



POPs Action In China

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR STOCKHOLM CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

Project Progress

Inception Workshop for Sino-Norwegian Project of Environmentally Sound Management and Rapid Assessment of Medical Waste in Earthquake-stricken Area of Sichuan Province Successfully Held



On July 2, 2009, Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of Ministry of Environmental Protection (FECO/MEP) hosted an inception workshop for the project of Environmentally Sound Management and Rapid Assessment of Medical Waste in Earthquake-stricken Area of Sichuan Province in Beijing. This project, funded by Norwegian government, is managed internationally by UNIDO and jointly implemented in close collaboration with UNIDO-executed Sustainable Environmental Management of Medical Wastes project. Main project activities and overall implementation plan were introduced in the workshop. The project aims at promoting the management

capacity of medical waste and the establishment of regulatory framework, thus preventing disease transmission inflicted by improper medical waste disposal and environmental pollution

caused by pollutants such as dioxin. Under the project a rapid response mechanism to medical waste will be built in Jiuzhaigou County of Sichuan Province and a set of non-incineration treatment facilities for

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medical waste will be installed in order to assist local capacity building in terms of installation, operation, management and surveillance of treatment facilities.

In total over 20 people attended the workshop, including officials from FECO, UNIDO, Royal Norwegian Embassy in China, Sichuan Environmental Protection Bureau, Aba Prefecture Environmental Protection Bureau and Jiuzhaigou County Environmental Protection Bureau, representatives from producers of medical waste treatment facilities, relevant experts and news media journalists. Chief Accountant of FECO Mr. Yu Lifeng and Chief Engineer of Sichuan Environmental Protection Bureau Mr. Li Heyi addressed the workshop.

(Source:Division V, FECO)

Mid-term Review for Sino-Norwegian POPs Convention Implementation Capacity Building Project Completed

During July 8-17, 2009, a project assessment group, consisted of officials from Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Pollution Control Authority of Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, and Royal Norwegian Embassy in China, conducted a mid-term evaluation on Sino-Norwegian POPs Convention Implementation Capacity



Building Project, which is managed by Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO). The group visited Ministry of Commerce (MOC), Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), Tsinghua University, and Research Center for Eco-environmental Sciences of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Chongqing EPB.. This mid-term evaluation assessed the cost-effectiveness and management efficiency of project activities, and sustainability and influence of project achievements.

The group expressed their satisfaction toward project implementation status and raised suggestions on advocating project achievements and national replication program. The mid-term evaluation report will be completed in the near future. It will be used to guide future project implementation.

(Source:Division V, FECO)

Project Progress Exchange and Financial Management Meeting for Demonstration of Alternatives to Chlordane and Mirex in Termite Control Held in Beijing

To effectively promote the implementation of Demonstration of Alternatives to Chlordane and Mirex in Termite Control in China (Termite Project), evaluate the overall project progress, work out a next step work plan, and further clarify the requirements of financial management, FECO held Project Progress Exchange and Financial Management Meeting during July 20-21 in Beijing.

The financial management report and



auditor' report for the first half year were briefed and the second half year work plan was discussed. The participants also agreed upon the requirements and agenda for checkup of bait systems installation and maintenance and made clear the requirements of financial management and audit rectification. This meeting plays a positive role in ensuring the smooth implementation of termite project.

Twenty four people from Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of Ministry of Environment Protection (FECO/MEP), International Department of Ministry of Finance, and Project Implementation Units of Jiangsu, Hunan, and Anhui, representatives from provincial financial department and project advisors attend the meeting. Chief Accountant of FECO Mr. Yu Lifeng addressed the workshop.

(Source:Division V, FECO)

Achievements Exchange Workshop for Sino-US Cooperation Project of Reducing POPs and Other Toxic Substance Emissions from Cement Kilns Held in Zibo, Shandong Province

On July 22, 2009, FECO organized an Achievements Exchange Workshop for Sino-US Cooperation Project

of Reducing POPs and Other Toxic Substance Emissions from Cement Kilns in Zibo of Shandong Province, with the joint assistance from Shandong Environmental Protection Bureau and Shandong Energy Conservation Office. The workshop reviewed China's progress in implementing the Stockholm Convention and introduced the Convention implementation requirements for cement industry set by National Implementation Plan and innovative measures adopted and experience gained for dioxin emission reduction and energy conservation under the Cement Kilns Project. The delegates visited two upgraded demonstration cement production lines and thoroughly discussed on how to promote project achievements.

The delegates fully recognized the significance of the project. The smooth implementation of the project initiates a pioneering attempt in applying BAT/BEP in China's cement production industry and facilitating dioxin emission reduction. The promotion and application of project experience will contribute to the Convention implementation in the industry, thus facilitating its sustainable development.

An estimated 80 participants were invited to the workshop. They are from FECO, USEPA, Shandong Environmental Protection Bureau, Shandong Energy Conservation Office, Shandong Construction Materials Association, cement producers in Shandong, and related research institutes.

(Source:Division V, FECO)



Inception Workshop for Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of POPs Wastes in China Project Successfully Launched in Beijing

On August 20, 2009, FECO hosted an Inception Workshop for Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of POPs Wastes in China Project in Beijing. Main project activities, implementation arrangements, and achievement gained through project preparation were introduced and participants' suggestions to project management and implementation were learned. More than 100 people from MOF, UNIDO, other relevant organizations, enterprises of hazardous waste disposal

facilities from home and abroad, representatives from research institutes and experts were invited to present at the workshop.

This project will adopt environmentally sound management technology recommended by the Stockholm Convention, collect and treat obsolete POPs pesticides in China, explore technologically and economically feasible management and disposal measures for dioxin-containing ash. Meanwhile, activities will be conducted to support the evaluation and revision of hazardous waste management policies, technical standards and guidelines, for the purpose of elevating China's overall capacity in environmentally sound management and disposal POPs wastes. The project duration is five years, from 2009 to 2014.

(Source:Division V, FECO)

Convention Implementation

First Law Enforcement Inspection Workshop on POPs Pesticides Completed

On April 16, 2009, Ministry of Environment Protection (MEP), together with other 9 ministries, issued a notice to ban the production, circulation, use, import and export of DDT, chlordane, mirex and hexachlorobenzene, except for the use of DDT for disease vector control in emergency situations.

To put the ban into effect and strengthen the law enforcement inspection to aforementioned POPs pesticides, FECCO and Environmental Supervision Bureau of MEP jointly hosted a law enforcement inspection workshop for POPs pesticides targeting at officials in charge of environmental supervision organizations nationwide.

During July 10-28, 2009, the first law enforcement inspection workshop on POPs pesticides was held in Xingcheng, Liaoning Province. 350 officials from 26 provinces (or cities) such as Beijing, Hebei Province, Shanxi Province, and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

were trained. The workshop introduced the basic information on POPs, National Implementation Plan, China's Convention implementation progress, and current situation of POPs pesticides to participants. Importance was given to the discussion on law enforcement inspection to ban the production, circulation, and use of POPs pesticides.

This training achieved the expected effect by disseminating scientific knowledge on POPs and laying a solid foundation for future law enforcement inspection.

Dynamic Survey Updating and Information Collection Software on POPs Distributed Nationwide

To cooperate with the initiative of POPs dynamic update launched in June of 2009, Information Center of Ministry of Environmental Protection spent 2 months on designing, developing and testing of Dynamic Survey Updating and Information Collection Software on POPs. By the end of August of 2009, the software and video courseware have been

distributed to governmental organizations from top to down for data collection, summary and report.

This survey is based on the national POPs survey conducted between 2006-2008, aiming at investigating dioxin, PCB, POPs pesticides pollution in China, further define pollution and release source, form a systemic guideline for conducting survey and guideline for monitoring and analyzing, and establish a complete administrative mechanism for POPs pollution source. Tasks under survey includes: updating the information on key dioxin/furan POPs emission sector, conducting monitor on dioxin/furan POPs emission factor, further evaluate the emission status of dioxin/furan POPs, update the information on POPs obsoletes in circulation in pilot area, and expanding the investigation POPs obsoletes in circulation in some areas.

It is reported that in the future Information Center will develop a system for reviewing and submitting information and national database in line with project requirements.

(Source: Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection)

Featured Meetings

Symposium on POPs Emission Reduction and Control Technological Development Took Place

On July 1, 2009, hosted by Office of Environment and Resources of National High Technological Research and

Development Program under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MST), undertaken by School of Environmental Science and Engineer of Nankai University, symposium on POPs Emission Reduction and Control Technology Development took place in Tianjin Municipality. In total 32 people from

Resources and Environment Division of MST for China's Agenda for 21 Century, Nankai University, and renowned national experts on POPs, and some representatives from enterprises attended the symposium. Deputy Chief of Division V Mr. Lu Chenggang was invited to make a speech on the Technological Needs of China's

Implementation of Stockholm Convention.

Experts analyzed national needs and international progress, discussed the necessity of technological research and development in terms of overall strategy for twelfth five-year plan in the environmental and high-tech areas, monitoring technology of new POPs, POPs emission reduction in China, POPs' catalytic degradation, and so on, and raised their R&D proposals. Delegates agreed that it is of great necessity to emphasize the R&D of POPs technologies in the 863 Program for Environmental Technology Development Strategy under the Twelfth Five-Year-Plan. Urgently needed key technologies need to be prioritized by strengthening cooperation among industries, universities and research institutes and combining independent innovation with the import and innovation of overseas technologies in order to promoting Convention implementation of elimination, reduction and control of POPs in China and protect human health and ecological environment.

(Source:<http://www.china-pops.net>)

29th H-POPs Seminar Held in Beijing

During August 23-28, 2009, the 20th POPs



Seminar was held in Beijing International Conference Center. This seminar was lead by Ecological Environment Institute of Chinese Academy of Science, attended by more than 1000 participants from over 40 countries and regions. Mr. Zhang Lijun, Vice Minister of Ministry of Environmental Protection addressed the opening ceremony.

The conference was divided into eight sessions with different themes, covering areas such as POPs analysis technology, environmental existence and tendency, biology and human exposure, food and drinking water safety, toxicity and risk evaluation, source and generating mechanism, control technology and policy management, and hotspot issues.

The conference also briefed on the research status, development trend and main challenges of POPs hotspot issues

in the global community, elaborated on the challenges and research prospects of adding new POPs into the Convention, and analyzed in depth the POPs challenges of the day, academic and managerial challenges, and humans' efforts toward tackling POPs issues.

As the Office of National Coordination Group for Stockholm Convention Implementation, Division V of FECO takes an active role in this grand event. Division Chief, Ms. Yang Xiaoling, joined by Senior Specialist Mr. Heidelore Fiedler from Chemicals Branch of UNEP, hosted the Environmental Policy and Technology Session. Deputy Chief of Division V Ms. Ding Qiong presented a report on Need for POPs Phase out and Disposal Technology which drew extensive attention from experts.

(Source:Division V, FECO)

Local Convention Implementation

Medical Waste Disposal Center Established in Yulin, Shaanxi Province

Yulin city of Shaanxi province established its first medical waste

disposal center and it was formally put into use in August 1st, 2009.

Its establishment is the city's largest environmental protection project. Located in Yuyang County, it was started in 2007 and put into trial run in June 20,

2009. It consists of two parts: medical waste collection and medical waste incineration. With a daily treatment capacity of 5 tons, it basically fulfills the needs to treat the increasing amount of medical waste in Yulin city and its

surrounding areas. This center helps to realize the environmentally sound management of medical waste in this area.

To reach up to environmental standards, a 30-meter-high brick chimney is used for flue gas emission. Measures such as raising furnace temperature, spraying lime into the spray dryer, and pulse bag filters are adopted to control dioxin emission.

(Source:Xi'an Evening Post)

2009 POPs Survey Workshop Held in Shandong Province

Shandong Environmental Protection Bureau held the 2009 POPs Survey Workshop in Jinan during August 11-12, 2009. All together over 190 staff in local EPB of Shandong province attended the workshop.

The participants learned Technical Guideline on POPs Dioxin Survey, Technical Guideline on POPs Pesticides

Survey, Implementation Plan for Updating POPs Inventory, Guideline on Compiling Pollution Prevention and Control of POPs' Twelfth Five-Year-Plan of Shandong Province, and Operational Manual of POPs Survey Information Collection, and grasped the methodologies and requirements of updating inventory and program planning. These achievements guarantee a solid foundation for accomplishing inventory survey and planning with satisfaction.

(Source:<http://www.zhb.gov.cn>)

Research and Development

Field Trial for Dioxin Emission Reduction Facilities Set in Cremation Starts

On July 20, 2009, 101 Research Institute of Ministry of Civil Affairs commissioned National Research Center for Environmental Analysis and Measurement (NERC) to conduct a field trial to the



Onsite Photo

research project of Dioxin Emission Reduction Facilities Set in Cremation in China before it is inspected and accepted. Inspectors from NERC, project members, and staff from joint organizations went to Zhucheng Funeral Parlour of Shandong Province to inspect the operation and test Dioxin Emission Reduction Facilities Set in Cremation. This research project aims at studying active control measures and passive emission reduction technologies for dioxin/furan pollutants in cremation, encouraging the introduction, development, application and promotion of BAT/BEP required by the Convention, providing demonstration technology for dioxin/furan emission reduction, providing technical support for formulating relevant standards in cremation, and laying foundation for compiling the technical guideline for dioxin/furan emission reduction and control.

(Source:<http://www.mca.gov.cn>)

Suzhou Lante Nano Materials S&T Co. Ltd.'s Research of Halogen-free Flame Retardant Plastics Financed by Jiangsu Financial Department

At the beginning of August of 2009, Suzhou Lante Nano Materials S&T Co. Ltd. was awarded a 500,000 yuan financial subsidy from Jiangsu Financial Department for its development of new products, as one of the tree corporations being presented such an honor in Suzhou city. This award is recognition to Lante's successful development of halogen-free flame retardant PBT.

The use of flame retardant plastics accounts for 50% of the entire plastics industry. In traditional technology, the key material to retard flame is halogen, while its combustion produces dioxin. Flame retardency means plastics under fire will distinguish once staying away from flame, so the key performance indicator is the

time duration for self-distinguishing. It is learned that the halogen-free flame retardant PBT developed by Lante distinguishes in 3 seconds, in comparison

to the internationally certified standard of 10 seconds. As a result, its product has passed the most stringent certification by Underwriter Laboratories Inc., meaning

that Lante has obtained a permit for entering the largest market of US and North America.

(Source:Suzhou Daily)

Global Perspective

Latest Study in US Revealed that Dioxin-containing Agent Orange Caused Serious Illnesses to Veterans in Vietnam War

American Institute of Medicine announced its study results in July 24 that the large amount of Agent Orange used in Vietnam may cause heart disease and Parkinson's disease to Vietnam War veterans.

After analyzing and evaluating US veterans' physical status based on previous research findings, IOM declared in its statement that Agent Orange is closely associated with heart disease and Parkinson's disease, indicating Orange Agent is far more harmful than expected. However, IOM emphasized that this conclusion needs to be further verified.

(Source: <http://www.xinhuanet.com>)

Vietnam Marks its Agent Orange Day

On August 10, 2009, Vietnam's Agent Orange Day, Vietnam International Television broadcasted a 24-hour Agent Orange Feature Program and a 90-minute live program to mark the event. Three millions of American families were enabled access to this program. In addition, organizers of these commemorative activities hoped to call

for help from people of different countries in the world to respond to the main theme of Contributing Our Bit to Agent Orange Victims' Fight for Justice in Vietnam through TV, radio, newspaper, and internet publicity.

Tran Xuan Thu, Vice President of Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA) expressed that 55 boarding-day kindergartens and 550 houses will be built for child victims during the Agent Orange Day, meanwhile, 1100 scholarships and 1100 positions will be offered to Agent Orange victims.

According to US Ford Foundation, it has donated 90 million US dollars to help Agent Orange victims since 2000, among which 50 to 60 million were spent on cleaning up Agent Orange residues in Da Nang, Bien Hoa and Fuji in Vietnam. However, the compensation approved by US Congress to Agent Orange victims in Vietnam is only 3 million US dollars in 2007 and 6 million in 2009.

During May 15-16, 2009, International Court of Conscience under International Association of Democratic Lawyers held a meeting in Paris to support Agent Orange victims in Vietnam. The court suggested the Vietnamese government to form an Agent Orange Committee made up of experts in areas such as medicine, science, environment, laws and etc. After the Committee decides on the amount of compensation, US government and chemical companies should compensate

to the Agent Orange Trust Fund for the victims. Agent Orange Committee also revealed that while claiming for damages from US Senate and House of Representatives, it would file a lawsuit against US chemical companies as well.

(Source: People's Daily)

Government of Rhône Department in France Banned Fish from PCB-contaminated Rivers

Government of Rhône Department in France announced on July 17, 2009 that it will ban people from eating fish from river Rhône and Saône because part of the tributary of these two rivers are polluted. The government also said in the same notice that the test on the living organisms of one tributary of Rhône and Saône related showed that the PCB content in them far exceeded the safety standard regulated by World Health Organization. Due to the reason that both tributaries are polluted by PCB, government of Rhône decided to ban people from eating fish from these two tributaries.

PCBs are used as additives in various industrial products, but due to its properties of being difficult to decompose in nature and entering living creatures through food chain after contaminating air, water and soil. Long term consumption of PCBs-contaminated food will lead to more

possibility of cancer and affecting fertility and intelligent development.

(Source: <http://www.xinhuanet.com>)

***Japan Amended its Cabinet
Decree of Chemicals
Control Act concerning
Newly-listed POPs***

On July 30, 2009, Japan's Trade Ministry, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and Ministry of Environment issued its G/TBT/N/JPN/307 notice to amend its cabinet decree of Chemicals Control Act (the Act).

According to Article 6 and 11 of the Act, the production or import of following chemical substances is required to be authorized: PFOS and its salts, PFOSF, pentachlorobenzene, α -HCH, β -HCH, lindane(γ -HCH), chlordane, hexabromobiphenyl, tetra-BDE, penta-BDE, hexa-BDE, and hepta-BDE.

According to Article 13 of the Act, the

import of following products is banned once Category I chemical substances such as PFOS and its salts, Tetra-BDE and penta-BDE are applied in them: aviation hydraulic fluid, fabric agent treatment, corrosive agent for composite metal and semiconductor (except for high-frequency compound semiconductor), metal plating, anti-reflection coating for semiconductor, composite abrasive for industrial use, fire-fighting foam, pesticides, ant baits, printing paper, Tetra-BDE, penta-BDE,

paint and adhesive.

The purpose of this amendment is to prevent environmental pollution caused by products containing PFOS and its salt, tetra-BDE or penta-BDE, which are classified as Category I in Japan's Act. In the light of COP 4 of the Stockholm Convention held in May, 2009, this amendment included 9 new chemicals under the phase out and control scope.

(Source: <http://www.nhj.com.cn>)



River Rhône, South-east of France

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