

Experts

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX)
- Secretariat of Stockholm Convention, Geneva
- Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Govt. of India
- CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, INDIA

Venue

(CSIR-NEERI)

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI),
Stockholm Convention Regional Centre on POPs for Asia, India
Nehru Marg, Nagpur, 440020 (INDIA)
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Accommodation

Free lodging and boarding will be provided to the participants
by CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur

Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

The DSA will be provided to the participants as per rules.

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CSIR-NEERI



Workshop
on

Pilot Testing of Guidance for the Review and Updating of National Implementation Plan in India

(June 18-21, 2012)



Supported by



Secretariat of Stockholm Convention, Geneva



Organized by

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Stockholm Convention Regional Centre on POPs for Asia
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Background/Preamble

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) Nagpur, a Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC) on POPs for Asia region, India will be organizing a workshop on "Pilot testing of guidance for the review and updating of National Implementation Plan in India". The objective of Stockholm Convention is to protect the human health and environment from POPs. India has submitted the National Implementation Plan (NIP) on POPs in 2011, in which the inventorization with respect to twelve chemicals was carried out. Later, ten new chemicals have been added to the list of POPs by the Stockholm Convention. Therefore, there is a need to update NIP with respect to the newly added POPs. Out of ten new POPs, Bromodiphenyl ethers (BDEs) and Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are widely used as industrial chemicals which subsequently become hazardous waste upon reaching their end of life.

PFOS are commercially used and produced in India. PFOS and related chemicals have surfactant properties and used in surface treatments process. Due to all this unique and multi exploit properties, PFOS and its derivatives are used in a wide range of products such as textiles, leather products, metal plating, food packaging, fire fighting foams, floor polishes, denture cleansers, shampoos, coatings, additives, in photographic/ photolithographic industry, and in hydraulic fluids in the aviation industry. Apart from the commercial utility, the chemical and physical stability of PFOS are responsible for the environmental contamination and have been deemed hazardous to human as well as environmental health. On the basis of these properties, PFOS are highly persistent, and they can be expected to partition into the atmosphere and accumulate within food chains. These characteristics predispose them to environmental persistence and long-range transport. People can be potentially exposed to perfluorinated chemicals from contaminated air, surface, ground water, contaminated foods, certain occupational settings, and from the possible release of perfluorinated chemicals during the normal degradation or use of commercial products that contain them.

On the other hand, PBDEs are also in list of one of the widely used industrial chemicals. These are used as flame retardants in the form of additives in consumer articles such as plastics in electronics, upholstery in transport and furniture or textiles. Environmental Protection Agency is concerned that some of the component congeners are persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic and intends to initiate a number of actions to limit the exposure and release of PBDE congeners and/or articles to which they have been added. Indian scenario of these chemicals is that these are not produced in India but imported in the form of electrical and electronic devices/waste for recycling from other countries. Major cause of PBDEs in Indian environment is the improper disposal of Electronic waste (e-waste) and nasty recycling process. The hazardous and toxic substances found in e-waste include lead, cadmium, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, polyvinyl chloride and PBDEs. Growing Information and Communication Technology sector has enhanced the usage of the electronic equipment exponentially. Faster up-gradation of electronics product, are forcing consumers to discard old products, which in turn accumulate huge e-waste to solid waste stream.

Acids and sludge obtained from melting computer chips, if disposed on the ground causes acidification of soil. Long term exposure to hazardous substances found in e waste may lead to damage of nervous system, kidney, bones, reproductive and endocrine system. Some of these chemicals are also considered as carcinogenic. Considering their effect on human and environmental health, CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur under the banner of SCRC will be organizing a workshop sponsored by Secretariat of Stockholm Convention, Geneva with the following objectives;

- To enhance understanding on the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) newly listed in the Stockholm Convention and to clarify the obligations and possible implications at the national level for the India.
- Raise awareness and enhance the capacity of workshop participants about the sound management of the newly listed POPs that are widely used for industrial purposes – i.e. hexabromobiphenyl, commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether, commercial octabromodiphenyl ether and perfluorooctane sulphonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF).
- Create awareness among countries in the region about the guidance documents for NIP updating and gather their feedback.

Stakeholders (producers, users, traders and academia), government officials, experts from India as well as abroad along with participants from different countries of Asia region will be participating to create awareness regarding PFOS and PBDEs. Enhancing the capacity on environmentally sound management of newly listed POPs i.e. PFOS and PBDEs will help the concerned authorities to understand the risks associated with handling of PFOS & PBDEs and urgency to stop their use permanently. The lectures will be delivered by experts from UNIDO, RECETOX, Secretariat of Stockholm Convention, MoEF, and CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur which will be highly beneficial for the participant of workshop. We look forward to welcome you at CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur.

Topics

- Overview on new POPs
- Overview of guidance on managing newly listed POPs
- Understanding of the newly listed POPs and approaches for their sound management
- Status of PBDE in India and their inventories
- Status of PFOS in India and their inventories
- Methodologies for screening and analysis of PBDEs, PFOS and other POPs
- Key BAT/BEP considerations for PBDE and PFOS
- Awareness about the project and its linkages to the process of updating India's NIP
- Understanding about the guidelines for NIP updating, with an emphasis on PBDE and PFOS, and other resources available for the management of the new POPs