



# POPs Action In China

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR STOCKHOLM CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

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## Headline News

### *Vice Minister Meets with UNIDO DG*

Li Ganjie, Vice Minister of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), met with UNIDO's Director General Dr. K. Yumkella on October 1, 2008 in UNIDO Headquarter during his participation in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Vice Minister expressed his pleasure for meeting with Dr. Yumkella in Vienna

since their last meeting in Beijing in August, 2008, and his heartfelt appreciation to UNIDO and Dr.

Yumkella himself for their attention and support to China's environmental protection.



The Vice Minister said MEP has carried out fruitful cooperation with UNIDO in many areas and achieved great successes over the last decade. UNIDO has extended great assistance to China's environmental protection, particularly

to the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements including the Montreal Protocol and the Stockholm Convention, and played an important role in promoting sustainable development.

UNIDO is an important implementing agency for Montreal Protocol. Since their first collaborative project in 1993, UNIDO and MEP have maintained good cooperation for 15 years, and have jointly implemented the phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), including 40 single projects, 8 foam sector's umbrella projects, and 5 sector plans for tobacco, domestic refrigeration, methyl bromide production and consumption as well as refrigeration servicing, the total fund reaches 137 million USD. The smooth implementation of these projects paved the way for fulfilling the Protocol's first phase targets and achieving accelerated CFCs phase-out in China.

In the field of POPs phaseout and the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, UNIDO successfully assisted MEP in the application for the first GEF's full-size project for NIP formulation in May 2003. After nearly 4 years of joint efforts, the NIP was eventually approved by the State Council in April 2007.

Currently, China is steadily implementing the Convention by stages, in various sectors and different regions as stated in the general principles of the NIP. In addition, in response to the challenges faced by China, UNIDO assisted China in having 5 GEF projects approved (32 million USD of GEF grant and over 100 million USD of total project budget) in the last 5 years with its sectoral and technological advantages despite of GEF grant shortage. The number and total fund of GEF projects implemented by UNIDO account for nearly 50% of the overall number and fund of GEF projects in China.

The successful implementation of these projects is important to achieving China's convention implementation goals, dioxin reduction in key sectors and reduction of dioxins emission.

Both parties expressed their confidence in future cooperation. The Vice Minister hoped that UNIDO could further facilitate the approval of the CFC phaseout project in the MDI sector and strengthen cooperation in the accelerated phaseout of HCFCs and in the formulation of the sectoral plan for HCFC phaseout in domestic refrigeration. For POPs phaseout, the two sides exchanged views on technology transfer and on the problem of fund shortage. It was decided that these issues would be further discussed during Mr. Yumkella's forthcoming visit to China in November.

Mr. Tang Guoqiang, Resident Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary to UN in Vienna, was present at the meeting.

## Project Progress

### *Effectiveness Evaluation on China's Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

#### *Meeting Held on POPs Air Monitoring*

In accordance with the NIP and the work plan of 2008, MEP's

Convention Implementation Office (CIO) organized a meeting in Changdao County, Shandong Province, on September 10-11, 2008, for summarizing works of monitoring POPs in the atmosphere during 2007-2008 under the project of effectiveness evaluation for Stockholm Convention implementation in China. A total of

28 officials, experts and other representatives from China Environmental Monitoring Station, Shandong Provincial Center for Environmental Monitoring, Chongqing Environmental Monitoring Center, Research Center for Eco-environmental Sciences, Yantai Municipal Center of Environmental Monitoring, Luan

Environmental Monitoring Station in Anhui Province and the local Environmental Protection Bureau in Changdao County, attended the meeting. Mr. Yu Lifeng, Deputy Director-general of Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO) of MEP, was present at the meeting and delivered a speech.

At the meeting, the progress of POPs Convention implementation in China was briefed, the work of air sampling and monitoring in 2007-2008 was reviewed, and the implementation of the global monitoring program was introduced. Discussions were also made on quality control and measures for ensuring the monitoring quality, and training was given on use of the large-sized air sampling equipment. The participants expressed that after the success of the first effectiveness evaluation they would continue to actively support and participate in the effectiveness evaluation, further enhance POPs monitoring capacity in China and explore ways to establish a working mechanism for long-term effectiveness evaluation. They hoped that China's POPs monitoring would take place on a regular basis through the effectiveness evaluation, so as to facilitate Convention negotiations and decision-making in environmental management.

After the meeting, the participants paid a visit to the background monitoring site of national environmental monitoring program in Changdao County, and deployed 3 passive air sampling devices as required by the Convention.

### ***World Bank Mission Inspects Progress of Chemical Pollution Risk Assessment in Sichuan***



On September 16-19, 2008, a World Bank delegation came to China to inspect progress of the risk assessment of chemical pollution resulted from the Wenchuan Earthquake. Coordinated by the CIO and with the support of Sichuan Provincial Environmental Bureau, the World Bank mission paid site-visits to some key enterprises in the 5 counties that suffered severely from the earthquake. Intensive discussions were made with the Research Academy of Environmental Sciences of Sichuan and the Provincial Environmental Monitoring Station on the overall progress of project implementation, the equipment procurement, procurement of technical services and the use of equipment. During discussions, the follow-up activities were determined, and special emphases were given to the necessity of carrying out investigation and study on POPs in the key counties.

The World Bank delegation highly appraised the work by the CIO and Sichuan Provincial Environmental

Protection Bureau, and considered that substantial progress has been achieved, and Sichuan is ready for its next phase of post-earthquake rehabilitation.

### ***Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop for China Termite Chlordane and Mirex Substitution Project Convened in Nanjing***

In order to push forward the demonstration project of chlordane and mirex substitution in termite control, to inspect and evaluate the project progress and to review the 2009 annual plan, the CIO organized an M&E workshop in Nanjing from September 16 to 18, 2008. A total of 32 representatives from World Bank, the project offices in Jiangsu, Anhui and Hunan provinces, Nanjing Environmental Science Institute, as well as some experts from both China and abroad, attended the workshop.



At the workshop, the project progress was briefed, and some key issues regarding quality control of the bait system procurement and installation, IPM research and development, and financial management of the project, were discussed. The 2009 annual

program was reviewed and approved. A visit was also organized to the installation site of small-scale bait system in Nanjing City.

After the evaluation, the World Bank concluded that the CIO and the provincial project offices had been attaching great importance to the demonstration project, which had been smoothly implemented, and substantial progress had been made. These results can further facilitate the phaseout of pesticide POPs including chlordane and mirex under the Convention in China.

### ***World Bank Reviews Progress of PCB Management and Disposal Project***

From September 18 to 24, 2008, the World Bank delegation visited China to review the implementation progress of the PCB project. During the visit, the World Bank delegation, the CIO and some project implementation agencies discussed the overall project progress, procurement of thermal desorption unit, the clean-up of PCB storage sites in Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province, the cleanup of Dongfeng Automobile Company's #1 site, as well as key works and relevant future arrangements. After the meeting, the CIO visited Dongfeng Automobile Company's PCB cleanup sites with the Italian experts in Shiyan city, Hubei province, and had discussions on technical issues with the provincial and local environmental protection

agencies. Agreements on issues including the clean-up standards, temporary storage of wastes and preparatory work of site cleanup were achieved.



### ***GEF Approves Full-size Project on DDT Control and IPM Application for China***

On October 7, 2008, the GEF CEO endorsed the full-size project on control of DDT in dicofol production and IPM technology application in China. The total budget of the project reaches 17.65 million USD, of which 6.295 million is from GEF grant. The project duration is 4 years from November 2008 to November 2012.

This dicofol project was jointly developed by UNDP and the CIO, aiming at a complete phaseout of DDT in non-closed dicofol production through closure of the non-closed dicofol production. The project will also improve the production process and management capacity in partially closed production of dicofol, demonstrate IPM technologies and promote phaseout of POPs-containing acaricides, so as to reduce DDT emission and its impact on the environment to the largest extent during dicofol

production. In addition, through application of IPM technologies, pesticide use will be reduced, which will be beneficial to the safety of food and environment.

The approval and implementation of this project is significant for China's exemption of a complete halt of DDT in dicofol production by May 2009.

### ***DPRK Delegation Visits China for POPs Convention Implementation Experience***

In accordance with POPs Convention DPRK delegation and information exchange project under the China, Germany and DPRK program, a 4-member DPRK POPs delegation visited China from October 15 to 18, 2008, to learn China's experience, management and technologies in POPs Convention implementation.

During the visit, both sides made extensive discussions and exchanges on the Convention implementation. The CIO introduced in detail the institutional framework, preparatory work, NIP formulation and the overall progress of the Convention implementation in China. Focuses were given on progresses and achievements of the PCB and DDT demonstration projects. Mr. Yu Lifeng, Deputy Director-general of the CIO attended the discussion and delivered remarks.

Accompanied by the CIO and UNITAR, the delegation visited the PCB Disposal Center at Shenyang Institute of Environmental Sciences

and SWIRE SITA Waste Service Co. Ltd in Shanghai, for an in-depth understanding of the processes, technologies and regulated management of PCBs and other hazardous wastes.

Through the visit, the North Korean delegation considered that China's experiences in institutional setup, policies and regulations, POPs substitution and environmentally sound management and disposal of wastes are valuable and helpful, and expressed their willingness to cooperate with China in the above fields.

### ***Meeting Convened for Information Exchange on DDT Substitutes and Conversion Technologies in Disease Vector Control***

On October 17, 2008, the CIO organized an information exchange meeting on DDT substitutes and conversion technologies in malaria disease prevention and control. A total of 16 representatives and experts from UNIDO, Health Supervision Bureau of Ministry of Health, the UN Nantong Pesticide Development Center, as well as some local substitutes producers and research institutes for malaria disease prevention and control, attended the meeting.

At the meeting, introductions were given on status of DDT use in disease vector control worldwide and relevant investigation and evaluation reports on alternatives. Progress on the business plan and the global partnership established

by the Convention Secretariat for elimination of DDT in malaria disease vector prevention and control was briefed. Information was exchanged on DDT substitutes and conversion technologies used in China in malaria disease vector control. The participants agreed that the meeting facilitated communication among the government, industries and research institutes, and hoped that the CIO could organize more events of this kind, so that the enterprises and institutes can better understand the requirements and global trends and hence to further support the national convention implementation and the establishment of the global partnership.

### ***MEP Delegation Visits Sweden on Dioxins Emission Reduction Technologies***



In accordance with the China-Sweden project on dioxins emission reduction in the pulp and paper industry in China, and at the invitation of Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, MEP dispatched a 6-member delegation from MEP's International Cooperation Department, FECO, China Paper Industrial Association and some paper plants, to Sweden for a work

visit and technical exchange on dioxins emission reduction in pulp and paper industry.



During the visit, the Swedish EPA and other relevant agencies made introduction to Sweden's advanced technologies and experiences in paper industry, as well as the evolvement in phasing out chlorine in bleaching process. Detailed introductions were also made on Sweden's legislations, environmental laws, license management, self monitoring and environmental reporting, total discharge volume evaluation and monitoring, and bio-labeling in Sweden. The Chinese delegation introduced the development of paper industry and relevant environmental standards as well. Discussions were made on ways to improve the regulatory framework for the paper industry in China, and discussed the work plan for coming tasks. Accompanied by the Swedish EPA, the delegation paid visits to two advanced paper mills, namely Skablacka and Braviken, in Norrköping.

In addition, the delegation also discussed with the Swedish Chemical Supervision Bureau on new POPs and expressed intention for further cooperation on this issue..

# Tracking New POPs

## *1st Regional Workshop for Effective Participation in POPRC Convened in Bangkok*

From September 3 to 5, 2008, the Convention Secretariat organized the Regional Workshop for Effective Participation in POPs Review Committee for Asia in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of the stakeholders on the process of POPRC and to promote effective collection of information for chemical review. A total of 43 representatives from 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region attended the workshop. The CIO dispatched delegates to the workshop.

At the workshop, introductions were made on POPRC working mechanism, review process, review requirements, etc. Focus was put on the information requirements and methods for collection for review on POPs candidates. In the

meantime, the participants reiterated the importance of technological and financial supports to the developing countries for data collection, and hoped that the Secretariat could organize more such events in order to strengthen communication.



## *Two POPs Candidates Nominated SVHC under REACH*

On October 9, 2008, the Member States Committee of European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) approved its first list of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)

under the REACH Directive. 15 substances are listed, including HBCDD and SCCP.

ECHA Chairman says that the list is just the first inventory of SVHC, and ECHA will announce further lists in succession. It is reported that once an SVHC is put under regulation of the REACH Directive, enterprises must apply for authorization from the EU before production or export to EU, and need to provide content information of relevant substances.

SVHC refers to those chemicals that are highly toxic and may pose high risks to human health and the environment. The differences between the 15 substances announced by ECHA this time and the 16 substances nominated earlier are: 1, Cyclododecane was not included in the SVHC final list; 2, Disodium dichromate dehydrate has been renamed as Disodium dichromate; 3, hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) has been extended to include three other isomers.

# Convention Implementation Progress

## *Hunan Province Readjusts Budget for Termite Control for Convention Implementation*

On September 1, 2008, the Temporary Regulation on Constructions Charges in Hunan

Province, jointly promulgated by Hunan Provincial Pricing Administration Bureau and Hunan Provincial Bureau of Finance, formally entered into effect. According to the Regulation, the charging standards for 11 administrative constructions in Hunan Province have been

readjusted. Some charging items have been cancelled or lowered, as compared to the charging level for termite control, which is one of the charging items, has been increased.

The termite prevention fee is charged as administrative fees by

the termite control agencies from the owners of the buildings for new construction, re-construction, expansion or decoration activities. According to the new regulation, the termite prevention fee has been increased from 2 to 2.5 RMB/m<sup>2</sup> for new constructed, reconstructed or expanded buildings, and from 2.7 to 3 RMB/m<sup>2</sup> for building decoration. The regulation also clarifies the exemption policies, and cancelled the termite prevention fees for prison layout adjustment before December 31, 2010.

Hunan is one of the demonstration provinces under the termite control project, which adopts IPM concept, uses the bait system as its core technology and shield technology, construction design, application of standardized protection timber, culture and cultivation as auxiliary technologies, so as to demonstrate termite prevention and control in buildings. Through the integrated strategy, new prevention concepts and advanced technologies, the chlordane and mirex will be eliminated and the use of other chemicals be reduced.

The cost of IPM is higher than the conventional chemicals, in order to ensure the building is free from termite risks in 15 years, several times of checking will be performed each year and the expenditures will be covered by the termite prevention fees. Therefore, the fee raise is an important step for financing termite control activities and POPs phaseout.

### ***Ban on Construction of New Garbage Incineration Power Plant in Urban Built Areas***

On September 9, 2008, three governmental agencies including MEP, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and State Energy Bureau jointly issued a notice, requesting an enhanced and environmentally-sound management on construction of power plants using waste incinerators.

According to the notice, no new power plants using bio-mass including municipal solid waste as fuels will be permitted for construction in the built areas in cities. Meanwhile, the buffer range of protection should be reasonably determined in accordance with the odor emission levels. The protection range from the adjacent residences, schools and hospitals should not be less than 300 meters. For emission standards, these power generation projects must ensure that the SO<sub>2</sub> and other acid gases in the flue gas are up to the national standards. The emission of dioxins should comply with the EU standards, i.e. not exceeding 0.1 ng TEQ/Nm<sup>3</sup>.

Built areas in cities refer to those areas where development and construction have been substantially completed with municipal infrastructure basically built. It is reported that the demarcation of the built areas will be determined by the local governments.

### ***Technical Standards for PCB Incineration Open for Comments***

On September 19, 2008, the Administrative Office of MEP issued a notice for seeking comments on the draft of Technical Standards for PCB Incineration developed by Shenyang Institute of Environmental Sciences. The deadline is October 30, 2008.

In developed countries, PCB disposal technologies have been researched and used for several decades. The high-temperature incineration technology is relatively mature and commonly preferred. Since 1980s, China has started research on PCB incineration and the application of industrialized disposal, and some achievements has been made. In the existing hazardous waste control standards in China, incineration is currently identified as the major PCB disposal technology. For example, in the national standards for pollution control from PCB-containing wastes (GB130135), it is regulated that any hazardous wastes containing PCB higher than 500mg/kg or any capacitors using PCBs must be disposed of by high-temperature Incineration. In the national standards for pollution control from hazardous waste incineration (GB18484), technical specifications are developed for PCB incineration facilities. Nevertheless, due to various reasons, the technical Regulations specifically for PCB incineration are still unavailable in China. The unique characteristics of PCB incineration unseen in other

hazardous waste incineration processes are not identified, which resulted in the lack formal guiding regulations for enterprises and the environmental protection bureaus. The objectives of this draft standard

is to provide technical guidance to the PCB disposal facilities, to avoid and reduce the secondary pollution from PCB treatment and disposal to the largest extent, and to contribute to safe and environmentally sound

disposal of PCBs in China so as to protect the environment and human health.

### ***POPs Research Prize Granted to Fu Jiamo***

At the Scientific Awarding Ceremony of Guangdong Province held on September 26, 2008, Mr. Fu Jiamo, the academician from Guangzhou Geo-chemical Research Institute, received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Science and Technology, which is the first of such kind of award established in Guangdong Province.

The 75 years old academician is the Director of the Key Laboratory of Utilization and Conservation of Environmental Resources of Guangdong Province, which is affiliated to Guangzhou Geo-chemical Research Institute of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). He is a well-known geological scientist, and an

academician of CAS. He is one of the founders and pioneers of organic geo-chemistry and environmental organic geo-chemistry in China. He is also one of the six special consultants in the expert committee of the national coordination group for implementation of Stockholm Convention in China.

Mr. Fu established the first national key lab on organic geo-chemistry in China in 1991, has brought the lab to an internationally advanced level. He has published over 170 papers in SCI, among which 15 were published in top environmental sciences journals. In addition, he

set up the key lab for use and conservation of environmental resources of Guangdong Province that are jointly sponsored by CAS and Guangdong Provincial Government, and also the CAS Research Center for Environmental Pollution Control in Zhujiang Delta Area. His important and internationally advanced research achievements in the study of environmentally toxic organic pollutants in Zhujiang Delta area have made the Zhujiang Delta area become an area with most systematic and intensive research on POPs in North-east Asia. These achievements are significant for sustainable development and the

protection of human health in Zhujiang Delta area

## **POPs Star**



# Meeting Information

## *POPRC-4 Convened in Geneva*

The POPs Review Committee convened its 4th meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 13 to 17, 2008, attended by 140 representatives including 28 members of the POPRC expert committee, 57 observers from various countries and regions, 46 NGO representatives and other 9 experts invited. China dispatched an observing delegation to the meeting, led by MEP and joined by other officials from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Agriculture, General Administration of Customs, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and experts from Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences of CAS, and related industrial sectors, Mr. Hu Jianxin, as one of the members of the POPRC expert committee, attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed 8 chemicals

including pentachlorobenzene, two isomers of lindane, C-octaBDE, PFOS, SCCP, HBCD and endosulfan, among which the latter 5 chemicals concern the great interests of China.

The meeting reviewed and approved the social and economic impact assessment report on pentachlorobenzene, two isomers of lindane and C-octaBDE, the supplementary information of PFOS's social and economic impact assessment report, and the



evaluation report on characteristics of endosulfan. The meeting also reviewed the risk evaluation report on SCCP, which was not approved due to lack of information. The meeting requested for further

information to be submitted for review by the next meeting. In addition, due to procedure problems, the evaluation report on HBCD characteristics was not reviewed by this meeting.

With the great efforts and active coordination by the delegation, the desired results were achieved. In the social and economic impact assessment of commercial Octa-BDE, the part related to DecaBDE was deleted, as a result,

the possibility of addition of commercial Octa-BDE into the convention, which is widely produced and used in china, has been ruled out; the supplementary information, which fully reflects China's current situation, has provided some groundwork for future negotiation of relevant issues in

COP4 in 2009. The review of SCCP and HBCD has been prolonged for one year, which gives China valuable time for preparation.

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