUZUKI, NIES.
6. Participating countries in the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries made presentations on their activities related to POPs monitoring and implementation of Stockholm Convention.
7. The sampling, analysis and QA/QC of the background monitoring conducted in FY2006

were reported by the Secretariat, the detailed monitoring results were presented by the corresponding countries and the reported data were reviewed by the participants.

8. The participants agreed on producing a revised version of “Background Air Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries 2004-2006” (hereinafter referred to as “the revised report”), by making necessary amendments to the data as well as adding the results of FY2006 background monitoring to it. The participants also agreed that the revised report would be submitted to the Regional Organization Group (ROG) in order to contribute to the effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention.
9. It was also agreed by the Workshop that an addendum of the results of FY2007 background monitoring to the revised report (hereinafter referred to as “the addendum”) would be produced, and would also be submitted to the ROG in time for their preparation of its Regional Report.
10. The schedules for producing the revised report as well as the addendum were agreed by the participants as shown in the Annex 3.
11. The Workshop was divided into two groups: the Policy Group (Chair: Ms. Yoko MASUZAWA) and the Expert Working Group (Chair: Dr. Yasuyuki SHIBATA).
12. The Policy Group meeting was held as a third one after its meeting in September 2006 in Kyoto. The Group discussed the following issues:

(1) Additional monitoring data which may contribute to the effective evaluation;

(2) The plan for the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries in FY2007; and

(3) Future direction and plan of the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries.

The summary report from the Policy Group is attached as Annex 1.

13. The Expert Working Group meeting was held as a fourth one after its meeting in September 2006 in Kyoto. The Group discussed the issues on:
 - (1) Review of the FY2006 background monitoring data ;
 - (2) Candidate chemicals under review by the POPRC that could be listed in Annexes of Stockholm Convention; and

- (3) The revision for the “Guidance on the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants”.

The summary report from the Expert Working Group is attached as Annex 2.

14. Taking note of the reports from these two groups, the Workshop welcomed the tangible results from the past activities, expressed its expectations to the participating countries for their continued efforts, also expressed its expectations to MOE, NIES and the Japan Environmental and Sanitation Center (JESC) for their continued technical support, and :

- (1) The Workshop welcomed the start of background monitoring in Lao PDR and Malaysia as well as the monitoring in Mongolia in FY2007;

- (2) The Workshop agreed that more frequent sampling would be started at “super sites” in FY2008 and identification of the additional “super sites” and the sampling frequency would be discussed in the next Workshop;

- (3) The participating countries were encouraged to explore other existing monitoring data which may contribute to the effectiveness evaluation in response to the request by the ROG; and

- (4) The Workshop recognised that the analytical laboratory should be fixed for the purpose of ensuring sustainability of the monitoring and quality and comparability of its data.

15. MOE announced its intention to host the next Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries in autumn 2008.

16. Participants expressed their gratitude to MOE, NIES and JESC for their efforts to organise this Workshop.

END

Summary report of the 3rd Policy Group (PG) meeting

21 November 2007

Venue: Kyoto International Conference Center, Room G

Chair: Ms. Yoko Masuzawa (Tottori University of Environmental Studies)

Participants: Mr. Heng Nareth (Cambodia),
Ms. Dwi Astuti Endah Prihantiningtyas (Indonesia),
Mr. Yoichi Kamiya, Mr. Osamu Yamashita (Japan),
Dr. Sue-Jin Kim (Republic of Korea),
Mr. Thavone Vongphosy (Lao PDR),
Ms. Rohani Jusoh (Malaysia),
Mr. Enkhee Gavaa (Mongolia),
Ms. Maria Cristina A. Francisco (the Philippines),
Ms. Pattanan Tarin (Thailand) and
Dr. Takuya Shiozaki (Secretariat, Japan Environmental Sanitation Center)

(Existing data)

1. A summary of the previous COPs and the Inception Workshop was presented by the secretariat for better understanding of the background. Then the participants were asked if there are possible Group 1 data or any other monitoring data which may contribute to the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention but have not yet been reported to or recognised by the ROG.
2. The Philippines referred that the completed human breast milk project by another department. Indonesia referred that some results might be reported on breast milk sampling, but coordination between different department and university would be needed. Republic of Korea reported that human blood and breast milk were monitored by the Korea Food and Drug Administration. Malaysia stated that some pesticide monitoring data might be available but coordination between numerous departments would be needed. Mongolia stated that sampling would be carried out for both soil and water next year.
3. The participants were reminded that they would be requested by the ROG later to submit monitoring data that would contribute to developing its Regional Report, and were encouraged to pay attention to the request.

(Plan of FY2007)

1. The secretariat introduced that the monitoring sites in FY2007 were Malaysia and Lao PDR on the previous meeting and another monitoring site had not been decided yet. There came proposals from Vietnam, the Philippines and Mongolia. The secretariat proposed that Mongolia should be selected from the viewpoint of priority of capacity enhancement for the sampling.
2. Mongolia expressed its acceptance, and all the participants agreed to the proposal by the secretariat.

(Future direction and plan)

1. The participants noted and discussed three proposals presented by the secretariat on the following items of the future plan.
 - Conducting frequent monitoring at background sites;
 - Selection of “super sites”; and
 - Roles of the participating countries.
2. Considering the Guidance of GMP, participants agreed on:
 - conducting frequent monitoring within the framework of the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries at the background sites;
 - Practically, one-to-two-day sampling in every month might be conducted;
 - NIES/JESC provides capacity for the analysis of all of these samples; and
 - Suitable “super sites” should be found out in East Asian Countries.
3. The participants noted that Hateruma and Hedo had been identified as the “super sites” in East -Asia sub-region.
4. For the selection of additional “super sites”, the participants agreed that suitable sites for the background monitoring should satisfy the following conditions:
 - They enable evaluation of trends data and long-range transportation in East and South-East Asia sub-regions and their boundaries;
 - The results from the back trajectory analyses should be taken into account for selection of the sites;
 - Influence from local/internal sources of POPs at the sites should be lowered as much as possible; and
 - The diversity of weather and other geographical conditions at the sites can be considered.
5. For roles of the participating countries, the participants agreed that:

- The capacity of collecting air samples in each participating country had been considered as already established, except Mongolia;
- Japanese side would provide and transport the sampling materials, analyse POPs chemicals in the collected samples, review the obtained data and report to the participating countries, except Republic of Korea; and
- Sampling at the background sites would be conducted under the responsibility of each participating country.

6. NIES and JESC expressed their willingness to serve as reference laboratories for the POPs monitoring. Their support for capacity enhancement was requested by the participating countries.
7. Some participants pointed out that the planning for longer terms, such as five to ten years, might be desirable. MOE expressed its willingness to continue this Project depending on the budget.
8. Cambodia expressed its willingness to conduct the 2nd sampling of POPs at another site located in an adequately higher place in Cambodia which was comparable to other background sites in this Project in FY2008.

(Comments and proposals for the future activities)

1. Cambodia requested the Project to provide assistance for building the capacity of the POPs analysis.
2. Thailand expressed its willingness to continue monitoring at the same background site.
3. Indonesia expressed its willingness to consider conducting monitoring at another background site since previous sampling site was influenced by local sources.
4. The Philippines suggested coordinating with local experts for the sustainability of the POPs monitoring in this region.

END

Summary report of the 4th Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting

21 November 2007

Venue: Kyoto International Conference Center, Room H

Chair: Dr. Yasuyuki Shibata

Participants: Mr. Chea Sina (Cambodia),
Ms. Rina Aprishanty (Indonesia),
Mr. Ichiro Tsunoi, Mr. Hiroyasu Ito,
Dr. Takeshi Nakano, Dr. Yoshikatsu Takazawa (Japan),
Dr. Jong-woo Choi (Republic of Korea),
Ms. Setouvanh Phanthavongsa (Lao PDR),
Mr. Mohd Fauzan Yunus (Malaysia),
Dr. Byambajav Enkhsaruul (Mongolia),
Prof. Evangeline C. Santiago (the Philippines),
Ms. Nuchida Rungthawornwong (Thailand),
Prof. Pham Hung Viet (Vietnam) and
Mr. Yuji Kashima (Secretariat/Japan Environment Sanitation Center)

1. EWG reviewed the results of background-air monitoring under the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries conducted in Mongolia, Cambodia and Thailand in FY2006 as reported and concluded that the data with slight corrections and their treatment and handling were generally satisfactory.
2. Sharing information on attributes of candidate chemicals under review by the POPRC that could be listed in Annexes of Stockholm Convention, EWG anticipated that practical analytical method would be developed hopefully attaining satisfactory detection/quantification limit to assess trends of their presence in the environment bearing in mind necessity for defining congeners/derivatives to be monitored.
3. EWG also shared information on recent revision for "Guidance on the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants" (hereinafter referred to as "Guidance Document") provided by Dr. Yasuyuki Shibata who was one of the members for the revision and noted the following:
 - Sub-regional unique climate conditions (e.g. Monsoon Season) should be considered when applying the cumulative active high-volume sampling envisioned in

- the Guidance Document;
- It was recommended to refer to the results of the background-air monitoring activities under the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries after completion of FY2007 monitoring in Lao PDR, Malaysia and Mongolia when selection of “super sites” in this sub-region would be made;
 - Some members expressed their willingness to do their own sampling and analysis comparing to the data derived under the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries in terms of further enhancement of their capacity under the co-sponsorship of each country and Japan;
 - Necessity for consideration of continuous cumulative passive (diffusive) sampling referred to in the Guidance Document in terms of the capacity and affordability in the sub-region was pointed out whereas stressing necessity of verification/validation activities comparing to active sampling methods; and
 - Necessity of referring to monitoring of another “core media”, i.e. human milk and blood in the Regional Report that will be compiled by the ROG was also raised.

END

TIMELINE FOR REVISING THE PRESENT REPORT AND ADDING OF FY2007 DATA**Revision of the present report**

- (1) After the present Workshop as soon as possible,
 - A. The secretariat/Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) adds supplemental information to and corrects the data of POPSEA/WS5/INF/01 and prepares the 1st draft and distributes it in a PDF format to the Policy Group (PG) and Expert Working Group (EWG) members.
- (2) By the end of December 2007,
 - A. Each of EWG members is requested to send remarks they need (e.g. background information on the sites) on the data part of the 1st draft to the secretariat.
 - B. All EWG members are requested to submit their comments on the main part of the 1st draft to the secretariat.
- (3) By the beginning of January 2008,
 - A. The secretariat compiles the comments, and distributes the revised 1st draft (2nd draft) to all PG and EWG members for further comments.
- (4) By the end of January 2008,
 - A. PG and EWG members submit comments on the 2nd draft to the secretariat.
- (5) By the middle of February 2008,
 - A. The secretariat will distribute the revised 2nd draft (3rd draft) to PG members.
- (6) By the end of February 2008
 - A. PG will approve the 3rd draft by written procedure, if necessary, through the National Focal Points of the Stockholm Convention.
 - B. Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOE) will submit the approved revised report to the

Regional Organization Group (ROG) members hopefully within March 2008 for preparing its Asia-Pacific Regional Report.

Addition of FY2007 data

(1) Monitoring data in FY2007 will be added as an addendum to the revised report.

(2) By the end of January 2008

A. The background air sampling should be completed.

(3) By the middle of March 2008

A. Analysed data should be reviewed and confirmed by National Institute for Environmental Studies of Japan (NIES).

B. The 1st draft of the addendum to the revised report (hereinafter referred to as “the addendum”) will be produced in the same procedure as applied in the revision of the present report.

(4) By the beginning of April 2008,

A. All EWG members are requested to submit their comments on the 1st draft of the addendum to the secretariat.

(5) By the middle of April 2008,

A. The secretariat compiles the comments and distributes the 2nd draft of the addendum to all PG and EWG members for further comments.

(6) By the end of April 2008,

A. PG and EWG members submit comments on the 2nd draft to the secretariat.

(7) By the middle of May 2008,

A. The secretariat distributes the 3rd draft of the addendum to PG members.

(8) By the end of May 2008

- A. PG will approve the 3rd draft by written procedure, if necessary, through the National Focal Points of the Stockholm Convention.

- B. MOE will submit the approved addendum to the ROG members no later than 1 June 2008 for preparing its Asia-Pacific Regional Report.

END