

**Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management
in China, Japan and Korea
Summary of the Workshop**

7 – 8 November 2007
Shiodome, Tokyo, Japan

The Workshop on Chemicals Management in the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea was held at the Hotel Villa Fontaine, Shiodome (Tokyo, Japan) on 7 – 8 November 2007, within the Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management.

The Workshop was organised by Ministry of the Environment, Japan and was attended by more than 30 experts from three countries and the United States of America (see "List of Participants" attached as **Appendix 1**). The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) is the co-ordinating organisation of the Workshop as the secretariat.

This Workshop was chaired by Mr. Takahiko Hiraishi (IGES) with the support of session chairs: Dr. Minhoo Lee (Korea), Mr. Eisaku Toda (Japan), and Ms. Yu Fei (China).

The aim of the Workshop was to discuss the future challenges of environmentally sound chemicals management faced by the three countries in North-east Asia (the People's Republic of China, Japan, and Republic of Korea), in areas such as GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals), an information sharing system on chemicals used in products, and regional collaboration in light of the global trends of chemicals management. It was intended that the outcome from the discussion at the Workshop would be reported to the Government Officials Meeting, to be held on 9 November 2007, for further discussion on collaboration possibilities among the three countries.

The discussion at this Workshop was built on the results from the previous workshop held in Hayama, Japan on 28-29 March 2007. As shown in the programme attached as **Appendix 2**, participants from government, academia and industry in three countries, and IGES made presentations on their current situation and future challenges, and discussed opportunities for future collaboration. Participants from the United States Government also provided valuable contribution with their experiences in regional co-operation in North America.

The following summarises the major points of discussions made at the Workshop.

Opening Session

Dr. Masatoshi Ishizuka of Environmental Health Department of the Ministry of the Environment made an opening statement in which he set the stage of the Workshop in the current international developments in chemicals management, as well as the intended contribution from the Workshop to the Tripartite Environment Ministers (TEMM) meeting scheduled in December 2007.

Mr. Eisaku Toda of Chemicals Evaluation Office of the Ministry of the Environment made an overall presentation on international developments since 1970s and further elaborated the purpose and intended outputs from the Workshop.

Current status and challenges of GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals)

The previous workshop in March had identified GHS as one of the most important areas for regional collaboration, and proposed to share information on how classification is carried out in individual countries, and on the classification results themselves, with a view to reducing the differences in classification of individual chemicals as much as possible.

Ms. Shen Yingwa of Chemical Registration Center of State Environmental Protection Administration, the People's Republic of China introduced the activities of GHS implementation in China and current national standards for GHS, and the schedule of their revision. She also explained the trial work on GHS classification labels on traders and some GHS activities relating to symbols and warning phrases for oil related products.

Dr. Muneyuki Miyagawa of National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan explained about the GHS classification project as well as label and MSDS requirements under the Industrial Safety and Health Law of Japan. Historical background and legislative framework for GHS implementation in Japan were reported. He also introduced the "Classification Manual" and "Technical Guidelines" used for the governmental classification project. The results of the classification project by the government are not compulsive, and industries are allowed to use their own data and to classify chemicals on the basis of their own judgement. Based on his report, he pointed out that both the unification of classification results and the flexibility of the GHS including building block approach are important. He also emphasised that GHS should be introduced firstly as a framework for hazard communication and then substantial harmonisation including the unified classification should be targeted. More detailed guidance could be useful to materialise the unified classification and cooperation for the classification of HPV chemicals and global data sharing which are necessary to achieve real harmonization.

Prof. Jaewook Choi of Korea University, Republic of Korea explained the strategy and status of GHS implementation in Korea and governmental activities. He gave a presentation on their preparatory process and activities on GHS and GHS classification projects related to the progress on GHS in Republic of Korea with some comparison with Japan. He pointed out that even though GHS is a globally harmonised system of classification and labelling of substance and mixtures, there were many differences in the approach to GHS among countries, caused by differing building block schemes, reference data, technical decision criteria and expert judgement. Therefore, he emphasised the need for collaboration among Korea, Japan and China with a view towards an internationally harmonised system. Study of classification and labelling of chemicals planned in EU appears to provide phased approach in implementation.

Conclusions of the session

The People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea have already started developing legislation, or have existing legislations that could initiate the GHS before/in 2008. The participants recognised that there are differences in the approaches and implementation steps of GHS among the three countries. In addition to that, the gaps among existing domestic legislations in each country were also recognised. Thus, sharing common understanding and information on the approaches taken and on early decisions taken on GHS was recommended as an important step to facilitate the harmonisation of GHS implementation in the three

countries. The Workshop recognised that detailed discussions should be initiated to identify which topics are crucial to promote the harmonisation. Therefore, it was suggested that the three countries should consider convening a meeting of experts to discuss ways in depth to facilitate collaboration on GHS.

Recent trends and challenges in the information sharing system related to chemicals used in products

Corresponding to REACH, RoHS and other regulations based on Integrated Product Policy (IPP) concept developed in EU, manufacturers are required to manage information on hazardous substances contained in their products with a view to managing the risk from such chemicals based upon life cycle approaches. Likewise, governments are increasingly aware of the needs to minimise adverse effects of hazardous substances and toxic exposure in the whole product life cycle, which include production, consumption, recycling and waste disposal stages. In this context, chemical related information sharing through entire life cycle of products has been recognised as an important element for securing appropriate chemicals management. Moreover, this information sharing mechanism also needs to be secured not only at national levels but also at international level, because the locations of production, consumption as well as recycle/disposal have been spread beyond national borders.

Dr. Dongjin Lee of National Institute of Environmental Research, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea introduced management of consumer products in Korea. First the recent trend on consumer products was introduced. He explained legislative framework of quality/safety of products, the management of toxic substances and recycle of waste electric and electronic equipments as well as the development of environmental technologies. He also explained the progress and future plan of management of hazardous substances projects, particularly risk management on children products. Following this, future plans for this topic were introduced such as practicing risk management, recall system, voluntary program of manufacture and toxicity, and the exposure assessment for children's health (TEACH) program. He stated that it is important to develop a safe society where we can avoid the exposure to hazardous substances through consumer products.

Ms. Shen Yingwa provided a general description on the development of management of the traded toxic chemicals, environmental information disclosure and the management of waste chemicals and e-waste in China. Regarding information disclosure, she referred to the development of regulations, the management of environmental statistics and other trial projects on information exchange. Besides that, she introduced regulations on the prevention and control of environmental pollution caused by waste hazardous substances and e-waste. Information exchange scheme for waste chemicals and product information opening system on e-waste was also explained.

Mr. Nobuhiro Kino of Chemicals Evaluation Office, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan described the current situation regarding the management of chemicals in products. He pointed out contamination problems due to hazardous substances in products, which is unintentionally produced as a by-product, and explained laws and challenges to manage the problems. He also stated that the response to the REACH/RoHS regulation and issues related to the resource circulation (recycle/waste) could be important topics in this area. In response to REACH, the network for Strategic Response to International Chemicals Management was established and the establishment of common scheme of information sharing were being discussed as a voluntary initiative of industry in Japan. As for waste

management and recycling, a labelling system to promote effective resource utilisation and a waste data sheet which includes hazardous substances information have been introduced. In response to the contamination problems, he said that a monitoring programme for chemicals in products is planned to start in the next fiscal year. He expects that an information-sharing system regarding hazardous substances in products might contribute to the reduction of adverse effects by chemicals through the whole product life cycle. In the end, it was noted that the establishment of such an information sharing system is not easy and should continue to be discussed.

Dr. Akira Ogihara of Waste and Resources Project, Institute of Global Environmental Strategies introduced the research of the project which focuses upon the product/chemical information sharing mechanism covering the whole product life cycle. Taking into consideration international trends of chemicals management such as EU REACH, the importance and need of the information sharing mechanism were emphasised. IGES started its research from this year and Dr. Ogihara explained the results of an interview survey which was being conducted in the middle of this year as one of the preliminary research activities carried out to grasp the needs and challenges on the development of the information sharing mechanism from the recyclers. He also pointed out that the information sharing mechanism should be expanded Asia-wide due to an increasing demand for resources in Asia. This policy dialogue would provide a good opportunity to exchange views and information for developing the mechanism.

Conclusions of the session

Participants appreciated the information exchange on a number of policy areas covered in this agenda item. One of the policy tools discussed by the participants was the regulation on the use of hazardous substances in products, such as the Chinese and Korean regulation on the use of hazardous substances in certain types of products. It was noted that intended use and unintentional production of hazardous substances should be distinguished. The second area was the information sharing system to respond to REACH on the hazardous substances contained in products. Several topics for further information exchange were identified, such as centralised versus decentralised approaches, tools for self-declaration and/or certification/auditing of the use of hazardous substances in products, issues on confidential business information, etc. The third topic concerned the use of life cycle approaches in chemical management, especially with a view to preventing environmental pollution at the downstream use, recycling and waste disposal stages. Policy tools related to this area included waste manifest system, waste data sheet, regulation at the recycling or waste management stages, etc. It was recognised that further information exchange focusing on these policy areas would be useful.

Discussion on the framework for future regional collaboration and harmonisation of the chemicals management system

In addition to international initiatives such as SAICM, GHS and chemicals-related international conventions, regional collaboration is being promoted in many parts of the world including North America and Europe. The United States, Canada, and Mexico started a partnership project to strengthen management of industrial chemicals, based upon collaborative activities in the three countries such as the Canadian Chemicals Management Plan and the US High Production Volume (HPV) Chemicals Challenge Program. This kind of collaboration was considered a potential model for regional cooperation in the North-East Asia.

Ms. Huang Miao of Department of International Cooperation, State Environmental Protection Administration, Peoples' Republic of China proposed ideas for future regional collaboration in chemicals management in North East Asia. In her presentation, she suggested possible areas for policy and regulation exchange on chemical management, capacity building of chemical management and research and technical development related to chemical management for future cooperation in three countries. She also identified priorities in the notification and supervision of new chemical substances, environmental risk management of chemical management on chemical substance screening, and classifying and supervision of chemical substances.

Mr. Pilmu Ryu of Chemicals Safety Division, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea suggested enhanced collaboration on chemicals management under this tripartite framework. He touched upon possible collaboration areas, such as GHS, Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and the dissemination of chemical information, after giving an overall description of Korean chemicals management. He then recommended clarifying contact points among participants to facilitate continuous communication and updating the contents of TEMM chemicals management website. Finally he proposed that regular meetings should be held among the three countries. In that context, he stated that the Korean Ministry of Environment can host the next meeting.

Mr. Eisaku Toda proposed possible areas for future cooperation, such as information sharing on chemicals of high concern, cooperation on the investigation of existing chemicals, response to REACH and SAICM, and harmonisation of classification and labelling. He also recommended following the model of North American co-operation, and reporting to TEMM etc.

Mr. Masatoshi Ogura of Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) introduced International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) Responsible Care and JCIA's activities on chemicals management of companies, focusing on OECD HPV programme, Japan HPV Challenge Program and activities on GHS. He suggested possible regional collaboration in data collection and sharing. Following this, he explained that JCIA will support the transfer of energy-saving and environmental technologies to other countries, raising "Technologies on Energy Saving and Environment of the Japanese Chemical Industry" and "the Japan-China Energy-saving and Environment Forum" as examples of cooperation.

Mr. James B. Gulliford of Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USA introduced the cooperation framework on chemical management in North America which was established within the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), aiming to enhance regulatory cooperation among Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. Mr. Charles M. Auer, of Office of Pollution Prevention, and Toxics, OPPTS, EPA, USA, introduced the on-going work along with the commitments of the U.S. under SPP, focusing on HPVs and the moderate production volume chemicals programme. Likewise, the commitments and activities of Canada and Mexico were introduced. Finally, Mr. Auer described opportunities for linkage among different regional initiatives such as North American programmes and Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Conclusions of the session

Participants appreciated the suggestions from three countries, United States and Japanese industry on the future co-operation among three countries for chemical management. They agreed that information exchange should be continued in areas

such as regulation on chemicals, GHS, investigation of existing chemicals, PRTR, chemical management system, etc. Participants agreed on the principles for co-operation that different situation in three countries should be recognised, and that long-term co-operation should be set up based on common interests. Future co-operation will be pursued by means of continuation of this Policy Dialogue, expert meetings/workshops, mutual visits, research projects, etc. In order to facilitate co-operation, each country should appoint a contact point. Future activities should include aspects of capacity building and co-operation in technologies for chemicals assessment/management, as well as collaboration and harmonisation efforts. The three countries may learn from successful experience in other regions including North America, and explore linkage in a broader framework such as SAICM and APEC Chemicals Dialogue. Specific proposals on the forms of co-operation and priority areas will be discussed at the government officials meeting.

Participants appreciated the pivotal role that IGES played in this and previous workshops, and expressed their expectation for its continued involvement in the Tripartite Policy Dialogue.

**International Workshop on Chemicals Management
in the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea**

7 - 8 November 2007, Tokyo

List of Participants

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International Workshop on Chemicals Management in the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea

7-8 November 2007

Villa Fontaine Shiodome (Conf. room 3)

Agenda

Chair: Mr. Takahiko Hiraishi,

Member of Board of Directors and Senior Consultant, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

<i>Day 1: Wednesday, 7 November 2007</i>	
09:00 - 09:30	Registration
Session 1	Opening
Session Chair:	<i>Mr. Takahiko Hiraishi, Member of Board of Directors and Senior Consultant, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)</i>
09:35 - 09:40	Welcome and Opening remarks <i>Dr. Masatoshi Ishizuka, Director General, Environmental Health Department, Ministry of the Environment, Japan</i>
09:40 - 10:00	Presentation on the background, purpose and expected outcomes of the Policy Dialogue <i>Mr. Eisaku Toda, Director, Chemicals Evaluation Office, Environmental Health Department, Ministry of the Environment, Japan</i>
Session 2	Current status and challenges of GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals) on chemicals management of the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea
Session Chair:	<i>Dr. Minho Lee, Director, Chemicals Safety Division, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea</i>
10:00 - 10:20	Activities of China in Implementing GHS <i>Ms. Shen Yingwa, Deputy Director, Chemical Registration Center of State Environmental Protection Administration, the People's Republic of China</i>
10:20 - 10:40	GHS classification by the government and GHS labelling under Industrial Safety and Health Law <i>Dr. Muneyuki Miyagawa, Senior Researcher, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan</i>
10:40 - 11:00	GHS Implementation Status and Strategy in Korea <i>Dr. Jaewook Choi, Professor, College of Medicine, Graduate School of Public Health, Korea University, Republic of Korea</i>
11:00 - 11:20	Coffee Break
11:20 - 12:30	Discussion
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch



Session 3	Recent trends and challenges in the information sharing system related to chemicals used in products in the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea
Session Chair:	<i>Mr. Eisaku Toda, Director, Chemicals Evaluation Office, Environmental Health Department, Ministry of the Environment, Japan</i>
14:00 - 14:20	Management of Chemicals on Consumer Products in Republic of Korea <i>Dr. Dongjin Lee, Senior Researcher, National Institute of Environmental Research, Republic of Korea</i>
14:20 - 14:40	Information Exchange and Management of Waste Chemicals <i>Ms. Shen Yingwa, Deputy Director, Chemical Registration Center of State Environmental Protection Administration, the People's Republic of China</i>
14:40 - 15:00	Recent trends regarding control of chemical substances in products and expectation in Japan <i>Mr. Nobuhiro Kino, Deputy Director, Chemicals Evaluation Office, Ministry of the Environment, Japan</i>
15:00 - 15:30	Possibility for product information sharing through Life Cycle, collaboration between supply and recycle chain <i>Dr. Akira Ogihara, Senior Policy Researcher/Project Manager, Waste and Resources Project, IGES</i>
15:30 - 15:50	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:50 - 16:30	<i>Discussion</i>
18:00 - 20:00	<i>Reception, hosted by Ministry of the Environment, Japan</i>



Day 2: Thursday, 8 November 2007

Session 4	Discussion on the framework for future regional collaboration and harmonisation of the chemicals management system
Session Chair:	<i>Ms. Yu Fei, Director, Department of Pollution Control, State Environmental Protection Administration, the People's Republic of China</i>
09:00 - 09:15	Possible areas for future co-operation <i>Mr. Eisaku Toda, Director, Chemicals Evaluation Office, Environmental Health Department, Ministry of the Environment, Japan</i>
09:15 - 09:25	Suggestion for Enhanced Collaboration on Chemicals Management, including GHS, TRI, Nanosafety and Chemical Information <i>Mr. Pilmu Ryu, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea</i>
09:25 - 09:35	Future regional collaboration of the chemicals management <i>Ms. Huang Miao, Project Officer, Division of Regional Cooperation, Department of International Cooperation, State Environmental Protection Administration, the People's Republic of China</i>
09:35 - 09:45	"Future Regional Collaboration" Related Activities in Industry <i>Mr. Masatoshi Ogura, Executive Director, Japan Chemical Industry Association, Japan</i>
09:45 - 10:15	U.S. Chemical Cooperation Commitments Under SPP <i>Mr. Jim Gulliford, Assistant Administrator and Mr. Charles Auer, Office Director, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency USA</i>
10:15 - 10:45	<i>General Discussion</i>
10:45 - 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Session 5	
11:00 - 11:55	Wrap-up Session
Session Chair:	<i>Mr. Takahiko Hiraishi, Member of Board of Directors and Senior Consultant, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)</i>
11:55 - 12:00	Closing remarks <i>Mr. Eisaku Toda, Director, Chemicals Evaluation Office, Environmental Health Department, Ministry of the Environment, Japan</i>
12:00 - 13:30	<i>Photo Session and Lunch</i>