

## POPS ANALYSIS AND MONITORING IN THE ASIAN COASTAL HYDROSPHERE

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### Abstract

The United Nations University's (UNU) has been implementing a capacity development project on chemical analysis of environmental pollutants since 1996. The project has undertaken monitoring of various organic pollutants in the environment in ten participating countries in Asia using a quadrupole type gas chromatograph with mass spectrometer. Shimadzu Corporation prepared the analytical procedures and quality control protocols that suit the capacities and resources of the institutes participating in the monitoring projects. An inter-laboratory calibration study was conducted to check the project data variability. The procedures, quality control protocols and data gathered from water, sediment, soil, and biological samples under this UNU project are presented.

### Introduction

The UNU's capacity development project on environmental pollutant analysis using a quadrupole type gas-chromatograph mass spectrometer (GC/MS) by project participating countries has been implemented since 1996 with support from Shimadzu Corporation. In total, more than 56 research staff from participating governmental institutions and universities in ten countries (China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) have been trained on sample pretreatment and data analysis using GC/MS for a wide variety of samples (water, biota, sediment, and food, fish scale and air). Various target environmental pollutant chemicals have been analyzed ranging from Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) to Persistent Organic Compounds (POPs) as shown in Table 1.

Since the Stockholm Convention entered into force in 2004, the expectations from this capacity development monitoring project have been increasing. Existing regional networks engaged in POPs monitoring like this UNU project could be important data sources on the global POPs levels. In this paper, the project's monitoring results as well as the quality assurance and quality control aspects of the project activities are discussed.

### Materials and Methods

Table 1 summarizes sample species and target chemicals as well as surrogates and internal standards used for each year's analysis during the previous three phases. Every year different pollutants / environmental media have been chosen for monitoring. In the current 4<sup>th</sup> phase, biological samples have been analyzed. POPs in shrimps (2006) and in sea bass (2007) were monitored. Shimadzu Corporation has verified and provided the sample pretreatment and analytical procedures that have been customized to meet capacities and resources available at the participating institutes. The sea bass analytical procedure is shown in Fig. 1. A project quality assurance and quality control document has been prepared to ensure the project data quality. In this analytical procedure, phenanthrene-*d*<sub>10</sub> and chrysene-*d*<sub>12</sub> were used as internal standards (syringe spikes), and DDT-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>12</sub> was used as a surrogate (a clean-up spike). The chemical analysis was carried out using Shimadzu Corporation Shimadzu-GCMS QP5050A and Shimadzu-GCMS QP2010.

### Results and Discussion

#### *Inter-laboratory calibration study in 2002*

Eight project member institutes participated in the calibration study using two reference water samples with different POPs compositions that were prepared by Shimadzu Corporation. Table 2 shows the statistical analysis of the reported results.

Unfortunately, the original data collected in determining the reference material concentrations are missing. Therefore, following the ISO Guide 43 to analyze inter-lab data with unknown value samples, z-scores were calculated as follows.

$$z\text{-score} = (\text{each lab's average value} - \text{Median}) / \text{NIQR}$$
 where NIQR stands for Normalized Interquartile Range that was calculated as  $\text{IQR} \times 0.7413$ . IQR is a difference between Upper quartile and Lower quartile. The number of 0.7413 is an inverse number of the normal distribution's IQR. All z-scores were lower than 2 indicating all data were within the acceptable range of inter-

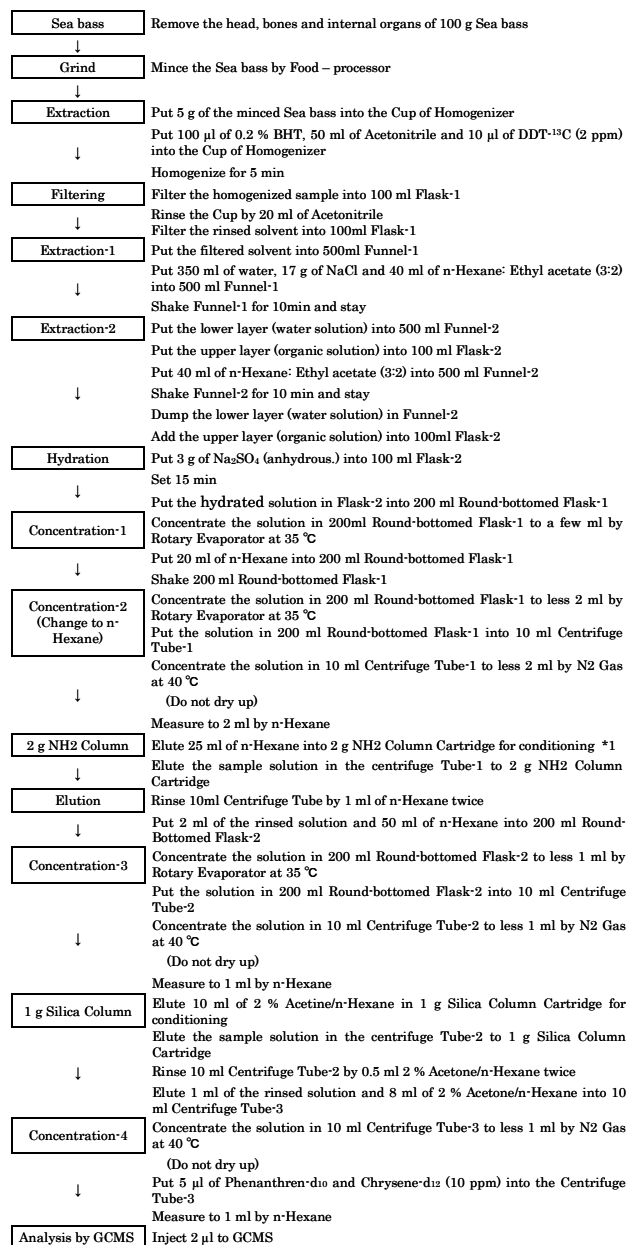


Fig. 1 Example of analytical procedures for fish-species customized to meet resources available at the project participating institutes

laboratory variability. However, a closer look at the inter-lab data and NIQR values reveals that some countries faced difficulties getting accurate concentrations of Aldrin, Endrin, and *p,p'*-DDT. In addition, some countries did not meet the acceptable range of DDT-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>12</sub> recovery data.

*Quality assurance and quality control*

To ensure the quality of the analytical activities, quality control indicators such as blank tests, injection repeatability tests and standard addition recovery tests were conducted by all project members as necessary, and DDT-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>12</sub> recovery data have been collected for all samples with 70-130% as an acceptable range. One of the two internal standards, phenanthrene-*d*<sub>10</sub> and chrysene-*d*<sub>12</sub>, were chosen in quantifying each POPs chemical depending on its capillary column elution time. To determine instrument detection limit, five times to eight times injections for the injection repeatability test were recommended. The number of repetition determines the coefficient to use in calculating detection limits, as can be seen below. IDL = t (n-1, 0.01) x σ, where t (n-1, 0.01) is a value of *t*-distribution at α = 0.01 for one tail. More details are described in the UNU Project Quality Assurance Document.

*POPs levels in water and sediment*

Due to the wide-ranging capabilities of the laboratory facilities at the project participating institutes, international data comparison must be performed with caution. The project, however, has provided domestic data on POPs in water,

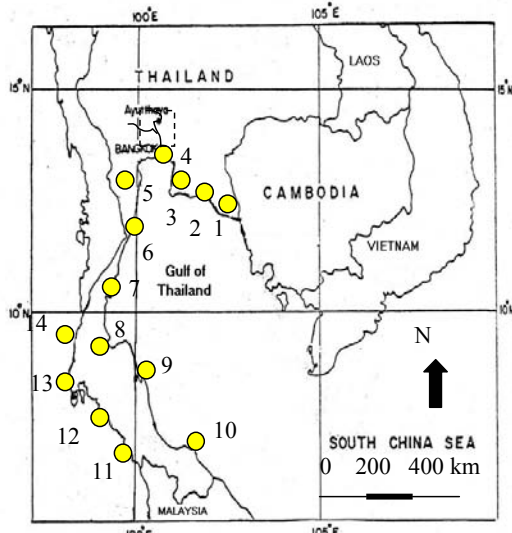


Fig. 2. Sampling locations for water and sediment samples in Thailand in 2005

Table 1. Target chemicals and media examined in this project during the last three phases (1996 - 2004)

Target Media	First Phase (1996 - 1998)			Second Phase (1999 - 2001)			Third Phase (2002 - 2004)		
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Target Chemicals	Pesticides	Rice	VOCs	EDC-like	EDC-like	EDC-like	Pesticides	Pesticides	Pesticides
	Fenitrothion	Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
	Maldathion	Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
	Chlorpyrifos	Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
	<i>p,p'</i> -DDT	Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
		Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
		Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
		Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
		Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
		Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
		Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
		Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
		Tap/River Water	Indoor/Ambient Air	BHC	BHC-like	BHC-like	River Water	River Water	River Water
Surrogate									
Internal Standards									
Instruments									

sediment, soil, and biological samples at different locations. In Thailand between 2004-2005, for example, *p,p'*-DDT was found up to 8.5 ng/L in water and 40 ng/g in sediment, while *trans*-Chlordane was found up to 8.9 ng/L in water and 0.96 ng/g in sediment collected from coastal areas and river basins (Figure 2).

Table 2. Data from inter-laboratory calibration exercise conducted in 2002

Countries (A-H)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Average	Median	SD	NIQR
	Z-scores											
Hexachlorobenzene	1.77	1.01	0.29	1.15	0.52	0.32	0.19	0.14	8.0	7.6	2.1	2.3
Heptachlor	0.10	0.51	0.86	0.27	1.10	1.04	0.05	0.46	18.2	18.3	3.1	3.4
<i>cis</i> -Chlordane	0.67	0.27	1.46	0.03	0.16	0.30	0.48	0.78	19.5	19.2	2.0	1.8
Dieldrin	0.49	1.50	0.60	0.01	0.87	0.57	0.58	0.17	29.1	30.2	3.7	4.0
Aldrin	0.83	0.35	0.71	0.66	0.43	0.36	0.95	0.03	53.1	52.1	15.8	23.9
Dieldrin	0.20	1.15	0.70	0.10	0.56	0.26	1.09	0.25	54.8	55.5	6.9	7.9
Endrin	1.05	0.19	1.06	0.19	0.87	1.61	0.03	0.08	82.6	79.9	45.4	50.6
<i>p,p'</i> -DDT	0.42	0.04	0.66	0.77	0.68	1.24	0.03	0.84	54.1	51.4	13.7	18.2

|z|<=2: Satisfiable, 2<|z|<3: Doubtful, |z|>=3: Unsatisfiable, SD: Standard Deviations, NIQR: Normalized InterQuartile Range

#### Shrimp sampling data in 2006

Some organochlorine pesticide POPs in wild shrimps were reported above their corresponding method detection levels determined by some project participants. In the Philippines, *trans*-/*cis*-Chlordanes and *p,p'*-DDT were detected from a substantial number of the samples originating from Bay Laguna (Table 3). In China, Hexachlorobenzene and *p,p'*-DDE were detected from all samples taken from Dongting and Tai Lakes. Some countries have experienced unsatisfactory ranges of DDT-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>12</sub> recovery data.

Table 3 Concentration of organochlorine pesticides (in ng/g wet weight) in shrimps from Bay, Laguna.

Bay, Laguna, 1 <sup>st</sup> sampling	BLS1	BLS2	BLS3	BLS4	BL S5	BL S6	EMDL
	Body & head <i>M.rosenbergii</i> <i>daquete</i>	Body & Head, <i>M idella</i>	Body, Head and scale, Small but mature	Body <i>M idella</i>	Body & Head Big <i>Caridina sp</i>	Body & Head Light colored	
<i>trans</i> -Cchlordan	0.64	<b>1.43</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.26</b>	0.72	<b>1.22</b>	1
<i>cis</i> -Chlordane	<b>1.19</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.97</b>	0.8
<i>p,p'</i> -DDE				<b>2.23</b>			0.2
<i>p,p'</i> -DDT	<b>4.21</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>5.40</b>	<b>3.77</b>	<b>1.99</b>	1
$\alpha$ HCH	<b>0.70</b>						0.2
Endosulfan I	<b>1.92</b>	<b>3.78</b>				0.70	1
Methoxychlor	1.22		0.78		6.67		1
Trans Nonachlor	<b>1.02</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>1.26</b>	0.90	0.83	0.80	1
%Rec. <i>p,p'</i> -DDT <sup>13</sup> C <sub>12</sub>	82	103	84	108	116	113	

#### Contributions to the Stockholm Convention's effectiveness evaluation

UNEP's Guidance for a Global Monitoring Programme for POPs (1st edition, 2004) recommended air and human breast milk samples as priority targets to detect a long term trend of the POPs global level. These samples have not been analyzed in this project. However, biological samples as well as water monitoring data could serve as supporting information on the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention that will take place in 2008.

#### References

1. UNU Quality Assurance Document For "Environmental Monitoring and Governance in the Asian Coastal Hydrosphere", Draft Version, April 2007.
2. UNEP's Guidance for a Global Monitoring Programme for POPs (1st edition, 2004), <http://www.chem.unep.ch/gmn/default.htm>, accessed on 19 April, 2007.