



# POPs Action In China

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR STOCKHOLM CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

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## Convention Implementation Progress

### *GEF Approves*

#### *Rapid Assessment of Chemical Contamination of the Wenchuan Earthquake in Sichuan Province Project*

On July 3, 2008, the GEF Council approved a project, jointly developed by the World Bank and the POPs Convention Implementation Office (CIO) of Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (MEP), for risk analysis on chemicals pollution of the earthquake in Wenchuan of Sichuan Province. The duration of the project is from July 2008 to May 2009.

The project will make investigations and evaluations on potential environmental impacts and risks resulted from leakage of hazardous chemicals and wastes in the 5 counties that severely suffered from the earthquake disaster in Sichuan Province. Countermeasures and suggestions to mitigate the risks will be proposed, and the project outcomes will be disclosed timely to the public. In the meantime, trainings and other activities will be organized for the public on safety and protection measures.

As one of the subprojects under the Project of Post-earthquake

Environmental Risk Evaluation and Countermeasures in Sichuan, it will provide scientific basis and decision-making support for future emergency response, recovery and reconstruction.



## ***Invitation to Participate in China Sustainable Environmental Management of Medical Waste Project***

In order to facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in China, CIO and UNIDO jointly developed and implemented China Sustainable Environmentally Management of Medical Waste Project, which is the first GEF full-size project for dioxins control and reduction in China. In light of the National Plan for Construction of Hazardous and Medical Waste Disposal Facilities, and in accordance with the convention and the NIP, the project aims to introduce the life cycle management concept and carry out demonstration/replication of BAT/BEP in medical waste management and disposal in order to avoid and reduce the formulation and release of dioxins and other toxic substances. In the meantime, the

project will also upgrade the capacity of medical waste management and disposal in China, and promote the realization of the objective of minimization and sound disposal of medical waste.

The project was approved by the GEF in October 2007, and launched in March 2008. During the demonstration phase, a total of 20 hospitals in 6 municipalities will be selected for BEP demonstration of medical waste management in medical care institutions, and demonstration of BAT/BEP will be conducted in the same municipalities. The demonstrated treatment and disposal technologies are 1 incineration disposal facility, 2 pyrolysis disposal facilities, and 3 non-incineration facilities (e.g., high-temperature steam, micro wave, and chemical disinfection). In addition, a city in remote areas will also be selected for BAT/BEP demonstration

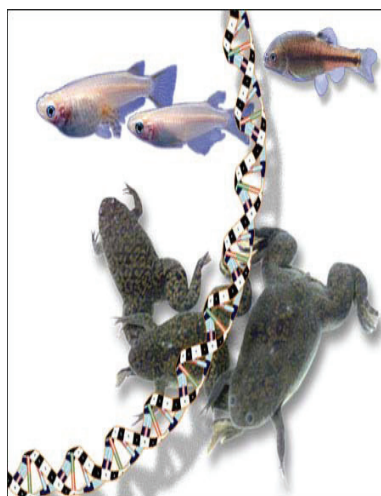
on medical waste treatment and disposal. The demonstration sites will be selected through open bidding process. Invitations will be announced in August and the shortlist will be established in October. The selected demonstration sites will be provided with a certain amount of fund and some technological and equipment support for meeting the requirements of BAT/BEP.

Currently, CIO is seeking widely interests to participation and expecting positive response from relevant institutions and organizations. Any eligible and interested city is welcomed to participate in the national demonstration for promotion of sustainable development of the enterprises and the sectors.

## **Tracking New POPs**

### ***Workshop Convened for Chinese Enterprises to Respond to EU PFOS Directive***

On July 17-18, 2008, China Standardization Association convened a workshop for the Chinese enterprises to respond to the EU PFOS Directive, attended by over 30 representatives from the enterprises in the textile and paper industries, quality supervision departments, and scientific research institutes, etc.

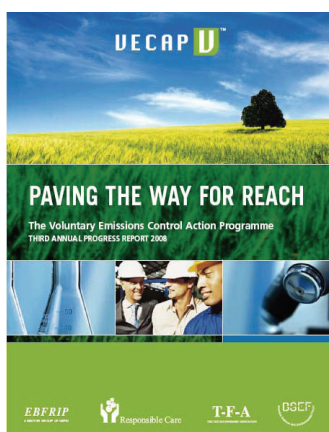


According to the authoritative surveys, the Directive will have wide and far-reaching impacts on the China

exporting enterprises, especially those in textile, leather, paper and packaging industries. In response to the impact, the participants in the workshop suggested that competent research institutes and large-scale enterprises should speed up their substitutes development and upgrading of the technologies so as to have their products meet the increased environmental standards, while the small and medium-sized enterprises should reasonably select and cooperate with in a long run the raw material suppliers that can comply with the

environmental requirements. In the meantime, these enterprises need to communicate with the European

### ***VECAP on Brominated Flame Retardants Progresses Smoothly in Europe***



The Bromine Science and Environmental Forum (BSEF) released its Third Annual Report of Voluntary Emissions Control Action Program

importers as soon as possible, and to facilitate the trial and application of the substitutes so as to reduce the adverse

(VECAP). The report indicates that by monitoring and control on the processes, about 90% of brominated flame retardants wastes in packaging industry has been effectively controlled in Europe, and the DECA-BDE directly released into the waters and atmosphere are declining in Europe's plastic and textile industries.

VECAP is a voluntary action program initiated by the producers of brominated flame retardants and the users in plastics and textile industries in Europe, aiming to raise the awareness on chemical management in the entire supply chains. At present, VECAP has been extended to the US, Canada and Japan. Many enterprises in the consumption chains in these countries have participated in the

impacts resulted from the Directive.

program. In North America, for example, 79% of DECA-BDE users and 60% of TBBPA users have committed to implement VECAP. Japan started to implement the program in January 2007 and have achieved great success. 88% of its HBCD users have now committed to implement the program.

Actually, VECAP has rapidly evolved from a single control instrument for brominated flame retardants into a system for overall chemicals management in industries, which can be applied to wider treatment procedures and raw material management.

## **Scientific Research Trend**

### ***NSFC Supports Study on POPs Environmental Processes and Toxic Effects***

On July 4, 2008, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) released its application guidelines for the second group of 12 key projects during the 11th-Five-Year Plan period, among which the project of study on typical POPs environmental processes and toxic effects is included. The project will take POPs and their degradation products as its research objects for an intensive study on POPs

environmental processes, toxicological mechanism and toxic effects, by using environmental chemistry and molecular toxicology theories and methods. The interfacial processes, accumulative mechanism and toxic effects will be elaborated at molecular and cellular level. The outcomes will provide basis for formulation of control standards of related pollutants and give technical support to the implementation of the Convention in China.

It is reported that the key projects supported by NSFC are the important scientific research program of China. NSFC selects the critical strategic sciences for comprehensive, cross-cutting and renovation integration study, specially targeted to support national economic development, social sustainable development and scientific development. The projects will play the guiding and leading roles in order to further increasing China's capacity for fundamental studies and researches.

### ***Program Launched for Monitoring Priority Pollutants including POPs***

Environmental pollution control is now evolving from the traditional total amount control approach to micro control of priority pollutants, and there is an urgent need in environmental protection to establish a technological system suitable to China for monitoring those priority pollutants. By the end of last year, institutes were selected to undertake the critical research project on priority pollutant monitoring technologies under the National High-tech Research and Development Program (also referred to as “863” Program) in the field of resources and environmental technologies. On July 18, 2008, further invitation was announced for selection of undertaker on research and development of new monitoring technologies and quality control products for priority pollutant, marking a comprehensive start of the study on monitoring technologies for priority pollutants in China.



Through development of new materials that are highly efficient in separating and concentrating the priority pollutants in waters, the research task aims to develop a series of new internationally advanced technologies for priority pollutant monitoring and a series of quality control products for

POPs monitoring, hence to provide a technical basis for development of priority pollutant monitoring in China. In addition, the research project will also target at dioxins, PCBs and organic chlorinated pesticides for developing a series of multi-component standard substances needed for priority pollutants monitoring, developing rapid detection technologies for dioxins, and establishing a multi-level technological system for dioxins detection and testing.

At present, the technical capacity for priority pollutant monitoring in China is still weak, and products used in sampling, sample preparation and rapid analysis for priority pollutants are mainly imported. Therefore, the implementation of the critical research project on priority pollutant monitoring technologies will build a technical platform to meet the requirements of the Convention implementation in China for POPs monitoring, and will significantly strengthen the overall capacity of priority pollutant monitoring in China.

### ***Survey About to Start on Electronic Waste Treatment and Disposal in Zhujiang Delta***

In August 2008, the Ministry of Science and Technology announced a notice on submission of project proposals under its 2009 special program for fundamental scientific and technological studies, by which applications for 2009 fundamental scientific and technological special projects are initiated.

The fundamental scientific and

technological researches for 2009 will support a 5-year survey on pollution



status from electronic waste treatment and disposal in Zujiang Delta area. The overall objectives are to understand the major technologies and characterize the pollution in the process of electronic waste treatment and disposal in Zujiang Delta area, to make clear the distribution of major pollutants in disposal areas, to analyze the impact of the pollutants on human health, and hence to provide a fundamental scientific basis for upgrading the technological level of pollution control and for establishing policies for environmental protection in China.

### ***UNIDO Supports Research on Technologies for Dioxins Emission Reduction***

In July 2008, Material Physics and Micro Structure Institute of Material Colleague of Zhejiang University was awarded the bid for a project supported by UNIDO for development of selective catalytic reduction technology



and promotion of dioxins reduction in China for its research on selective catalytic reduction technology for flue gas purification in preprocess. The first phase funding is USD 90,000.

The project aims to study the selective

catalytic reduction technologies for destruction of dioxins and NOx released from high-temperature combustion so as to purify the flue gas and control pollutant discharge.

The findings may be applied in

industries including waste incineration, metallurgy, coal burning power generation and pesticide production.

## Meeting Information

### ***28th International Symposium on Halogenated POPs (Dioxin 2008) Held in UK***

In August 17-22, 2008, the 28th International Symposium on Halogenated POPs (Dioxin 2008) was held in Birmingham, UK, with the theme of "Looking into the future – for next generation's development". About 770 representatives from 46 countries and regions attended the event. CIO sent its representative to this

symposium.

During the 5-day event, a total of 630 papers (258 presentations and 372 reports) were received on POPs analysis technologies, environmental presence, biological and human exposures, control and elimination technologies, formulation mechanisms, toxicology effect, risk evaluation and policy instruments, etc. The key note presentations were given on researches on hot POPs issues, the development trends, the critical challenges and the

outcomes of study on POPs' global migration. Analyses were reported on issues to be tackled currently, the challenges encountered in the academic and managerial aspects, and the ways to solve the POPs problem.

It is reported that the 29th Symposium will be held in Beijing in August 23-28, 2009, hosted by the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of Chinese Academy of Sciences.

## Conference Notice

### ***NCG will hold its First Expert Committee in Beijing***

The National Coordination Group (NCG) for Convention Implementation in China established its National Expert Committee in May 2008. The committee is composed of 37 experts recommended by the 13 member ministries. Six academicians including

Ms Tang Xiaoyan, Ms Qian Yi, Mr. Fu Jiamo, Mr. Wei Fusheng, Mr. Hao

Jiming and Mr. Cai Daoji, are the advisors to the committee. The Expert Committee will be responsible for providing consultations on policies, regulations, standards and technologies issues, and will participate in discussions on critical issues related to the convention implementation.

In order to fully exercise its role in decision making, CIO starts the preparations for the first meeting of the Committee. There will be discussions on the latest implementation progress, recommendations on NCG 2009 work programme, and work-plan for the Committee.

***The Sixth Technical  
Coordination Meeting to Be  
Held***

In order to facilitate communications and exchange of information and views with other countries and the international implementing agencies, With successful experience and

benefits from previous TCG during NIP development, CIO plans to convene the sixth Technical Coordination Meeting on POPs Convention Implementation in China in December 8, 2008. International organizations including UNIDO, UNDP and World Bank, countries including the US, Italy, Sweden and

Norway, as well as Hong Kong and Macao SARs, NCG member ministries, research institutions and universities, industrial associations and enterprises will be invited to the event.

**EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY: STOCKHOLM CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION OFFICE,  
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