

Final Workshop for the Third Round of the Biennial Global Interlaboratory Assessment of Persistent Organic Pollutants

Concept Note

A) Operating Details:

- Inception workshop: Final Workshop for the Third Round of the Biennial Global Interlaboratory Assessment of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
- Dates and time: Thursday, 6 April 2017 – Friday, 7 April 2017.
- Venue: Building 10, No. 1 Yard,
Zhongguancun East Road,
Haidian District,
Beijing, People's Republic of China
- Hosting institutions: Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer in Asia and the Pacific Region (BCRC China)
- Participants: POPs laboratories submitting results
- Contact persons: Dr. Chen Yuan (Email: chenyan227@tsinghua.edu.cn) at BCRC China and Ms. Haosong Jiao (E-mail: Haosong.Jiao@unep.org) at UNEP.

B) Objectives

- Overview the results and outcomes of the third round biennial interlaboratory assessment on POPs.
- Discuss the analytical aspects and performance of laboratories participated in the assessment
- Increased awareness and capacity of participating laboratories to undertake chemical analysis of the twelve initial POPs and the eleven new POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention following the international agreed standards, as well as to conduct proficiency tests of the performance on POPs analysis.

C) Background

Within the four GEF projects "Continuing Regional Support on the POPs Global Monitoring Plan" in the Asia, Africa, Latin American and the Caribbean (GRULAC) and the Pacific Regions, UN Environment Chemicals and Waste Branch, with funds from the Global Environment Facilities (GEF), is implementing the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) for the period of 2016 to 2020. The objective of these projects is to record the presence of POPs in the environment and in humans. The global interlaboratory assessment, as a component of these projects, aims to enhance communication and information sharing among laboratories to compare and validate data and identifies good practices and lessons learned on analysis of the 23 POPs.

The Interlaboratory Assessment was performed according to internationally agreed standards (following ISO-International Organization for Standardization and ILAC-International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation). During 2010-2011, the first round biennial global inter-laboratory assessment on Persistent Organic Pollutants has been implemented. Its goal was to test the capabilities of laboratories in the analysis of the twelve initial POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention. Such proficiency tests are valuable management tools to allow external quality controls of the performance of a laboratory that undertakes

chemical analysis. The second round of the interlaboratory assessment was finalized in June 2014, which tested the capabilities of laboratories in the analysis of the twelve initial POPs listed and the eleven new POPs in the Stockholm Convention. The third round of the biennial global interlaboratory assessment was launched in 2016 and received results from 175 laboratories all over the world.

The third round of the biennial global interlaboratory assessment is being implemented in close cooperation with the MTM Research Center at School of Science and Technology, Örebro University and the Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

At the workshop the results of the third round of the interlaboratory assessment will be presented and discussed with participating laboratories, as well as lessons learned and the knowledge needed to improve their performances in analysing POPs. It further aims to guarantee that international agreed standards are followed, the capacities of the laboratories participating in the interlaboratory assessment is enhanced, and the key scientific information generated by the interlaboratory assessment is disseminated to help shape appropriate, effective and sustainable plans to reduce POPs.