



POPs Action In China

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR STOCKHOLM CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

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Headline News

Vice Minister Arranges Key Tasks for 2008

On May 14, 2008, Mr. Zhang Lijun, Vice Minister of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) chaired the 3rd Meeting of National Coordination Group (NCG) for Stockholm Convention Implementation in China. The coordinators, contact officials and representatives from the 13 member ministries attended the meeting. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology appointed its representative to observe the meeting.

The participants reviewed and passed the NCG Work Report of 2007 and Key Tasks for 2008, and

unanimously approved the list of NCG's expert committee. Arrangements were made for pesticidal POPs exemptions termination, new POPs survey and evaluation, etc.



China successfully completed all

planned tasks in 2007 under the leadership of MEP with common efforts and close cooperation from the member ministries. According to the NIP, China will apply the best available technologies in new sources in the key dioxin emission industries, ensure the phaseout of pesticidal POPs' production, use, import and export by May 2009, and complete the effectiveness evaluation and the national report. Therefore, the tasks in 2008 will still be arduous and challenging for China.

As stated by Mr. Zhang Lijun, China is now in its key period of the

harmonized society construction, and successful implementation of the convention is related to the health of the people and the sustainable development of the country. He hoped that all member ministries would take due responsibilities to adopt effective means for POPs control and reduction and to lead the convention implementation to a new and higher level. He requested the member ministries to incorporate the key tasks of convention

implementation into their routine administration, further tighten policies, regulations and standards, strengthen the capacity for the convention implementation, facilitate the implementation of the demonstration projects, promote advanced and feasible technologic and independent development, enhance awareness campaigns, and hence to build a solid foundation for realizing the staged targets in 2009 and the commitments of China.

Mr. Zhang stressed in the end that the working rules shall be strictly followed, and the roles of the national expert committee should be fully exercised to support scientific comprehensive decision makings on key issues relating to the convention implementation. He requested the member ministries to continue to take joint efforts to ensure steady realization of the targets for the convention implementation.

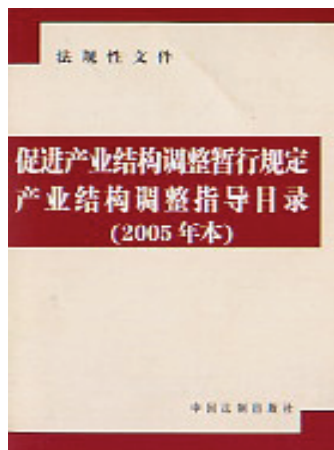
A Good Start but a Long Way to Go

For commemoration of the 7th anniversary of open for signature and the 4th anniversary of global effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention

Under the direction of the Central Communist Party Commission and the State Council on adherence to people-centered policies, implementation of the scientific development concepts, and construction of harmonized socialist society, taking the full advantages of the countrywide campaign on promotion of the energy efficiency and emission reduction and construction of ecological civilization, insisting on overall principles for the first few years of defining the sound coordination mechanism, planning the implementation activities, building the solid basis, and strengthening the capacity building, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), in coordination with the NCG member ministries, successfully completed all planed tasks, smoothly started

and facilitated the convention implementation, and promoted the energy and resources saving, the industrial structural optimization and upgrading and capacity building for self renovation.

1. A good start of NIP implementation



a. NIP submission completing the first obligation, and institutions and rules strengthening the convention implementation management.

The national coordination mechanism is working well, demonstrating the concerted efforts

made by the member ministries and their spirit of attaching most importance to the country's implementation of the convention. The NIP has been co-signed by NCG member ministries, finalized and endorsed by the State council and submitted to the convention secretariat, thus the first obligation of China under the convention has been completed. The Working Rules of the National Coordination Group and the Management Measures for National Expert Committee were formulated and promulgated. The establishment of the National Expert Committee was started. The NIP launching conference was successfully convened, with the participation of all the relevant stakeholders.

With regard to capacity building, the central government provided a specific fund to MEP for its' routine operating and management, by which the convention implementation management has been substantially strengthened.

The long-term capacity building was started all round way. Investigations and discussions on capacity building needs, priority areas and recent focuses were made by all coordinating ministries, local governments, industrial sectors and enterprises, international organizations and bilateral partners including the USA and Sweden. The guidelines for developing the Regional Implementation Plan (RIP) were prepared. The three-level management information system was basically established and data and information management has been further improved.

b. Regulations and standards formulation or revision started to provide policies support in the convention implementation

Policies, regulations and standards are one of the important measures in the convention implementation. The revision, supplementation and improvement of relevant regulations and standards were started comprehensively according to the arrangement of NIP.

With regard to policies and regulations, MEP started the formulation of the Regulatory Measures or Guidance Policy on POPs reduction and control. The National Development and Reform Commission conducted the preparatory works for revision of *The Guiding Catalog on Industrial Structuring Regulation (2005 Edition)* and considered to incorporate POPs related products, processes and equipments into the catalog. The revision of *The List of Hazardous Chemicals* led by the State Administration of Work Safety

continues. The Ministry of Commerce together with other relevant ministries jointly promulgated *Regulatory Measures on Recycling of Regenerated Resources*.

As for the standards, MEP will lead the formulation of around 90 emission standards, quality standards, monitoring methods and technical guidelines during the 11th Five-Year-Plan Period, among which about 70 are included in the 2008 work program or achieved by administrative documents, and the other 20 will be arranged in the demonstration projects and relevant research work. The Ministry of Health organized the revision of relevant national standards for detecting organochlorine pesticides in food, and *Maximum Allowance of Pesticide Residue in Food* (GB2763-2005) which is expected to be approved and released soon. The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine organized the research project preparation and technologies reservation for POPs detection in the imported and exported goods.

c. POPs reduction and control by sectors, regions and stages

Among the 12 POPs under the control of the Convention, the pesticidal POPs still in production or use in some limited sectors in China include DDT, chlordane and mirex, and there are no technically feasible and economically viable substitutes to these POPs. PCBs mostly used in electric capacitors and its associated contaminants have not been managed and

disposed in environmental sound manner. Dioxins are released from various industries with little background data available, and it is a great challenge to apply BAT/BEP and realize the reduction targets under the Convention. Given the current POPs status in China, considering the convention requirements and characteristic pollution of different POPs, and directly by people-centered policies, substantial efforts have been made on POPs inventory survey, pesticidal POPs phaseout, PCBs management and disposal, dioxins emission reduction, and environmental management and disposal of POPs wastes and contaminated sites, and a firm step towards the POPs reduction and control has been taken.

d. Active participation in international convention activities and a remarkable role played in promoting the global progress



China actively conducted policy research work on convention negotiations. Delegation was sent to the 3rd COP and played an important role in key issues regarding non-compliance, technology transfer and effectiveness evaluation, etc. Application for the proposed setup of the Regional Center for POPs

Capacity Building and Technology Transfer has been started. Participations have been organized in the new POPs review committee meeting, the effectiveness evaluation meeting and the global business plan for phase out of DDT in malaria vector control. The first effectiveness evaluation report of China has been basically completed in line with the requirements of the COP.

e. Studies on diversified investment and co-financing mechanism to provide the financial and technical support

Studies have been initiated on the economic incentive and balancing mechanisms for promoting POPs pollution control and the principles on expenses sharing for POPs reduction and control. Discussions were made on the establishment of funding assistance and technology transfer mechanisms. In cooperation with Tsinghua University, the 3rd POPs Forum was convened with an intensive discussion on the hot issues, including the funding mechanism, the obligations and the responsibilities.

f. Strengthening POPs monitoring, research and development

MEP organized monitoring on the major POPs production plants and monitoring on the background of 11 POPs (except toxaphene) in the atmosphere, and proposed to include the pesticidal POPs and PCBs in the environmental monitoring programs at the national, provincial and municipal levels. The plan has been made for monitoring

the POPs levels in the environmental media and organisms. The investigation on detection and analysis of DDT contents in anti-fouling paints and dicofol has been started, and analysis was also conducted on the future application of rapid POPs detection technologies in China. The Ministry of Health organized the establishment of methods for measuring the toxicity equivalent of dioxins and the likes in foods, and conducted the fourth nation-wide surveys on general meals. The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine coordinated relevant departments for study on methods of POPs detection in the imported and exported goods. The construction of the regional dioxins monitoring centers in the national environmental protection system has been significantly accelerated.



f. Facilitating information exchanges and strengthening the communication and awareness building

A five-year dissemination plan has been made. The plan sets the public as the target, defines POPs knowledge and the significance of convention implementation as its major contents, highlights the

campuses and communities as breakthrough spots, and proposes the newspapers, TV programs and the Internet to be the dissemination media with the aim to gradually raise the awareness of the general public. For this purpose, the POPs Action in China website has been constructed; the newsletter of convention implementation in China has been published and disseminated. The progresses and achievements have been made public at various occasions. A series of publicity activities were organized with the theme of "Implementing the scientific development concepts and promoting POPs convention implementation". The campaigns have already entered into the universities and colleges.

2. Still a long way to go

In the next two years, the convention implementation in China will go into a tough stage. According to the NIP, China will apply BAT/BEP in new sources of dioxins emission in key sectors in 2008, achieve the phaseout of the production, use, import and export of pesticidal POPs by May 2009, and complete the effectiveness evaluation and the national report. Specifically, those tasks can be grouped in seven categories: (1) promoting the effective operation of the national convention implementation mechanism, strengthening the capacity building for member ministries and the local provincial governments, and organizing the national expert committee to conduct studies on convention implementation; (2)

facilitating the formulation and revision of relevant laws, policies, regulations, standards, regulatory catalogs and guidelines; (3) realizing gradual phaseout and control targets by stages and regions; (4) actively participating and playing important role in global convention activities; (5) promoting establishment and improvement of the financial and technical assistance and transfer mechanism; (6) planning the POPs monitoring, research and development; and (7) promoting information exchange and strengthening communication and awareness building.

At the moment of the seventh anniversary of the Convention's opening for signature and the fourth anniversary of its global effectiveness, it is concluded that China has made remarkable progresses and achievements, especially the breakthroughs in recent two years in the financial mechanism, the combination of implementing the international convention and fulfilling the country's obligations with the harmonized society construction and national sustainable development, active participation in the global POPs actions, and

exercise of the "Going out" strategy. However, the convention implementation has gradually progressed from convention implementation preparation stage to comprehensive implementing stage. As a developing country, China's economic development and its environmental management are left far behind the developed countries. Therefore, there are still many difficulties and challenges in the long way to the objectives of the Convention and the NIP.

Project Progress

China Launches Long-term Capacity Building Project

On May 21-22, 2008, the Convention Implementation Office of MEP (CIO/MEP) held an inception workshop of GEF-funded China long-term capacity building project in Beijing. Over 100 representatives and experts from international agencies including UNIDO and UNEP, bilateral countries including Italy, USA, Norway, Sweden, Canada and Germany, 13 member ministries of the National Coordination Group, 7 provincial environmental protection bureaus/agencies of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Heilongjiang, Shanxi, Chongqing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Hunan and Ningbo, 4 MEP departments of Science, Technology and Standards Department, Pollution Control

Department, International Cooperation Department and Environmental Supervision Department, and industrial associations and research institutions as well attended the meeting.

The meeting informed the participants of the global convention progress and the implementation status in China, introduced the objectives and main activities of the project, learned the experiences on POPs reduction and control from the developed countries and POPs control and dioxins monitoring from the Hong Kong SAR. Capacity building requirements were communicated among the related departments and local governments. Valuable suggestions were proposed for implementation.

The project will effectively enhance the capacity of the central and local

governments, substantially remove the bottleneck barriers regarding policies, funds, technologies and institutions, and provide a basis for the smooth implementation of the NIP in China.

Sampling Plan for Risk Assessment on Chlordane and Mirex Passes Review

On June 27, 2008, the Nanjing Research Institute of Environmental Sciences of MEP, entrusted by the CIO/MEP, organized an expert review meeting in Nanjing on the sampling plan of the environmental risk assessment on chlordane and mirex plants under the GEF/WB demonstration project of Alternative to Chlordane and Mirex in Termite Control in China. The meeting briefed the activities and

requirements of the project, highlighted the objectives of this meeting, presented the proposed sampling plan for extensive discussion, collected concrete comments for revision, and made some arrangements for the follow-up activities.

Representatives from the local EPBs of Changzhou, Suzhou, Changshu, Dongtai, Liyang and Taicang, CIO/MEP, Nanjing Research Institute, China Academy of Environmental Sciences and Shanghai East Company attended the meeting.

Termite Control Industry Held Workshop on Stockholm Convention Implementation in Ningbo

In order to implement the Stockholm Convention and facilitate the overall phase-out of chlordane

and mirex in the termite control industry, development of the national program on the phase-out of chlordane and mirex in termite control was arranged in the project titled Alternative to Chlordane and Mirex in Termite Control in China.

For mobilizing the broad participation from the management and operating stations of the termite control sector in formulating the replication program, CIO and the National Center for Termite Prevention and Control jointly organized a workshop in Ningbo of Zhejiang Province from June 26 to 28, 2008, on POPs Convention implementation in the termite control industry. A total of 65 officials and experts from local construction management departments and the termite control stations from 16 provinces and municipalities where termite control measures have been applied attended the meeting.



At the workshop, the objectives and action plans on chlordane and mirex phaseout under the NIP were introduced, discussions were organized on the activities required for formulating the replication program, and arrangements were made for data collection and survey in the sector in the near future. The participants all agreed that the workshop intensified their understanding on the significance of chlordane and mirex phaseout and expressed their willingness to actively support and participate in the development of the replication program.

Public Awareness

POPs Convention In Beijing University

From April 25 to May 14, 2008, CIO and Environmental Science and Engineering Colleague of Beijing University jointly sponsored a series of awareness raising activities with the theme of "Implementing the scientific development concept, and facilitating the POPs convention implementation." in combination with the 110th anniversary of the university. Those activities included

an exhibition and explanation of the POPs convention in China, video playing on POPs knowledge and implementation progress, dissemination of publicity materials and souvenirs, and signature for supporting the environmental protection.

On May 4, Mr. Zhuang Guotai, Director General of Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO) of MEP, attended the Alumni Forum, in which he provided his recommendations on the

academic development and gave the book written by Mr. Zhou Shengxian, Minister of MEP, entitled "The Opportunity and Choice – In-depth Thinking on Songhua River Incident", as the presents to the student representatives, encouraging the students to conduct necessary practices while learning theories.

Through this series of activities, CIO informed the university students and professors of the hazardousness of POPs, the

actions and progress on POPs in China. This awareness raising event achieved the proposed objectives and was highly appreciated by the university.



***International Workshop
Convened on
POPs Contaminated Sites
in China***

On the occasion of the 7th anniversary of China's signatory to the Stockholm Convention, CIO held an international workshop on POPs contaminated sites in China in May 23-24, 2008. Over 120 representatives and experts from the international organizations including UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO and the WB, EU and 10 countries including Italy, USA, Holand, Germany and Sweden, 4 MEP departments of Plans and Reports, Pollution Control, Environmental Assessment, Nature and Ecology, relevant ministries, local EPBs, research institutions and enterprises attended the workshop. Mr. Zhuang Guotai, Director General of FECO/MEP was present and delivered a remark in the

workshop.

The workshop shared the experiences in the management, policies, technologies and financial arrangements on POPs contaminated sites both in China and abroad countries, analyzed the status and characteristics of POPs contaminated sites in China, organized extensive discussions on the measures for further identifying the POPs contaminated sites and their environmental sound management and control, collected constructive recommendations on initiating POPs contaminated site management in China. Consensus was reached among the participants for cooperation on POPs contaminated sites.

China is a large producer and consumer of pesticides, and its POPs production enterprises were mainly established in 1960s and 1970s. The equipment is simple, the processes are out of date, and there are no pollution treatment devices. The solid wastes, waste water and air released cause severe environmental pollution. Following the banning of some pesticidal POPs production in 1980s, most of these plants did not take cleanup actions on the production facilities and the sites, while others simply piled the toxic and hazardous wastes around without taking any protective measures, resulting in pollution to the soil and groundwater. Most of the storage sites of PCB-containing power electric equipment decommissioned since 1980s have reached or exceeded their designed

life limits. Leakage has been found in some of these storage sites, which risks the surrounding environment. In addition, improper dumping of the abandoned pesticides, and dioxin-containing residue and fly ash is also a source of POPs contaminated sites.

Although the survey on POPs contaminated sites in China has not been started yet, it could be predicted that there should be various types of POPs contaminated sites and the problem should be complicated and difficult to handle in China. Some preliminary investigations have identified the great potential risks of the highly contamination sites in some areas. Along with the convention implementation and the industrial restructuring, the pesticidal POPs producers and users will be gradually closed down and turn to new products or move to other places, but their production sites may become potential POPs pollution sources with high environmental risks. Therefore, the treatment of POPs contaminated sites becomes an urgent issue. CIO prioritizes the initiation of the



treatment of POPs contaminated sites in its 2008 work program.

Policy Guidance

New National Catalogue of Hazardous Wastes Effective from August 1, 2008

Recently, MEP and NDRC jointly announced the updated National Catalogue of Hazardous Wastes, to be effective from August 1, 2008. In the mean time, the old catalogue issued by the former SEPA, the State Economic Trade Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation and the Ministry of Public Security on January 4, 1998, has been replaced.

The new catalogue is formulated in accordance with *The Law on Environmental Protection on Solid Waste Pollution*. All of the solid wastes and liquid wastes that are

either corrosive, toxic, flammable, reactive or infective, and that may have risks and be potentially harmful to the environment or human health, and thus need to be specially regulated, have been included in the list. All 12 POPs under the control of the Convention are among these hazardous wastes.

China Promulgates Dioxins Discharge Standards for Pulp and Paper Mill

In order to enforce *The Law on Environmental Protection* and *The Law on Water Pollution Prevention and Control* of China for pollution prevention and control,

conservation of the eco-environment and protection of the human health, MEP and the State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine jointly issued, on June 25, 2008, the Standards of Waste Water Pollutants Discharges from Pulp and Paper Industry. This became effective from August 1, 2008.

According to this standard, from August 1 on, the dioxins contents in the waste water discharged from production workshops and facilities in any newly established pulp mills, integrated paper and pulp mills, and paper mills should not exceed 30pgTEQ/L. This threshold will be applicable to the existing enterprises from July 1, 2011.

Tracking New POPs

Electroplating Industry Concerns about PFOS Issue

A joint meeting of the director generals and the secretary generals from the local associations of the Electroplating Industry Branches of China Surface Engineering Association was convened in May 29-31, 2008 in Guangzhou. A total of 67 participants and guests from 31 local institutions attended the meeting.

At the meeting, introductions on the inhibitors consumption survey and

the problems of PFOS uses in the plating industry were made by MEP. Questionnaires were delivered to the participants for surveying on PFOS uses and other basic information of the industry.

Survey and Evaluation on SCCP Industry Started

SCCP is one of the candidate POPs under review by POPs convention. Its POPs characteristics review has been completed in line with the Convention requirements.

According to the review procedures, SCCP may be added to the control list at the 5th COP to be held in 2011 if it passes the risk assessment and the socio-economic impact evaluation. Since there are over 100 enterprises taking SCCP as their main products and SCCP are still being widely used as plasticizer and fire retardant, its control may have impacts on relevant industries and enterprises in China.

In order to assess its socio-economic impacts and to

provide support in convention negotiations and decision-making, CIO entrusted China Petro-chemical Industrial Association to hold a training workshop on SCCP investigation on June 13, 2008, and started relevant survey and evaluation. Over 60 representatives and experts from CIO, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China Petro-Chemical Industrial Association, the Economic and Technology Development Center in the Chemical Industry of China, the member of the New POPs Review Committee, paraffin and chlorinated paraffin producers and users attended the workshop.

At the workshop, introductions were made on the convention implementation in China, the progress of SCCP review in the convention, and production and use of SCCP in China. Discussions were made on the impacts of SCCP

control and the feasibility of its substitution. The investigations were planned, mobilized and arranged.

Weifang of Shandong Province Responds to EU PFOS Directive

In response to the EU Directive on restriction of PFOS sales and uses, effective from June 27, 2008, the local quality supervision bureau of Weifang City in Shandong Province provided an alarming notification for the 160 large and medium-sized textile exporting enterprises. The notification contained information of the major contents and requirements of the Directive, and

in the mean time, suggested to make the self checking on the disadvantages of their products and to upgrade corresponding technical standards. The enterprises are encouraged to make renovations and adjustments to meet the requirements of the international markets regarding new standards of the exporting goods and hence to minimize their losses.

There are over 1500 textile exporting enterprises in Weifang. In 2007, the total value of exporting textile goods exceeded 1 billion USD, accounting for 30% of its total exports. The EU PFOS Directive will have direct impact on Weifang's textile products export.

Now the enterprises in Weifang are actively communicating and coordinating with the European importers for quick selection, trial and use of substituting products.



Scientific Research Trend

Research on Environmental Safety, Evolution and Control of POPs in Conclusion Stage

In May 4-6, 2008, an academic seminar was convened in Beijing on the research project of POPs environmental safety, evolution and control under the National Key Fundamental Research and Development Plan (973). At the seminar, the leaders and chief

scientists of the various project tasks presented their summaries and research findings in their respective fields.

The project was launched in 2003, led by Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of China Academy of Sciences (CAS) and supported by 16 other research institutes and universities including the Hydrobiology Institute of CAS, Guangzhou Geochemistry Institute, CDC, Tsinghua University, Beijing

University, Nankai University, Xiamen University, etc. There are 7 research tasks under the project including: (1) methodologies for super-trace POPs detection and characterization in complex media; (2) POPs pollution characteristics, their evolution and trends in typical areas in China; (3) typical POPs discharge patterns and migration; (4) typical POPs interfacial process and environmental behaviors; (5) complex eco-toxicity effect of POPs; (6) principles of POPs pollution



reduction and control; and (7) methodologies of POPs ecological risk assessment and early warning.

The project is the first “973” project on POPs, and its findings will provide solid technical support to the convention implementation, response to WTO green trade barriers and the promotion of sustainable development in China.

Workplan Approved for Research on Dioxin Survey and Reduction Technologies in crematoria

On May 15, 2008, the No. 101 Research Institute of Ministry of Civil Affairs organized a technical review meeting in Beijing on the survey workplan of the pollution from funeral services under national scientific foundation project. Experts from China General Station of Environmental Monitoring, CIO attended the meeting. The experts approved the plan and agreed that the research on emission factors of major pollutants from key sources of Crematoria will increase the quality of investigation, and suggested to improve the monitoring methods for trial investigation as soon as possible in order to provide the pollution

indices for comprehensive survey. The experts also recommended the project undertakers to strengthen their cooperation with environmental protection organizations for joint monitoring, investigation and evaluation on dioxin and other major pollutants.

Following the survey meeting, the research institute convened another meeting on June 21, for review of its design study on the systematic technologies for dioxins reduction in the crematoria sector in China under the national social service special projects package. The participants at the meeting agreed that reduction of dioxins emission not only concerns the protection of the environment and the human health, but also is of great importance for China to implement the Convention. The research task represents the practice of NIP implementation in the funeral service sector, and its outputs will provide technical support to the formulation of dioxins emission reduction guidelines and setup of emission control standards in the funeral service sector.

Catalytic Decomposition Filtering Material Borne in Nanjing

On May 25, 2008, a new filtering material that are self catalytic, high temperature proof and corrosion resistant, developed by Nanjing Jihua No. 3521 Special Equipment Co. Ltd., passed the review and evaluation in an expert meeting attended by 4 academicians from

China Academy of Engineering and other 12 experts. The environmental friendly filtering material can work as a filter to remove dioxins in the flue gas from combustion. In the mean time, it is high temperature proof, corrosion resistant, and long-lasting for up to 4 years under extremely severe environment. The material can be widely used in industries including high temperature kilns, cement production, power generation and waste incineration.

It is reported that this new technology was developed jointly by various domestic universities and enterprises. A total of 9 patents have been applied and granted from its development to production. Recently, the first batch of this material will be tested in high temperature furnace.

First Meeting of POPs Special Committee of CSES Convened

On May 16, 2008, the first meeting of the POPs Special Committee of China Society for Environmental Sciences (CSES) was convened in Tsinghua University. Over 20 committee members attended the meeting.



The meeting introduced the establishment of the committee,

organized intensive discussions on works to be performed by the committee, and defined, as its direction and guiding principles, promoting POPs research, facilitating academic exchanges, meeting the national requirements, and increasing the public awareness.

The POPs Special Committee was established in 2007, affiliated to Department of Environmental Science and Engineering (DESE) of Tsinghua University, and composed of 40 experts on POPs nation-wide, with Prof. Yu Gang from DESE as the Chairman and Prof. Hu Jianxin from Beijing University, Dr. Zheng Minghui, Research Fellow of

Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Ms. Yang Xiaoling, Division Chief of CIO as the three Vice Chairpersons.

In addition, the special committee also engages 5 advisors including Dr. Heidelore Fiedler, Senior Science Official of UNEP, Dr. Tetsu Matsumura from Japan, Dr. Wei Fusheng, Academician from China General Environmental Monitoring Station, Mr. Zhuang Guotai, Director-general of FECO/MEP and Mr. Yue Ruisheng, Deputy Director-general of International Cooperation Department of MEP.

China Investigation on POPs in Arctic from July

According to No.2 Oceanography Institute of State Oceanic Administration (SOC), The 3rd Arctic scientific investigation team was sent by China on July 11, 2008. The 75-day mission was organized by SOC and China Center for Polar Region Research. The team will set out from Shanghai by taking the Snow Dragon Boat to the Arctic.

The investigation will focus on air pollution and POPs background at the Arctic, the unique bio-resources and genetic resources, and the impacts of ice surface variation on the climate of China.

Focus Forum

POPs Forum 2008 and 3rd National POPs Academic Seminar Successfully Convened

On May 17, 2008, the POPs Forum 2008 and the 3rd National POPs Academic Seminar, co-organized by the POPs Research Center of Tsinghua University, CIO, the POPs Special Committee, and the Environmental Chemistry Special Committee of China Chemical Society, was opened in Tsinghua University. About 250 experts and representatives from the government, universities and enterprises attended the event.

Mr. Chen Jining, Executive Vice President of Tsinghua University, delivered a welcome remark at the

opening session, and Mr. Zhuang Guotai, Director General of FECO, presented a key note speech on behalf of Mr. Li Ganjie, Vice Minister of MEP. At the meeting, Mr. Wei Fusheng, Academician of China Academy of Engineering and Research Fellow of China General Environmental Monitoring Station, was granted the 2007 Award in honor of his outstanding contribution in facilitating POPs Convention ratification in China and the research on POPs monitoring.

Prof. Yu Gang from Tsinghua University and Ms. Yang Xiaoling, Division Chief from CIO/MEP, co-chaired the POPs Forum, at which discussions were devoted on difficulties regarding legislation, funding, technology and

responsibilities in the convention implementation. The participants from UNEP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing Zhongchi Environmental Protection Co. Ltd, as well as other representatives actively presented their views and recommendations on POPs convention implementation in China

In the two-day forum, participants made presentations and discussions mainly on 3 aspects including the requirements and strategies for POPs convention implementation, POPs scientific research and decision-making support, and the technological development and applications. The forum presented 4 key-note speeches, 36 academic reports and

35 post-graduate reports, with 108 papers received. Exhibitions were opened on new technologies and equipment for POPs analysis and test, POPs waste disposal and POPs standard materials. The forum actively promoted exchanges, coordination and cooperation among the academic organizations, industries and management agencies on POPs issues.

It is reported that the next forum will be held in Ningbo of Zhejiang Province on May 17, 2009.

Sino-French Forum Concerns POPs Issue

On May 29-30, 2008, the First Sino-French Forum on Health and Sustainable Development was

convened in Beijing, which was co-organized by Chinese Academy of Sciences and French Academy of Sciences, and hosted by Institute of Process Engineering of Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Foundation of France-China for Science and Applications (FFCSA). Over 80 representatives and experts from Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering, China Academy of Medical Sciences, China Xiehe University of Medical Sciences, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, the International Cooperation Department of Chinese Academy of Sciences, the International Cooperation Department of Ministry of Health, French Atomic Agency, French Academy of Sciences, FFCSA and

French Academy of Medical Sciences, attended the meeting.

The participants made intensive discussions on relevant issues including the current air pollution and global climate change, POPs pollution status and hazardous assessment, the intelligent use of nuclear energy and treatment of nuclear wastes, and the policies on environmental protection, etc.

Sino-French Forum was initiated by FFCSA and organized by Chinese Academy of Sciences and French Academy of Sciences. It is held once a year alternatively in China or France, aiming to build a high quality and well-know forum characterized by high academic value, efficient communication and far-reaching influence.

Meeting Information

Meeting on POPs Regional Centers in Switzerland

On June 17-19, 2008, the meeting on POPs regional centers was held in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives from 12 nominated centers, GEF, FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, UNITAR, Basel Convention Secretariat and Rotterdam Convention Secretariat attended

the meeting. Prof. Li Jinhui from Tsinghua University attended the meeting, representing the Asia-Pacific Regional Center under Basel Convention, among the 12 nominated regional centers.

At the meeting, introductions were given on GEF project development and submission, project implementing agencies, and the rapid initiation procedures under the

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

According to the procedures, the nominated centers were required to submit their draft work plans by September 15, 2008. The nominated centers will be formally approved by the 4th COP in May 2009.

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