

DIOXIN 2004 in Berlin, Germany

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Introduction

The 24th International Symposium on Halogenated Environmental Organic Pollutants and POPs convened in Berlin in September 2004. The conference venue was the main building of the Technical University in the center of Berlin.



Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag



Buildings of Technical University

Over the last ten years, the fields of interest of scientists and other parties working in this area have expanded from dioxins to persistent halogenated organic pollutants, such as coplanar PCBs, flame retardants, pesticides, chloroparaffins, endocrine disruptors and other POPs. This symposium series has therefore widened its context to become a successful discussion forum for the whole range of halogenated persistent organic pollutants.

1040 participants from **43** countries covering various sectors of industry, engineering companies, analytical laboratories, governmental organisations, research institutes and universities were registered. In a peer review process, 76 reviewers selected **684** short papers, with **289** as oral and **395** as poster presentations, from more than 700 submissions in **7** different categories and **37** sessions (see table).

This program would not have been possible without the support of **34** Sponsors and Exhibitors. Particular thanks go to the main governmental sponsors, namely the German Federal Environment Ministry, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, the Japanese Center for Environmental Information Science, the United States National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences - Superfund Basic Research Program, the University of California -Davis, Superfund Basic Research and Training Program and all other sponsors and exhibitors.

Table: Number of accepted papers in the different scientific sessions

Sessions	Papers
All	684
Analysis	136
Ana1 Sampling, Clean -up and Separation	28
Ana2 Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry	18
Ana3 Special Instrumental Techniques and Pattern Recognition	18
Ana4 Chiral Xenobiotics and Nat ural Halogenated Compounds	13
Ana5 Quality of POP Analysis	18
Ana6 Bioanalysis	22
Ana7 Online Measurement of Dioxin Surrogates	14
Ana8 Advances in Analysis of Dioxin and Dioxin -like Compounds	5
Formation, Sources and Rem ediation	72
For1 Nonthermal Sources and Source Inventories	22
For2 Thermal Processes	26
For3 Remedation Methods and Controll Techniques	24
Environmental Levels and Trends, Transport, Fate and Effects	192
Env1 Levels in Soi I and Water	38
Env2 Levels in Industrial and Other Matrices	15
Env3 Biotic Compartments: Levels	19
Env4 Biotic Compartments: Levels, Trends, Effects	20
Env5 Feed and Food I	22
Env6 Feed and Food II	20
Env7 Atmospheric Levels, Transport and Deposition	19
Env8 Biological and Photolytic Transformations	9
Env9 Physico -Chemical Properties, Distribution and Modelling	21
Env10 POPs in Marine Mammals: Levels and Effects	9
Human Exposure	76
Hum1 External and Internal Human Exposure	14
Hum2 Body Burdens and Dietary Intake	37
Hum3 Human Levels and Trends	25
Toxicology	78
Tox4 Epidemiology	15
Tox1 Kinetic, Enzyme Induction, Ah -Receptor	12
Tox2 Developmental and Reproductive Toxicity	22
Tox3 Neurotoxicity and Other Effects	13
Tox5 Recent Advances in TCDD Toxicology	16
Risk Assessment	65
Ris1 Risk Assessment	15
Ris2 Risk Management and Regulatory Aspects	11
Ris3 COMPARE and PCB -RISK Project: Integrated Risk Assessment of PCBs, their Metabolites and Halogenated Flame Retardants	14
Ris4 EFSA: Risk Assessment of Non -Dioxin -Like PCB	9
Ris5 Dioxin in Vietnam: Characterisation, Monit oring, Remediation and Effects	16
Special Compounds	65
Bro1 Brominated Compounds: Analysis, Levels, Trends	22
Bro2 Brominated Compounds: Biotic Levels, Trends, Effects	26
Flu1 Fluorinated POPs	17

Organization

In spring of 2002, the International Advisory Board (IAB) of this conference series decided to award the 2004 symposium to Berlin. A local organizing committee and a scientific committee were then founded in Berlin. The TU-Servicegesellschaft, a non profit subsidiary of the Technical University, was contracted to carry out the organizational and technical planning together with the local organizing committee members D. Dolzycka, L. Müller, T. Wiesmüller, P. Lepom und W. Rotard



Members of the International Advisory Board in Berlin

We were already able to present participants in the 22nd symposium Dioxin 2002 in Barcelona with a flyer inviting them to Berlin. At the 23rd symposium Dioxin 2003 in Boston, participants were informed in a first announcement and at a booth covering this symposium and Berlin. At the close of this symposium the chair of Dioxin 2004 invited all to Berlin with a presentation about the Berlin symposium.

Directly following the Boston conference, a web site *dioxin2004.org* was set up and expanded stage by stage. The web site was used for information, online registration, online paper submission and online hotel reservation. Online paper submission was through the use of an abstract management system, which managed both the review process and also the program production. Shortly before the symposium itself, this system was made available to all participants for reference to the program and the papers to be presented.

Participants of previous conferences were invited by email to take part in the symposium and thousands of 'call for papers' emails were sent out.

Without the efficient hard work of the local organizing committee, the scientific committee, the TU-Servicegesellschaft and many further helpers the conference would not have been the success it was. Heartfelt thanks to you all.

Initially, lunches were to be served in the TU-Mensa restaurant adjacent to the main building. Due to buildingwork we had to transfer lunches at short notice to the architecturally interesting ‘armadillo’ house.



Lunch Time in the ‘Armadillo’

Around the poster area

Technical Program

In an opening ceremony enhanced by musical highlights, the visitors were welcomed by the symposium chair Wolfgang Rotard, by the Vice President of the Technical University, Jörg Steinbach and by the Director General of the Federal Environment Ministry, Uwe Lahl.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the former German Federal Minister of the Environment, Klaus Töpfer, held the enthralling opening plenary lecture ‘The Stockholm Convention – Global Action to Eliminate POPs’.



Registration Counter



Musical Opening

The exciting scientific program began each day with a plenary lecture, followed by oral presentations in five parallel sessions on a variety of topics (see table), and concluded with poster presentations. The sessions were led by 74 chairs and co-chairs. Much new data, and many new trends, ideas and developments were presented, thus further strengthening the influential scientific importance of this symposium series.

Further excellent plenary lectures were given by Rolaf van Leeuwen: 'POPs in a Historical Perspective – where are we?', Andrew Renwick: 'Recent Risk Assessments of Dioxins' and Martin Scheringer: 'Thoughts on Cold Condensation and Global Fractionation of POPs'.

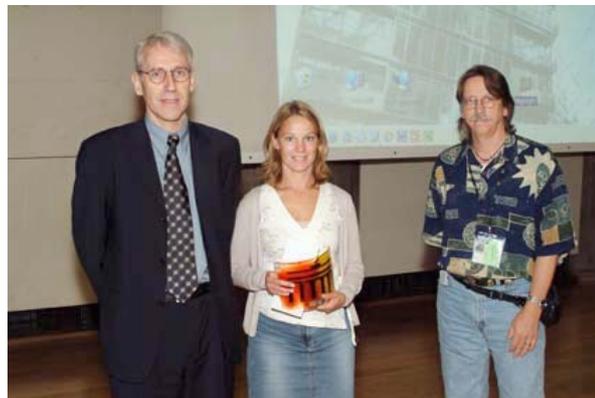
The four open topic forums set up as lunch sessions exceeded our expectations in their acceptance. As well as the themes 'Interlaboratory Studies for Dioxins and Related Compounds', 'Databases and Networks for POPs Research', 'New Technology for Dioxin Analysis' there was also much engagement seen in a panel discussion on the theme 'It's Time to Reevaluate the Toxic Equivalency Factors for PCDDs, PCDFs and Dioxin-Like PCBs?'.

Following tradition, the conference results were summarized in Friday morning's Highlight Session. Eight reports were presented including all sessions. They focused on the interesting results from the great number of presentations. Directly following the Highlight Session, six students were presented with the 'Otto Hutzinger Students Award' for their excellent presentations selected from over hundred entries by a panel of experts.

At the end of the conference, Mehran Alaei and Eric Reiner invited all participants to the next symposium Dioxin 2005 in Toronto.



The Highlight Session



An awarded student between Michael Denison and Wolfgang Rotard (r-l).

All scientific papers of all sessions, the session summaries and the highlight session lectures are presented on CD-ROM (Organohalogen Compounds Vol. 66).

Social Events

In addition to the scientific sessions, we arranged memorable social events for participants and accompanying persons.



Exhibition and coffee break area



Informal Conference Welcome



Medieval-style symposium banquet at the Zitadelle Spandau

On Sunday afternoon, the informal Conference Welcome and Opening of the Vendor Exhibition took place in the Historical Reception Hall of the Technical University's main building. In the Official Welcome Reception participants enjoyed music played by the salon orchestra from the 'Staatsoper Unter den Linden' with their program "Berlin Air in a Berlin Salon – music from Lortzing to Linke" in the Philharmonic Chamber Music Hall with its extraordinary design and renowned acoustics, built by the famous German architect Hans Scharoun. On Wednesday afternoon, participants took a boat trip through Berlin's waterways. The medieval-style symposium banquet on Thursday evening took place at the Zitadelle Spandau, a magnificent example of renaissance fortress architecture. Participants won't forget this exciting evening in a medieval atmosphere with evil knights, charlatans, wizards and ballad singers.