

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

Chairperson's Summary

20th November 2008

1. The Sixth Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries was held at Tokyo International Exchange Center in Tokyo on 18th – 20th November, 2008.
2. The Workshop was organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), and was attended by both government officials and technical experts from 11 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). The representatives of related international organizations and projects (Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, North-west Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), United Nations University (UNU), The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)) also attended.
3. Dr. Hirotosugu KIMURA, Director of the Environmental Health and Safety Division, MOEJ, provided opening address.
4. Prof. Yoko MASUZAWA, Nagoya University, chaired the Workshop.
5. Participants noted the following presentations:
 - (1) Background, Objectives and Future Plan of POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries, by Dr. Takuya SHIOZAKI, Secretariat, the Japan Environmental and Sanitation Center (JESC);
 - (2) Trends of Atmospheric Transportation of Organic Pollutants to the Arctic: 16 years of Monitoring and the Road Forward, by Dr. Hayley Hing Ning HUNG, AMAP, Environment Canada;
 - (3) Effectiveness Evaluation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, by Ms. Fatoumata KEITA-OUANE, Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention; and
 - (4) Overview of the Regional Report of First Effectiveness Evaluation of Stockholm Convention in Asia-Pacific, by Dr. Yasuyuki SHIBATA, National Institute for

Environmental Studies , Japan (NIES).

6. Participating countries in the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries made presentations on their current activities and the future plans.
7. Participating countries discussed the selection of the Super-sites in the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries following to the two presentations listed below;
 - (1) Roles of the Participating Countries for Conducting Frequent Monitoring at the Super-sites, by Dr. Takuya SHIOZAKI, Secretariat, JESC; and
 - (2) Proposed Super-site in Japan, and Nominated Super-sites in the Participating Countries, by Dr. Noriyuki SUZUKI, NIES.

Thailand and Vietnam responded to their nomination as candidate Super-sites, and Republic of Korea made presentation on its proposal to be considered as a Super-site. Participants examined the contents of the proposals in accordance with the criteria of the Super-sites. Technical aspects of three candidate sites, e.g. location, natural conditions and the result of back trajectory analyses, including stability of power supply, were regarded to fit to the criteria. Organizational aspects such as financial arrangement and technical capacity of three candidate sites differed.

Participating countries agreed that the proposed site in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, met the criteria and recognized it as a Super-site of this project, because Republic of Korea confirmed full financial and technical arrangement to conduct monitoring. Other two candidate sites required financial arrangement from the secretariat in order to implement monitoring. It was noted that the available budget would not allow the full support for the monitoring to be implemented in two sites with full specification (sampling once in a month). Some participants also raised questions about the details of the plans proposed by Thailand and Vietnam from the view point of securing long term continuation of monitoring in accordance with Guidance of GMP.

Informal meeting among related participants was held to discuss the details of their plans and made a draft procedure (timeline) of selection of Super-sites (as attached).

Participants agreed the procedure as reported from the informal meeting.

8. Participating countries agreed on the next round of POPs air monitoring in East Asian Countries, and Cambodia expressed its willingness to conduct 2nd monitoring. No

objection was raised in the plenary.

9. Relating to the current activities and future plan for managing and monitoring of newly proposed POPs under the Stockholm Convention (new POPs), the outcome from POPRC was introduced in the presentation of the overview of POPRC meeting and its future direction by Ms. Fatoumata KEITA-OUANE, Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.
10. Replying to the question from the floor, Ms. KEITA-OUANE clarified the timeline of entry into force of the amendment of annexes to the Convention, one year after the adoption of the amendment. She also encouraged to start the monitoring of new POPs which would contribute to the implementation of the Convention requirements on new POPs by Parties.
11. The Workshop was divided into two groups, the Policy Group (Chair: Prof. Yoko MASUZAWA, Nagoya University, Japan) and the Expert Working Group (Chair: Dr. Yasuyuki SHIBATA, NIES, Japan). The summary report from the Policy Group is attached as Annex 1, and the one from the Expert Working Group as Annex 2.
12. The plenary was informed of the contents of the reports from two groups and endorsed them without amendment, including future work on the compilation of information on the monitoring methods of new POPs and possible development of a GEF proposal.
13. The Workshop welcomed the tangible results from the past activities, expressed its expectations to the participating countries for their continued efforts for monitoring.
14. MOEJ announced its intention to hold the next Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries in autumn 2009. The Secretariat also encouraged participating countries to express their willingness to host the next Workshop with the support from Secretariat and MOEJ.
15. Participants expressed their gratitude to MOEJ, NIES and JESC for their efforts to organize this Workshop.

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TIMELINE FOR DECISION MAKING TO START FREQUENT MONITORING AT THE SUPER-SITES

- 1) Each country which nominated the candidate site for the Super-sites should submit its concrete plan to build its capacity by the end of January 2009. The information which required in the plan will be developed and sent to each country by the Secretariat soon after this WS.
- 2) After receiving the concrete plans and checking the information in them, the Secretariat will make a draft proposal on the selection of the Super-sites. Secretariat will circulate the draft proposal to the participating countries in order to request comments to the proposal. The comments should be sent to the Secretariat by e-mail by 6th February 2009.
- 3) Final proposal is made by the Secretariat, considering the comments from each country.
- 4) Secretariat will ask for the confirmation from all the participating countries on the final proposal by 20th February 2009, and will finalize the selection of the Super-site.
- 5) The monitoring in the Super-sites would be started in the beginning of October 2009.

Summary Report of the 4th Policy Group (PG) meeting

19 November 2008

Venue: Tokyo International Exchange Center; Conference Hall

Chair: Prof. Yoko Masuzawa (Nagoya University)

Participants: Mr. Heng Nareth (Cambodia),
Ms. Dwi Astuti Endah Prihatiningtyas (Indonesia),
Dr. Hirotsugu Kimura, Ms. Keiko Segawa, Mr. Motomichi Ono, Dr. Noriyuki Suzuki (Japan),
Ms. Sue-Jin Kim, Mr. Ja Woong Koo (Republic of Korea),
Ms. Sisouphanh Luangrath (Lao PDR),
Ms. Marliana Binti Mohsin (Malaysia),
Ms. Maria Cristina A. Francisco (the Philippines),
Ms. Tan Hwee Hong (Singapore),
Mr. Aram Bhandhuwanna (Thailand),
Dr. Tran The Loan (Vietnam),
Ms. Fatoumata Keita-Ouane (The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention),
Dr. Fukuya Iino (UNU),
Mr. Norio Baba (NOWPAP) and
Dr. Takuya Shiozaki (Secretariat, Japan Environmental Sanitation Center)

(Current activities and future plan for new POPs)

1. Each participating country made presentation on its current activities and future plan for newly proposed POPs under the Stockholm Convention (new POPs). Some countries reported existing monitoring results on new POPs. Some countries pointed out the necessity of the expansion of the scope of this project to cover new POPs in the future.
2. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention introduced its intention to revise the Guidance on the GMP for POPs after COP4, if the new POPs are listed under the Convention

(Monitoring methods for new POPs)

3. Chair proposed that, considering some participating countries have already conducted monitoring new POPs, PG would request the EWG to compile the information of monitoring methods for new POPs from the participating countries of this project. Chair

also proposed that the compilation of the information would be submitted to the COP4 as contribution of this sub-region as information documents (INF doc) through the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention. The participants agreed to the proposal considering that the compilation would be a good base for future work of this project and a good input to the COP4.

4. Indonesia raised a question for clarification about the information to be compiled on monitoring methods. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention mentioned that selection of core media for the new POPs will be discussed in the future under the activities of the Convention. Chair noted that although this project focuses on the ambient air, the range of the information to be compiled should not be limited to air monitoring since COP4 may consider other core media.

(Scope of this project)

5. Chair proposed including all nine new POPs into this project if funding could be procured. The participants agreed to seek the possibility of expansion of this project, while recognizing the need for future financial arrangement to cover the capacity building and other tasks of this project.
6. Japan noted that the current budget of this project is limited and does not have a room to accommodate new POPs. Japan suggested the necessity for financial resource mobilization from outside, mentioning the possibility to develop a new project proposal to GEF. Some countries supported this idea.
7. Cambodia proposed to nominate a lead country to develop the proposal to GEF. While recognizing that the developed countries themselves are unable to submit proposals, but expected as partners, the eligible participating countries were encouraged to volunteer to take the lead for development of the mentioned proposal to GEF. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention offered advice or support for such proposal development.
8. The participating countries were requested to show their willingness to join in the proposal and to indicate their intention to take the lead to the Secretariat by the end of this year. The Secretariat will send official request letter to the National Focal Points of the Convention of the participating countries in this project with copy to the participants in this workshop by the end of November 2008.
9. Indonesia raised a question to clarify the executing agencies of the proposal. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention indicated that UNEP has comparative advantage for monitoring and has already submitted four proposals for GEF/MSP

(Medium Size Projects) for monitoring in other regions. It suggested the possibility of UNEP to be considered. UNU also expressed its willingness to act as a coordination body with support from UNEP as an executing agency.

(Information Warehouse of POPs)

10. Republic of Korea gave a presentation about the outcome from 4th Workshop on Information Warehouse of POPs in East Asian Countries. They reported the POPs data warehouse system in East Asian Countries will operate officially in 2009. A participant advised to keep attention to other existing related websites in order to avoid duplication of work.

Summary Report of the 5th Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting

19 November 2008

Venue: Tokyo International Exchange Center; Media Hall

Chair: Dr. Yasuyuki Shibata (NIES)

Participants: Mr. Chea Sina (Cambodia),
Dr. Erini Yuwatini (Indonesia)
Mr. Osamu Yamashita, Dr. Yoshikatsu Takazawa, Dr. Takeshi Nakano (Japan),
Dr. Seung Ryul Hwang (Republic of Korea),
Ms. Setouvanh Phanthavongsa (Lao PDR),
Mr. Mohd Fauzan Yunus (Malaysia),
Dr. Jargalsaikhan Lkhasuren (Mongolia),
Prof. Evangeline C. Santiago (Philippines),
Dr. Pattanan Tarin (Thailand),
Prof. Pham Hung Viet (Vietnam),
Dr. Hayley Hing Ning Hung (Canada),
Mr. Yuji Kashima and Dr. Tomonori Takeuchi (Secretariat Japan Environmental Sanitation Center)

1. EWG reviewed the results of background-air monitoring under the POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries conducted in Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Japan in FY2007 as reported and concluded that the data within criteria should be accepted as additional data in this project.
2. EWG recognized that the data quality was generally satisfactory, although further improvement of sensitivity is needed for revealing background levels in some sampling sites. EWG also shared information regarding possible contamination caused by the manufacturing process of samplers.
3. EWG shared information on the low recovery of Aldrin during sampling, and expressed gratitude to the secretariat on the extensive effort to tackle with the matter. EWG also expressed thanks to Dr Hayley Hing Ning Hung and Prof. Evangeline C. Santiago for the presentations on principle and application of passive air sampling and outcomes and gaps in the project in relation to GMP, respectively.

4. EWG noted a relatively high HCB concentration in some data obtained in Lao PDR and Malaysia, as well as in Thailand and Vietnam in the past, and exchanged information on the possible sources.
5. EWG noted unusually high recovery of Endrin and requested secretariat to provide information on the comparison between commercial standards used in the program.
6. EWG recognized needs to further investigate background monitoring site in some countries including Malaysia.
7. Sharing information on the progress of listing new chemicals by the POPRC, EWG recognized needs to further develop monitoring method. Each of EWG member was requested to report monitoring method of new candidate POPs in any environmental media in each country to the secretariat of this project by the end of January 2009.

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