



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

OCCASION

This publication has been made available to the public on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

DISCLAIMER

This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or its economic system or degree of development. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” and “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO.

FAIR USE POLICY

Any part of this publication may be quoted and referenced for educational and research purposes without additional permission from UNIDO. However, those who make use of quoting and referencing this publication are requested to follow the Fair Use Policy of giving due credit to UNIDO.

CONTACT

Please contact publications@unido.org for further information concerning UNIDO publications.

For more information about UNIDO, please visit us at www.unido.org

The Report of the Inception Workshop for China's Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention

With the financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO) of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) cooperated together to develop the project of “China’s Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention”, which was approved by GEF in November, 2013. In order to initiate the update work of the National Implementation Plan (NIP), review the achievements China has made in Convention implementing, raise communities’ awareness and deepen their cognition of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), especially the ten newly listed POPs, introduce our country’s challenges in the new situation and follow-up actions, and deploy tasks of next stage, on March 26th, 2014 (the date of the entering into force of the Amendments to the Stockholm Convention), the MEP held the “Inception Workshop for China’s Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention”. More than 70 representatives, including representatives from member departments of the National Coordination Group for Stockholm

Convention Implementation and relevant departments of MEP, international organizations such as United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank etc., several provinces, research institutes, relevant associations and journalists from more than 10 news medias, attended the meeting. The name list of attendees is shown in Annex 1.

The meeting was presided by Li Lei, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Pollution Prevention and Control of MEP. Mr. Zhai Qing, head of the National Coordination Group for Stockholm Convention Implementation and Vice Minister of MEP, Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith, UNIDO Representative and Head, Regional Office, Mr. Yang Tiesheng, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Energy-Saving and Comprehensive Utilization of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China (hereafter referred to as the MIIT), attended the meeting and made speeches. The main contents of the meeting contained: keynote speech by Mr. Zhai Qing, head of the National Coordination Group for Stockholm Convention Implementation and Vice Minister of MEP; speeches by Mr. Yang Tiesheng, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Energy-Saving and Comprehensive Utilization of MIIT, and Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith, UNIDO Representative and Head, Regional Office; announcement of the entering into force of “the Amendments to the Stockholm Convention”; signing of the “Project

Document of China's Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention"; publicizing the knowledge of newly listed POPs and the Amendments. Specific contents are as follows:

I. Mr. Zhai Qing, head of the National Coordination Group for Stockholm Convention Implementation and Vice Minister of MEP, made a keynote speech.

Minster Zhai concluded the work process of China's Convention implementation and POPs pollution prevention and control, analyzed the current challenges, and made specific requests for work of next stage.

He expressed that since the Stockholm Convention entered into force for China 10 years ago, China's Convention implementation and POPs pollution prevention and control made positive progress in respects of setting up mechanism, making strategy, getting a clear understanding of the situation and technology research and development. And it had also achieved substantial results in POPs reduction and control. Especially in recently released "The State Council's Suggestion on Strengthening Environmental Protection", which clearly suggested to strengthen the supervision and management of key industries in POPs emission; the "Twelfth Five-Year Plan of National Environmental Protection" set the planning goal of "By 2015, the prevention of POPs, dangerous chemical, hazardous wastes and any other pollution shall be effectively prevented

and controlled”, which indicated that China’s Convention implementation and POPs pollution prevention and control had entered a new stage and main battlefield of China’s environmental protection.

He proposed that in the next stage of China’s Convention implementation and POPs pollution prevention and control, improving the air, water and soil environment quality and solving the serious environment problems that harm public health should be focused, at the same time, POPs pollution prevention and control should be vigorously promoted. He presented that China should earnestly implement the “National Twelfth Five-Year Plan on POPs Pollution Prevention and Control in Major Sectors” and “Guiding Opinions on Strengthening Dioxins Pollution Prevention and Control”, and promote the POPs reduction and control. He stated that China would plan the top-level design of POPs pollution prevention and control in the macro view of international chemicals, as well as establish the management mode of entire process of handling hazardous chemicals and whole-lifecycle risk prevention and control by promoting POPs pollution prevention and control.

He emphasized that China should make effort to update the NIP as convention requested and based on China’s actual situation. In the process of updating NIP, China should not only consider the current situation but also take a long view for future to make the strategic measures and action plans featured with perspective, guidance and

operability.

II. Mr. Yang Tiesheng, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Energy-Saving and Comprehensive Utilization of MIIT, and Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith, UNIDO Representative and Head, Regional Office made speeches.

i. Mr. Yang Tiesheng generalized the prominent problems in China's industry, summarized the progress that China had achieved in Convention implementation of MIIT and clarified the work of next step in Convention implementation.

He showed that China's industrial economic development had made remarkable achievements in recent years. However, in the process of industrial development, when conventional pollutants problem had not been fully resolved, the environmental risks and stress were getting more serious caused by unregulated pollutants, such as POPs, persistent toxic substances and heavy metal pollutants. Although MIIT had taken measures to promote the energy saving as well as green and low-carbon industry development, the resources and environment problems were still prominent.

He emphasized that MIIT paid high attention to Convention implementation and had done a lot of work and achieved positive progress in promoting green industry development and eliminating POPs,

which were shown on aspect of accelerating the elimination of out-of-date productivity, promoting cleaner production and speeding up environmental equipment development, etc.

He introduced that the work of POPs reduction in industrial field was a long-term work. MIIT would stick to the principles of ecological product design, clean production process, efficient resource utilization and minimal environment influence to further improve the policy mechanism, strengthen the technology and standards support. MIIT would also push forward the cleaner industrial production to promote the POPs reduction.

ii. Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith, UNIDO Representative and Head, Regional Office briefly reviewed the cooperation between UNIDO and China, the progress that China had made in implementing convention and promised to support China's implementation work and industry sustainable development.

He showed that UNIDO had kept good cooperation with China in POPs, which also witnessed the challenges China had faced and efforts China had made in Convention implementation.

He emphasized that the NIP made by the FECO of MEP and UNIDO had been identified as a model by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.

He posed that China's central and local governments would improve the capacity of implementation and increase the attention and awareness of

newly listed POPs by updating the NIP. GEF, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and UNIDO would still support China in project development and chemical management.

Finally, he promised that UNIDO would continue to cooperate with China and support China on Convention implementation and industry sustainable development.

III. Announcement of the entering into force of “the Amendments to the Stockholm Convention on POPs”.

On August 30, 2013, the fourth session of the 12th Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress ratified two amendments to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants — the Amendment to the Stockholm Convention on Listing Nine New POPs and the Amendment to the Stockholm Convention on Listing Endosulfan (hereafter referred to as “the Amendments”). 10 newly listed controlled substances included: α -hexachlorocyclohexane, β -hexachlorocyclohexane, Chlordecone, hexabromobiphenyl, hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, lindane, pentachlorobenzene, PFOS/PFOSE endosulfan.

The meeting declared that the Amendments entered into force in China on March 26th, 2014. To implement the convention, MEP jointly with other

11 ministries published the announcement of entering into force of the Amendments, which made regulations on the elimination and limit of 10 newly listed POPs. It also declared to strengthen the supervision and management of 10 newly listed POPs on their production, circulation, utilization, import and export.

IV. Signing of the “the Project Document of China’s Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention”.

Mr. Chen Liang, Deputy Director-General of FECO, MEP and Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith, UNIDO Representative and Head, Regional Office signed “the Project Document of China’s Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention” , which marked the launching of China’s NIP update work. The attendees witnessed the historical moment.

V. Publicizing the knowledge of newly listed POPs and the Amendments.

Professor Hu Jianxin from Beijing University introduced the relevant knowledge of newly listed POPs and the Amendments including relevant basic knowledge of newly listed POPs, procedures of their adding into the Convention, the control obligation of the newly listed POPs in the Convention and the utilization of them in China.

He introduced that different from the current controlled 12 POPs, the

relevant laws of the newly listed POPs were absent, and their management were insufficient. At the same time, the domestic research institution lacked the ability of the identification and judgment of newly listed POPs. The researches on environmental and healthy influences of newly listed POPs were insufficient as well.

He proposed that China should research, establish and improve the national chemical environment management system, especially establish the risks evaluation and management system for existing chemicals. According to the international chemical management trends, inventory of the first controlled harmful chemicals should be put forward predictably. The details of Professor Hu's speech are shown in the Annex 2.

The success of the meeting marked the official start of the NIP update work, which also improved the attendees' and news medias' awareness and understanding of our country's implementation of the Stockholm Convention and newly listed substances. At the same time, it set a great foundation for the smoothly carrying out of NIP update follow-up work.