

DIOXIN 2006

**26th International Symposium
on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants
August 21 – 25 2006, Oslo Norway**



Introduction

The 26th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants – DIOXIN2006 was held August 21 – 25, 2006 at the Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel in Oslo, Norway.

After celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Dioxin Symposia in Toronto in August 2005, the Organising Committee for DIOXIN2006 was proud to be able to continue the tradition of the symposium series as an interdisciplinary forum for communicating scientific advances and emerging issues. DIOXIN2006 brought together 903 participants and 64 accompanying persons from 40 countries spending five days in Oslo, the capital of Norway, with an exciting scientific program and memorable social events under the motto

Communicating the science of halogenated POPs in a friendly atmosphere.



Planning and Organising DIOXIN2006

A letter of intent to organise the dioxin symposium in Oslo in 2006 was presented to the International Advisory Board (IAB) by Prof. Georg Becher from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and Prof. Janneche Utne Skåre from the National Veterinary Institute just prior to DIOXIN2002 in Barcelona where the IAB awarded DIOXIN2006 to Oslo. The following year, the Norwegian Dioxin Society was founded as a non-profit organisation in order to handle tax matters connected with the organisation of the symposium.

Congress-Conference AS, Oslo, a renowned Norwegian professional conference organiser, was chosen for help with the technical management. The Local Organising Committee consisted of representatives from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, the Norwegian Institute of Air Research and the Norwegian

Pollution Control Authority and was chaired by Prof. Georg Becher, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo.

Advertising DIOXIN2006 was accomplished by a flyer in postcard format presented for the first time at DIOXIN2004 in Berlin and by a poster distributed to a great number of relevant international contact persons. A web site *dioxin2006.org* was created at the world-wide-web shortly after and served as the electronic platform for all aspects of conference. The web site was used for online registration, hotel reservation, short paper submission and symposium program dissemination.

Technical program

The opening ceremony on Monday 21 August was framed in by two young musicians playing Norwegian folk tunes on violin and cello in a modern, rough fashion. The delegates were most heartily welcome by the Chair of the Organising Committee followed by State Secretary Henriette Westhryn from the Ministry of Environment and Director Geir Stene-Larsen from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. The opening plenary lecture entitiled: “The Arctic as sentinel for environmental processes and effects” was held by Lars-Otto Reiersen, the Executive Secretary of the Arctic Monitoring Programme.



From the Opening Ceremony (Y. Kunimi)



From the Panel debate (Y. Kunimi)

The five days of the symposium were filled with an exciting scientific program. Special sessions emphasised among other on studies of halogenated POPs in the Arctic, their occurrence and fate in sediments, contaminated sites: cases, remediation and policy. Special attention was given to effect studies comprising investigations of effects on the reproductive and endocrine system, bone and tooth development, neurotoxicity and disorders and studies on birth cohorts.

Each day began with a plenary lecture followed by oral presentations (in total 254) held in five concurrent sessions covering 36 topic areas. The 399 posters were presented in two sessions scheduled between the morning and afternoon platform sessions. Each poster was on display for two consecutive days. The collection of short papers was made accessible on the internet a few weeks prior to the symposium and a program was made available to search in advance for relevant presentations.

The 653 Short Papers submitted by the presenters were published as Volume 68 of Organohalogen Compounds and were distributed to all participants on a searchable CD-ROM.

New this year was a Panel debate on Friday morning on “Present and future challenges of halogenated POPs”. The debate was moderated by Prof. Åke Bergman, Dept. of

Environmental Chemistry, Stockholm University, Sweden. The panel consisted of representatives from the following areas:

Research

Martin van den Berg, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands; Mathew Longnecker, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA; Janneche Utne Skaare, National Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway; Ronald Hites, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA

Government

Uwe Lahl, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear safety, Berlin, Germany

Industry

Dr. Watze de Wolf, Health and Environmental Sciences Europe, DuPont, Brussels, Belgium

International organisations

Heidelore Fiedler, UNEP Chemicals; Geneva, Switzerland

Non-governmental organisations

Alan Watson, International POPs Elimination Network; John Vijgen, International HCH and Pesticides Association

Consultancy

Martin Forter, Consultant, Basel, Switzerland.

For 90 minutes the panel members expressed and discussed their views on burning issues of POPs research, risk assessment, remediation and policy.

Following the lively panel debate, six students were presented with the “Otto Hutzinger Student Awards” for excellent oral or poster presentations selected among 73 candidates by a six-membered judging committee.

As chairman of the local organising committee, Prof. Masatoshi Morita, presented the location of next year’s 27th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants and invited all delegates to DIOXIN2007 in Tokyo.

Social Program

The motto of DIOXIN2006 called for memorable social events to allow delegates to meet in an informal manner outside the lecture halls and develop new and maintain old friendships. Prominent features of the program included the reception in the Oslo City Hall to which we were guided by a traditional marching band.



At the City Hall (Y. Kunimi)



At the Ski Museum (T. Nagano)

The excursion on Wednesday afternoon led us to four attractions and sights of the city of Oslo. The banquet was held at the Holmenkollen Park Hotel build in the in the National Romantic Dragon Style overlooking the city and the fjord. Prior to this, there a reception was held in the nearby Ski Museum and most delegates took the opportunity to climb the famous Holmenkollen ski jump and experience the feeling of excitement of a ski jumper on the top. A dancing party at the hotel concluded this eventful day.

Following the conclusion of the symposium on Friday, a Farewell reception in the exhibition area gave the opportunity to say good-bye to new and old friends and colleagues and wish a safe trip home.

Sayonara Oslo – Yokoso Tokyo



(T. Nagano)

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues on the Local Organising Committee for their great help in planning and executing of DIOXIN2006, to the members of the Scientific Committee for their contributions to the technical program and Director Øivind R. Lie and his team from Congress-Conference for the technical preparation and successful accomplishment of the symposium and their invaluable help with the Short Paper handling.

Further, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the session chairs in reviewing the short papers and assembling sessions. A great thank to the plenary speakers for highly interesting summaries of the most recent results on different aspects of halogenated POPs and to those who gave platform oral and poster presentations and all other delegates whose participation made DIOXIN2006 a great success.

This program would not have been possible without the partnership with the sponsors and exhibitors. Twenty-four companies were presenting their products and services in the exhibition area. A special thank goes to the following sponsors for their financial contributions: Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, Directorate for Health and Social Affairs, Norsk Hydro ASA and Statoil ASA.

Sincerely,

Georg Becher
Chair of DIOXIN2006