

Dioxin 1986
6th International Symposium on Chlorinated Dioxins **and Related**
Compounds

Yoshito Masuda
Chair of Dioxin 1986

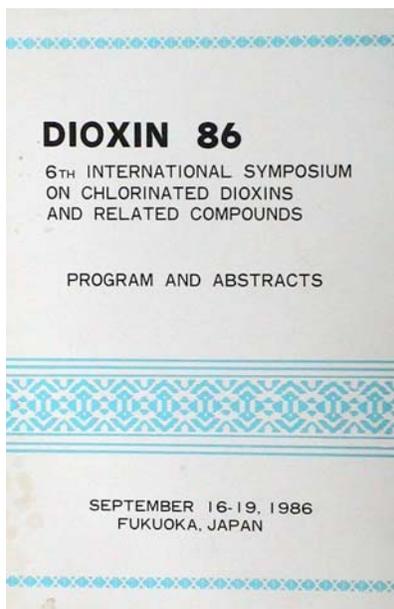
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Rice oil poisoning called Yusho occurred in Fukuoka and Nagasaki Prefectures, Japan in 1968. Yusho was caused by ingestion of the rice oil contaminated with Kanechlor-400, a commercial brand of Japanese polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). It was later found that the rice oil had been contaminated with not only PCBs but also with polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs), polychlorinated quaterphenyls (PCQs) and related compounds. Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs) were however not identified in the rice oil. Yusho was considered to be mainly caused by PCDFs, of which congener 2,3,4,7,8-pentaCDF is the most toxic among the ingested PCB and PCDF congeners. The general structures of the PCDFs and PCDDs are similar, and the toxicity of 2,3,4,7,8-pentaCDF was considered to be severe as 2,3,7,8-tetraCDD. As the PCDFs were acknowledged to be “related to” Dioxins, the Yusho paper was accepted for presentation at the 1st International Dioxin Symposium in Rome in 1980. The 6th Dioxin Symposium was in turn held in Fukuoka, where Yusho had occurred.

The Vietnam conjugated twins, Viet-chan and Doc-chan, visited Japan for their medical treatment in 1986. Japanese television and newspapers frequently reported that the conjugated twins were probably caused by dioxins, contaminants of Agent Orange, which had been sprayed for defoliation in Vietnam. Most Japanese, including scientists, were extremely fearful of dioxins and wanted to keep away from them. Consequently, dioxin studies in Japan were somewhat stagnant in 1986, when the 6th International Symposium on Dioxins and Related Compounds was held in Fukuoka. Two third of the 270 attendees of the Dioxin 1986 were from foreign countries such as USA 91, Germany 25, Sweden 15, Canada 12, France 9, Vietnam 8, Taiwan 8, and others 18. Japanese attendees were 85. A manager of the host hotel, Nishitetsu Grand Hotel, told me that the Dioxin 1986 was one of the unique international meetings in Fukuoka at that time, as most of big international meetings in Fukuoka were usually held with many Japanese and small

numbers of foreign attendants.

The west terminal of Shinkansen (Bullet train from Tokyo) is Hakata station, though it is located in Fukuoka City. Hakata-ori Textile is an artcraft representing Hakata. (Hakata is generally an alternative name of Fukuoka City today although historically it denoted a certain commercial area within the city.) The origin of weaving art dates back to the medieval age of the 13th century. Over this great span of time Hakata-ori has been an inseparable part of the lives of the people and the town of Hakata.



Program and abstracts of Dioxin 1986 in Fukuoka Japan

The blue belt on the program is a special design from Hakata-ori Textile.



The Table Center made of Hakata-ori Textile

Table centers were presented to all the participants from the

Dioxin 1986 as souvenirs.



Professor Karasek toasted with a special wooden Sake Cup (Right photo) at the reception party of Dioxin 1986.

Dioxin 1986 began with a keynote lecture by Professor Rappe. For the conference, 116 Oral presentations were given in 2 parallel sessions, and 55 poster presentations in separate rooms on the general topics of Analytical Methodology, Pharmacokinetics, Biochemical effects, Animal Toxicology, Environmental Fate, Environmental Levels, Destruction Methodology, Clean-up, Municipal Waste, Incineration Technology, Human Tissue Levels, Human Observations, Epidemiology, Risk Assessment and Standard Setting. At the closing session, Conclusions and Recommendations from various conference theme topics were presented by Rapporteurs.



Professor Rappe was very happy with two girls wearing Japanese Kimono at the reception

**The late
Ahlborg
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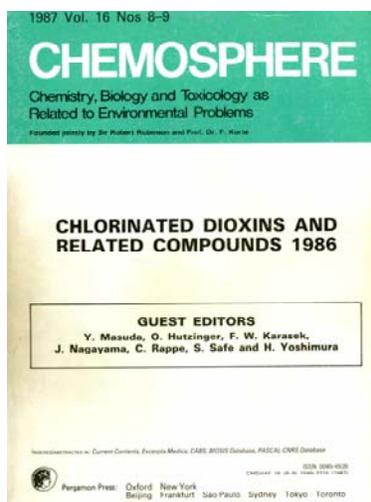


**professor
was
discussing**

in the Dioxin 1986

A special issue of Dioxin 1986 was published in *Chemosphere* 16, 1603-2210, 1987. The special issue consisted of 99 papers including 38 from USA authors, 22 from Japan, 11 from Sweden, 10 from Germany, 9 from Canada and 9 from other countries.

**Special issue of the
Chemosphere 16,**



**Dioxin 1986 :
1603-2210, 1987**

In general, Japanese society was very sensitive to Dioxins but not favorable to Dioxin research in 1986. The symposium was basically supported financially by participants' fees. Fortunately, Dioxin 1986 was supported by a large donation from the Daiichi College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and by additional donations from Fukuoka Prefecture and Fukuoka City. We greatly appreciated their kindness.