

The 3rd Workshop on Reduction of Unintentional POPs  
in East Asian Countries

Oct. 1-2, 2009 *Mita Kaigisho*, Tokyo, Japan

**Chairman's Summary**

(Chairman: Prof. Shinichi Sakai, Kyoto University, Japan)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on Reduction Unintentional POPs in East Asian Countries was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009. The workshop was attended by administrative officers and experts from 11 East Asian countries (Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand and Socialist Republic of Vietnam), the United States of America, Federal Republic of Germany, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as well as observers.

Earlier this year, COP4 of the Stockholm Convention was held in Geneva and nine new POPs were approved, which was a significant step forward for the POPs control scheme. In that sense, during this workshop we had many reports that focused on new POPs information in addition to the introduction of Dioxin/unintentional POPs inventories and reduction efforts. When we look at the total environmental policy that is centered for the Stockholm Convention on unintentional POPs in East Asian countries, we believe that this workshop had the following 3 conclusions.

- First is the integration of source inventories, BAT/BEP and monitoring information.
- Second is the comprehensive effort of Dioxin/unintentional POPs reduction that also takes into consideration greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and other environmental and human protection benefits.
- Last not least are the efforts on new POPs entering the Stockholm Convention.

Total annual releases amount of PCDD/Fs in East Asian countries were estimated to be approximately 22 kg TEQ by compiling each National Implementation Plan (NIP) and inventories reported in this workshop. Unit release was 10.4µg TEQ/(person\*a), it is in the same order of 25µg TEQ/ (person\*a) which is an average value for countries that used the toolkit provided by UNEP to estimate their national inventories.

It is desirable to revise the emission inventories of each country, specifically the challenge of revising the emission factors, and a better understanding of the amount of activities. Sharing the information of these tasks in a database, which could be used as a reference for verification, the integrated emission inventory for all East Asian countries is also important.

Monitoring is essential in order to investigate the emission characteristics of different sources, and it is desirable to maintain an analysis capacity in the home country. In the analysis of dioxins, quality control through data verification and analysis protocol is indispensable, and launching a shared information scheme in the East Asian region can also be effective.

Reducing emissions of GHG, particulate matter, mercury and other heavy metals may have the co-benefit of control and reduction of unintentional POPs. Similarly, most technologies that applied as BAT measures for reducing dioxins are also effective for the reduction of other environmental pollutants. Moreover, if the additional measures taken also have GHG reduction effect, then the effectiveness of these comprehensive measures will increase. We should not also forget that depending on the nature of the source, approach that managing the amount of activities is also important in order to achieve co-benefit. With regards to the dominant sources in East Asian countries, such as waste incineration and uncontrolled combustion, it should be recognized that parallel to the application of BAT/BEP, the reduction in activities is also effective.

Although new POPs are not necessarily unintentional POPs, it has at least the characteristics of POPs. Monitoring and measures similar to unintentional POPs will be needed for chemical compounds that entered the environment unintentionally with the progress of industrialization. It is important to widely share in East Asian countries the monitoring information presented by each country. Furthermore, if a trend of identifying the source and the application of BAT becomes established, effective measures and policies can be enforced.