



POPs Action In China

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR STOCKHOLM CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

Convention Implementation Progress

A Good Start for POPs Convention Implementation in China

On April 17, 2008, Stockholm Convention Implementation Office of National Coordination Group (NCG) convened the 11th cross-ministry meeting of contact officials in Beijing. The contact officials are representatives from the 13 member ministries, of NCG, including Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Housing and Urban-rural Development, Ministry of

Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Health Care, attended the meeting. At the meeting, the evaluation report of 2007 and the work plan for 2008 were reviewed; the name list of expert committee members nominated by member ministries was examined; the outcomes and suggestions from the evaluation for not extending DDT, Chlordane and Mirex exemptions were reported; and the progress of new POPs review and the preliminary results of survey in China were introduced. Mr. Fan Yuansheng, Director General of Pollution Control Department of MEP, Mr. Zhuang Guotai, Director General of FECO of MEP, and Mr. Yue Ruisheng, Deputy

Director General of International Cooperation Department of MEP, were present at the meeting.

2007 as the first year of NIP implementation is a critical year for the Convention implementation. It was agreed during the meeting that the member ministries of the CNG led by MEP successfully completed the planned tasks and smoothly launched and facilitated the Convention implementation by taking administrative, legislative, technological, economic and awareness raising measures through common efforts and close cooperation. Those comprehensive measures and joint efforts also promoted national resource



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and energy conservation, industrial restructuring and upgrading, as well as the capacity building for self renovation.

According to NIP, China is committed to adopting best available technologies in new dioxins emission sources in the key sectors by 2008, phasing out pesticidal POPs' production, use, import and export by May 2009, as well as completing the effectiveness evaluation and the national report. Therefore, the tasks in 2008 are still arduous and heavy. It was stressed that the members should continue to work together to ensure the realization of the above targets.

***DDT Specific Exemptions
in Non-Closed Application
Will be Ended
by May 2009***

In February 2005, China submitted to the Convention Secretariat a written document for ending special exemption



of DDT use in non-closed production of Dicofol by May 17, 2009.

Recently, the Convention Implementation Office (CIO) organized relevant departments and experts to survey on the production, distribution, uses and discharges of Dicofol, the production and uses of other acaricides in China, and make preliminary evaluation on the necessity and feasibility for not extending the exemption. On April 2, 2008, CIO organized preliminary evaluation, attended by representatives and experts from National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science and Chinese Academy of Sciences. In line with the NIP objective of DDT phase-out in the non-closed system production of Dicofol by May 2009, and considering the impacts non-closed system dicofol has on human health and environment, it was agreed by the meeting not to extend this special exemption, and recommended that the government should formulate incentive policies as soon as possible for development, production and use of substitutes, and strengthen the enforcement and supervision against potential illegal production and uses once the exemption is terminated.

***China Launches
Environmentally Sound
Management and Disposal of
POPs Wastes***

In March 2008, GEF approved the project preparation grant for China's project on environmentally sound management and disposal of POPs wastes, which was jointly submitted by MEP and UNIDO. With the new approval, China's POPs reduction and control demonstrations have covered all four areas, i.e. pesticides, PCBs, Dioxins and POPs wastes.

The project aims to establish and improve the legislation and standards on POPs wastes management in China, to use environmentally sound technologies for management and disposal of the obsolete POPs pesticides and high dioxin concentration fly ash. The project will improve the environmental management of POPs wastes and protect human health and the environment.

The full-size project documents will be submitted to GEF through UNIDO in June 2008.

Policy and Regulation

***Initiation of Legislation
and Standards to Support
Convention Implementation
in China***

Formulation of policies, regulations and standards is one of the key measures to implement the Convention. In 2007,

the member ministries of National Coordination Group comprehensively initiated the establishment, revision and improvement of related legislations and standards on POPs.

In the aspects of legislation, MEP launched a study on Regulatory Measures or Guidance Policies on POPs reduction and control. Ministry of

Commerce, General Administration of Customs and the MEP jointly revised and promulgated the List of Goods Prohibited from Import (The 6th Group) and the List of Goods Prohibited from Export (The 3rd Group). National Development and Reform Commission started to revise the Guiding Catalog of Industrial Structure Regulation (Edition

2005), into which POPs related products, processes and equipment will be classified for control and elimination. State Administration of Work Safety led the revision of the List of Hazardous Chemicals. The Ministry of Commerce, together with other ministries, issued the Regulatory Measures for Resources Recycling.



In the aspect of standards, MEP will lead other ministries to revise or establish 91 pollution control standards,

environmental quality standards, monitoring methods and technical guidelines during the 11th Five-Year-Plan Period in accordance with the NIP. Among these standards, 71 have been listed in the 2008 work program for standards or will be realized by administrative documents and other regulatory measures. The other 20 will be arranged in the demonstration projects and relevant studies. Ministry of Health organized the revision of national standards for organic chloride pesticide tests in foods, and the Limit for Pesticide Residue in Foods (GB2763-2005) for submission to National Standard Commission for approval. The Ministry also took part in the compilation of the international standards on control of Dioxins and PCBs in foods, organized by the International Committee of Codes on Pollutants in Foods. The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine organized a study on the testing methods of POPs in

goods for import and export, and made some technical preparations.

Hong Kong's New Ordinance on Hazardous Chemicals became Effective in April

According to news from the website of Hong Kong SAR government, the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Agency announced, on March 31, 2008, that the Hazardous Chemicals Control Ordinance (Cap 595) would enter into force and be implemented in stages from April 1, 2008. The Ordinance regulates, through the permit system, the import, export, production and use of non-pesticide hazardous chemicals that have potentially harmful or adverse effects on human health or the environment, including those regulated by the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention.

Local Developments

Convention Implementation in Chongqing

Remediation of contaminated sites



In order to speed up the recovery of the POPs contaminated sites, the Chongqing government has started the third phase evaluation on the former site of Chongqing Tianyuan Chemical Plant, which is contaminated by POPs, in order to determine the spatial distribution of contamination, quantify the environmental risks, and develop and implement the technical plans for site cleanup and recovery, and hence to eliminate the potential risks to the environmental safety.

Review of cleanup plan for the obsolete POPs pesticides in distribution area

In order to properly treat and dispose of the obsolete POPs pesticides in the distribution area and to eliminate the environmental risks in those storage sites identified by survey, the experts and representatives from China Academy of Environmental Sciences, Beijing Institute of Technologies, Chongqing University, Chongqing Environmental Protection Bureau, Chongqing Municipal Bureau of

Finance and Chongqing Municipal Bureau of Traffic Management, reviewed the cleanup plan for transportation and disposal of the obsolete POPs pesticides. The plan will be implemented soon.

Improving the quality control over POPs survey

In order to ensure the quality of the POPs survey and to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of the data, the Chongqing government verified the first-hand data from the surveys and data from the information collection software. The dioxins emissions by enterprises are also calculated carefully and added into the database to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the data.

POPs control integrated into the environmental admittance system of industrial projects

In order to strengthen the environmental protection and promotion of energy conservation and emission reduction, Chongqing has imposed new regulations to restrict construction projects in chemical,



paper, dyeing and plating industries that may cause risks to drinking water sources at upper reaches and in urban areas of the Yangtze River and Jialing River. Any industrial project that may

discharge highly toxic substances and POPs will be prohibited.

In order to materialize the environmental permission system, Chongqing government has required its departments of environmental protection, investment supervision, construction management, land administration and planning not to issue EIA and other approval documents to any new, retrofitting or expanding industrial projects that would discharge pollutants exceeding the limits. The banks are also required not to provide loans to these projects.

Rizhao City Completes POPs Investigation

Starting from July 2007, the local EPB of Rizhao City in Shandong Province organized POPs surveys in the city in accordance with the general plan of the provincial EPB. The Rizhao EPB has conducted a systematic and comprehensive survey in a responsible manner, and applied the quality control measures to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of the data. Recently, the bureau submitted its Working Report on POPs Survey of Rizhao EPB, the POPs Survey Technical Report of Rizhao EPB, and the POPs information forms of 34 enterprises from 9 sectors to the provincial Environmental Bureau. Those reports and forms have been accepted by the provincial EPB.

The survey clarified the status quo of POPs in Rizhao City, which lays a good basis for the gradual realization of objectives of POPs reduction, elimination and control in the city for the protection of the environment and human health.

Stalk Open Burning Banned in Hefei to Prevent Dioxin Emission

On April 18, 2008, a plan was issued to ban open burning and comprehensive use of crop stalk in Hefei City. According to this plan, the city would prohibit in 21 key areas the open burning of stalk, weed, straw, etc, from April 15 to June 30 this year, about an expansion of 10,000 hectares compared with last year.

The stalk open burning is one of the Dioxin emission sources listed in the Dioxin Identification Took Kit released by UNEP. It is estimated that China discharges 987 gTEQ Dioxin each year (2004 as baseline year) due to stalk open burning, accounting for 9.6% of the total emission. The ban is now considered as the exclusive practical measure for dioxin control for stalk opening burning.



Project Progress

PCB Demonstration Project Mission in Liaoning and Zhejiang



From March 10 to 18, 2008, a mission of 6 officials from CIO, the World Bank and GEF visited the PCB incineration center in Liaoning province and the thermal desorption and temporary storage sites in Zhejiang province. In the two provinces, the mission had comprehensive discussions with local project teams on general project progress, the site cleanup standards, the site cleanup guidelines and plans, and the updated provincial information. The targets and detailed work plans for next steps were developed based on those discussions.

Termite Project Mission Visited the Baiting System on Termite in Hunan, Anhui and Jiangsu

In order to facilitate the project implementation of Demonstration of Alternatives to Chlordane and Mirex in Termite Control in China, A mission of 9 officials and international/national experts from CIO and the World Bank, visited the bait installation and storage

sites in Hunan, Anhui and Jiangsu provinces and provided technical guidance for the local project teams from March 11 to 18, 2008. The mission was debriefed on the project progress in the three provinces, and had discussions with the local teams on the research work on integrated pest management (IPM) technologies, and financial disbursement issue. Relevant provincial bureaus of construction, environmental protection, finance and pricing joined the visits.

Through this mission, all partners and stakeholders exchanged views on the project progress and worked out solutions to problems encountered in the project implementation and effectively facilitated the project progress.

Project of Sustainable Management of Medical Wastes in China Launched

The launching ceremony of the medical waste project was held in Beijing on March 19, 2008. Over 100 representatives, experts and reporters from MEP, Ministry of Health, GEF,

UNIDO, Italy, USA, the local EPBs and Bureau of Health, industrial associations, research institutes, universities, enterprises and the media attended the meeting.

At the meeting, introductions were made on the current situation and demand of medical waste management in China, the advanced experience and technologies in the world, the project background, and its design and implementation plan. Clarifications were made on the phased targets, tasks and responsibilities of all partners. The criteria for the selection of demonstration sites and the technologies were defined. Mr. Zhuang Guotai, Director-general of FECO/MEP, Mr. Yue Ruisheng, Deputy Director-general of International Cooperation Department of MEP, Mr. Laurent Granier, POPs Project Manager of GEF, Mr. Sajjad Ajmal, the Representative of UNIDO Resident Mission to China, as well as representatives from Ministry of Health, were present and delivered remarks at the meeting.

The medical waste project is the first full-size project in China for Dioxin



reduction and control. By interacting with the national plan for construction of hazardous waste and medical waste disposal facilities, the project will incorporate the life-cycle concept into the medical waste management and

disposal in China, facilitate the application, promotion and replication of BAT/BEP required by the Convention, and prevent or reduce dioxin generation and emission. The project will enhance China's capacity

in medical waste management and disposal, upgrade the reduction and environmentally sound treatment of medical wastes, and facilitate the Convention implementation in China.

Tracking New POPs

Meeting Convened for Evaluation on Social and Economic Impacts of PFOS

On April 28, 2008, CIO organized a meeting for evaluation on the social and economic impacts resulted from adding PFOS into the control list. 42 representatives and experts from National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, Ministry of Environmental Protection, and relevant industrial associations attended the meeting.

The meeting introduced, discussed and updated information concerning the production, use and substitution of PFOS in China. Consensus was reached on such PFOS background information as uses in textile, pesticide, fire-fighting, semi-conductor and plating industries. Due to its broad application and complicated technologies concerned, the participants made suggestions on further compilation of PFOS related information and next-step works.

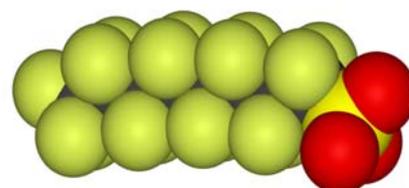
Mr. Zhuang Guotai, Director-general of FECCO of MEP, was present throughout the meeting and raised specific requirements for the works.

EU Restricts the Use and Sale of PFOS

PFOS is a chlorinated surfactant widely used as raw material in textiles, carpets, paints, fire-fighting foam, and hydraulic oil since it's oil and water resistance. PFOS has been considered as a substance that poses threat to human health by the EU Health and Environmental Risk Committee. It has also been nominated as a new POP. On June 27, 2008, the EU parliament and council of ministers jointly issued a directive for restriction on sales and use of PFOS (2006/122/EC), which is to be effective soon. The directive prohibits selling of any products, semi-finished products and parts containing 0.1% of PFOS by concentration or by mass. The directive gives 18 months of grace period.

The PFOS directive regulates the followings: (1) restriction on the use and sale of PFOS products in the market. No products formed by PFOS

or containing 0.005% of PFOS by concentration or by mass are allowed for sale; (2) restriction on the use of PFOS in products and semi-finished products. No products, semi-finished products and parts containing 0.1% or more of PFOS by concentration or by mass are allowed for sale. The restriction covers all productions with PFOS added intentionally, including surface coatings of special parts and products, for example, textiles. The restriction applies to new products only, and excludes the in-use products and the products in second-hand markets; and (3) Evaluation of the directive. In order to eventually eliminate PFOS, whenever any new problem occurs or any safe substitute is available, the coverage of restrictions should be re-evaluated.



Scientific Research Trend

National Dioxin Lab Completes 12th International Inter-comparison Experiment

International Dioxin inter-comparison experiment is chaired by Swedish Intercal AB Laboratory. Since 1992, 11 experiments have been organized with participants from over 200 laboratories. Through strict quality control procedures, the inter-comparison allows the participating laboratories to jointly conduct analysis on samples including standard solutions, fly ash and soils, and evaluation is made based on the results. It is authoritative and broadly influential, representing the highest level of Dioxin compound analysis in the world, and is regarded as an important evidence for assessing the capability of a laboratory.

China National Environmental Protection Key Laboratory of Dioxin Control, founded in May 2005, took part in the 12th Inter-comparison. Through careful design, organization and scientific planning, the laboratory successfully completed all of the analysis on the samples and provided final reports.

Z ratio is commonly used in the



world to evaluate the experimental results. The smaller the z ratio, the closer the result to theoretical value. For the 3 fly ash samples, the z ratios gained by this national laboratory are all smaller than 1. Less than half of the participatory laboratories in the world have obtained such a level, indicating that the laboratory has reached international levels. In the qualification and recognition certification of laboratories, the data were also satisfactory to the expert group.

Control of POPs Pollutants to Safeguard Drinking Water - New Concepts and Technologies for Water Safety and Purification

Drinking water is one of the basic needs for mankind. Its safety directly impacts the life and health of people, as well as production and daily life. The safety of drinking water is crucial to social development and urban construction management. Lack of safe drinking water is still one of the major causes of human diseases. Therefore, scientific researches on water quality and new purification technologies are both scientifically and practically significant.

With the support of the National Natural Science Foundation, Professor Jiang Zhanpeng, together with his colleagues in the Environmental Science and Technology Department of

Tsinghua University, launched a key research project on new theories and technologies for water safety and purification in 2003. After years of efforts, the project has now been completed, reviewed and accepted. The research group intensively studied micro organisms, organic and inorganic pollutants' impact on water quality, and their transport and transformation in water purification processes, as well as the water quality stability during transportation. The researches provided scientific basis for technology development for improving drinking water production, transportation and management, constructing a protection network for water safety.

The research group took POPs and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) as its major targets and creatively adopted enzyme measuring method, by which the contents of organic pollutants are indirectly measured by their performance of endocrine disrupting. This method generated a disrupting equivalent and saved much workload.

Considering the fact that the pollution of drinking water can not be effectively alleviated using conventional methods, the research group made special studies on water treatment technologies, such as activated carbon, photo-catalytic oxidation and membrane technologies and obtained satisfactory results.

Global View

Dioxin Pollution on Cheese in Italy

In March 2008, the Italian Ministry of Health found that the dioxins level of Mozzarella cheese from 25 suppliers exceeded the limit, which immediately drew great concern from the Italian government. Due to the broad use of cheese, the finding subsequently aroused extensive attention around the world.

In the evening of March 27, 2008, EU Committee made an announcement and urged the Italian government to adopt further actions to avoid Mozzarella cheese entering into the EU market. General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and

Quarantine of China issued a public notice, in the evening of March 28, required not to import Italian Mozzarella cheese from that very day, and suggested customers not to buy and consume this product. Korea, Japan and France also announced to suspend the sales of the cheese.

Mozzarella cheese is a kind of traditional and popular food in Italy, and a necessary ingredient for high-quality pizzas. The Mozzarella cheese made from buffalo milk is of top-grade and costs twice as much as normal ones.

As recently verified by the Italian health authority, of the 130 cheese farms investigated, it was found that dioxin level in the Mozzarella cheese

produced by 25 farms exceeded the EU limit. The dioxin mainly comes from the combustion of industrial wastes and the polluted feeds.

Up to now, a total of 88 related farms have been closed, and their milk produced has been disposed.



Meeting Information

First Phase Training Launched under National Dioxin Monitoring Center Project

Entrusted by SEPA (now Ministry of Environmental Protection), the Sino-Japanese Friendship Center on Environmental Protection launched the first phase training program under the project of construction of national environmental dioxin monitoring centers.

A total of 16 trainees from the 4 national dioxin monitoring centers in South China (Guangzhou), East China

(Hangzhou), North-east China (Shenyang) and South-west China (Chongqing), as well as the quest experts, attended the launching ceremony. Ms Huan Yeru, Director-general of National Environmental Analysis and Test Center, was present at the ceremony and delivered remarks. The first-phase training includes two stages, i.e., theoretical training and operational training.

According to the requirement for construction of dioxin monitoring centers in the National Plan for Construction of Hazardous and Medical Waste Disposal Facilities, the

construction of laboratories in the above 4 centers have almost been completed. The two-month training will further enhance dioxin monitoring capacity in these laboratories.

Training Workshop Held on Financial Management in POPs Projects

On March 21, 2008, International Cooperation Department of Ministry of Finance and Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of Ministry of Environmental Protection jointly organized a training workshop on

project financial management in Beijing, with purposes to effectively facilitate the implementation of the termite project and PCB demonstration project implemented by World Bank, to clarify the financial management requirements and to finalize the format of the financial monitoring report (FMR). Representatives from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Zhejiang provincial PCB project team, and three provincial termite project teams of Jiangsu, Anhui and Hunan, as well as the project managers and the financial officers from the World Bank, attended the workshop.

At the workshop, the project financial reports were introduced in detail, the procedures of disbursement assurance were reviewed, and the requirements on authorized signees and the first financial report were clarified. The meeting requested all parties to strictly follow the procedures defined in the Financial Management Manual and submit the nomination of signees and the first financial reports by April 10, so as to ensure early disbursement and effective implementation of the project activities.

Mr. Yu Lifeng, the Chief Financial Officer of FECO/MEP, was present at the meeting.

The 33rd GEF Council Meeting Closed Successfully

The 33rd GEF Council Meeting closed on April 25, 2008. At the meeting, a total of 6 POPs projects were approved, with the total grant allocated up to 33.53 million USD. One of them is the project of environmentally sound management and disposal of obsolete POPs pesticides and other POPs wastes in China, which was jointly developed by UNIDO and CIO, receiving GEF grant of 9.96 million USD, 29.7% of the total grant allocated at this meeting.

The meeting was reported by Mr. Donald Cooper from the POPs Convention Secretariat on technology transfer centers, effectiveness evaluation, new POPs and the status of NIPs submission. GEF Secretariat, the international agencies and the recipients were requested to develop demonstration projects following the priority areas defined in the NIPs.

In addition, the meeting confirmed and agreed on the 5th Fund Replenishment Plan proposed by the parties, and requested the parties to make active preparation for the replenishment.

Ms. Yang Xiaoling, Division Chief of the CIO, attended the meeting.

6th POPNET Workshop Convened

On April 24-25, 2008, the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Environmental & Chemical Geography Committee of the Geographical Society of China and the 6th POPNET Workshop was convened. Over 40 experts and scholars in the environmental science, chemistry, soil science and other fields from 20 universities and research institutes attended the event.

Considering the regional environmental problems and challenges of POPs in China, the meeting aimed to review and share the latest progresses and outcomes from researches on POPs regarding their pollution characteristics, process behaviors, risk management, and control and restoration, and to promote theoretical and methodological initiatives for scientific research in this field.

Discussions were organized also on relevant special topics including new technologies and approaches for POPs detection, contaminants adsorption, mechanism of transport and degradation, regional environmental processes, risks on ecology and human health, and pollution control, rehabilitation and management measures.

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