



Green Beagle

Report on IPEN – EU Project Meeting in Beijing, China

In the framework of the EU-funded project: *Strengthening the capacity of pollution victims and civil society organizations to increase chemical safety in China (China Chemical Safety Project)*

23 July 2013

The overall objective of this Project is to strengthen the capacity of pollution victims and civil society organization to promote chemical safety policies in China. One of the three principal objectives is to improve capacities and abilities of impacted communities and environmental groups for involvement in policy making. An important activity under this objective is training on public participation in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and right to know. The Beijing workshop serves as one of six major trainings to be held under the Project.

The meeting convened by the Project in Beijing focused on EIA with the goal of advancing public participation and true compliance with EIA laws. The meeting included information on China's EIA law, experiences with EIA applications, EIA processes in the EU, and participation and experiences of both civil society organizations and pollution victims.

The combination of participants provided an excellent opportunity for two-way information sharing and capacity building. The meeting began with a presentation on China's EIA law from Wang Yanan, EIA Center of the Ministry of Environmental Protection. IPEN's technical advisor, Alan Watson, provided a detailed presentation of EIA processes in the EU connected to waste management – a key issue in China. Subsequent presentations on various industrial EIA applications in Hebei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Sichuan, and Yunnan Provinces provided a forum for a lively and informative discussion between pollution victims, civil society representatives, and the government representative. There was general agreement that the public should be entitled to the full information package in EIA processes and not a brief summary as is currently the case. Many participants recounted experiences with difficulties getting any information and examples of fake public participation were also presented. Feedback from participants indicated that the presentations were highly relevant and the opportunity to exchange experiences and plans for greater civil society participation was extremely useful.

Photos from the Beijing workshop



Wang Yanan, EIA Center of the Ministry of Environmental Protection describes the details of China's EIA law.



Alan Watson, IPEN technical advisor, describes elements of EU EIA approaches.



Feng Yongfeng, Green Beagle (standing), moderated the morning session and carefully managed question and answer sessions to draw out needed information



Yu Xiaogang, Green Watershed, describes the EIA controversy surrounding the proposed PX plant in Kunming, Yunnan Province



Group photo of participants in the Beijing meeting

Annex 1. Agenda



Green Beagle



Forum on public participation in environmental impact assessment (EIA): Advancing implementation for greater chemical safety

In the framework of the EU-funded project: *Strengthening the capacity of pollution victims and civil society organizations to increase chemical safety in China (China Chemical Safety Project)*

Beijing, China

20 June 2013

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a key component of chemical safety policy. However, most residents are not familiar with EIA and do not know how to effectively participate in the process. According to the *Law on Environmental Impact Assessment*, *Interim Measure on Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment* and *Measure on Disclosure of Environmental Information* enacted in 2003, 2006 and 2008 respectively, participation and views of local residents should be an important part of developing EIA reports for new projects and those for expansion. However, during assessment of projects, authentic public participation in the EIA process is often weak or ignored. These problems are compounded by pressures to rapidly approve EIA reports and move ahead with projects. Lack of effective public participation in the EIA process undermines effective implementation of Chinese law and weakens efforts of local, provincial, and federal authorities to deal with concerns regarding harms to human health and the environment.

This conference seeks to explore issues surrounding EIA with the goal of advancing public participation and true compliance with EIA laws. Invited participants will include pollution victims, public interest civil society representatives, lawyers, reporters, EIA experts, researchers, government officials, and representatives of the European Union. Green Beagle and IPEN will jointly host this forum in cooperation with Nature University and the Narada Foundation. This conference is a project activity of the EU-funded project; *Strengthening the capacity of pollution victims and civil society organizations to increase chemical safety in China (China Chemical Safety Project)*.

Venue: Desheng Hotel, No. 14 Bei Sanhuan Zhong Road, Xicheng District, Beijing, China; 8610 623 68866

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Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30-8:40	Registration	
8:40-9:00	Opening welcome	Feng Yongfeng, Green Beagle and Joe DiGangi, IPEN
9:00-9:20	EIA policies in China and public participation	Wang Yanan, EIA Research Center, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China
10:30-11:00	Coal Refinery in Panzhihua, Sichuan Province	Yang Yong, Hengduan Mountain Research Association
9:50-10:20	Oil Refinery in Anning, Yunnan Province	Yu Xiaogang, Green Watershed
10:20-10:30	Tea Break	
9:20-9:50	6000 volt Electricity transmission project in Guanghan, Sichuan Province	Liao Quanfu, Villager from Shuangfu Village, Nanfeng Town, Guanghan City of Sichuan Province
11:00-11:30	Dasheng Chemical Plant in Zhongxiang, Hebei Province	Zeng Xiangbin, Environmental Public-Interest Lawyer Group
11:30-12:00	Discussion Section	
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:10	EIA of waste disposal facilities in Europe	Alan Watson, IPEN technical advisor
14:10-14:40	Western MWI in Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province	Pan Zhizhong, Villager from Panguanying Village, Liushouying Town, Qinhuangdao City of Hebei Province
14:40-15:10	Xidong MWI in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province	Wang Qiuxia, Green Beagle
15:10-15:20	Tea Break	
15:20-15:50	Jingtian Chemical Plant in Wangcheng, Hunan Province	Chen Lifang, Villager from Wangcheng County, Changsha City of Hunan Province
15:50-16:20	An Alloy Smelter in Chongqing City	Xiang Chun, Chongqing Liangjiang Volunteer Service Center
16:20-17:00	Discussion Section	
17:00	End	

Abbreviations: EIA, environmental impact assessment; Q & A, question and answer

Strengthening the capacity of pollution victims and civil society organizations to increase chemical safety in China

This is an EU-funded project of IPEN with partner Green Beagle that aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations and communities impacted by pollution to increase chemical safety in China. The Project (also known as the China Chemical Safety Project) is being implemented in China over two years with total EU funding of €344,580 and EU contribution of 77.84% of the total cost.

The Project includes:

- Improving capacities of impacted communities and civil society organizations for involvement in policy making
- Training on public participation in environmental impact assessment
- Generating new publicly available data about pollution and impacted communities that contribute to increased implementation of local and national chemical safety policies
- Raising awareness on emissions-related pollution

Current case studies of the China Chemical Safety Project featured in this workshop include the Dasheng Chemical Plant in Zhongxiang in Hubei Province and Jingtian Chemical Plant in Wangcheng, Hunan Province.

IPEN is a leading global organization working to establish and implement safe chemicals policies and practices that protect human health and the environment around the world. IPEN's mission is a toxics free future for all.

www.ipen-china.org

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European Union

The Beijing conference on Environmental Impact Assessment is organized with the assistance and funding of the European Union. The contents of this action are the sole responsibility of the IPEN and Green Beagle and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

The European Commission is the EU's executive body. "The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development while maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedom. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and people beyond its borders."

Annex 2. Meeting participants

Name	Affiliation
Wang Qiuxia	Green Beagle
Bi Lei	Shell in China
Zhao Xuetao	China Academy of Environmental Planning
Xu Xuan	Chengdu City River Research Institute
Wang Chunsheng	Volunteer from Shouguang, Shandong Province
Li Qinglu	Shenyang University of Chemical Technology
Wu Qiong	China Academy of Environmental Planning
Guo Jinghui	Friends of Nature
Yao Chengying	Pollution Victim from Zhongxiang, Hubei Province
Xie Lei	University of Exeter
Wang Yanan	Environmental Development Center of Ministry of Environmental Protection
Sun Cheng	Green Hunan
Zhang Bingjie	Minzu University of China
Zhang Haiyan	Volunteer
Liu Feng	Shell in China
Feng Jun	Pollution Victim from Dachang, Hebei Province
Pan Zhizhong	Villager from Funing, Hebei Province
Wang Baoqin	Pollution Victim from Qiqihaer, Heilongjiang Province
Li Enze	Beijing Impact Law Firm
Pan Anqi	Beijing Technology and Business University
Tian Guifeng	Beijing Impact Law Firm
Zan Yanhong	Volunteer
Zhu Guizhi	Pollution Victim from Zhongxiang, Hubei Province
Wu Bin	Volunteer from Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province
Li Qi	Green Anhui
Feng Yongfeng	Journalist of Guangming Daily
Mao Da	Green Beagle
Joe DiGangi	IPEN
Zeng Xiangbin	Environmental Public Interest Lawyer Group
Yang Yong	Hengduan Mountain Research Institute
Yao Songqiao	International Rivers
Shi Zhe	Zhongyi Company of Panzhuhua, Sichuan Province
Zhang Suixin	Global Village of Beijing
Liu Haoyu	China Social Welfare Foundation
Lin Jiyang	Nature University
Xu Yanping	Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau
Xu Zhihui	www.chinanews.com
Liu Wei	www.chinanews.com
Chen Liwen	Green Beagle
Liu Yuying	Pollution Victim from Miyun, Beijing

Feng Xuemin	Pollution Victim from Miyun, Beijing
Yang Fujiang	Pollution Victim from Miyun, Beijing
Pan Xiaoxia	China Academy of Environmental Planning
Li Diankui	Pollution Victim from Qiqihaer, Heilongjiang Province
Bian Xuefei	Beijing Normal University
Xiang Chun	SEE Foundation
Zheng Yu	SEE Foundation
Deng Ping	Greenpeace
Zhang Zi	Independent Researcher