



European Union



a toxics-free future

Green Beagle

Report on IPEN – EU Project Meeting in Changsha, Hunan Province, China

Workshop on Heavy Metal Pollution and Environmental Impact

Assessment (EIA): Strategic Approach and Practical Skills

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)*

10 - 11 May 2014

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 on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and right to know. This workshop also focused on metals pollution which is a topic of great public, scientific, and government concern in China and one of the three principal categories of Project case studies. First day of the Changsha workshop serves as one of six major trainings and second day serves as a multi-stakeholder conference to be held under the Project.

The meeting convened by the Project in Changsha focused on metals pollution and EIA with the goal of advancing prevention of harm, cleanup, public participation and true compliance with environmental and EIA laws and strengthening multi-stakeholder communication. The meeting included information on metals toxicity and regulatory policy along with information about China's EIA law, experiences with EIA applications, and participation and experiences of academics, civil society organizations, and pollution victims. The combination of participants provided an excellent opportunity for two-way information sharing and capacity building.

The day focusing on metals pollution began with an overview of metals toxicity and control. Subsequent presentations included effective sampling procedures, legal rights of victims, how to mobilize public media, examples of case studies from Asia, and the importance of international treaties to metals pollution control. The rest of the day was devoted to examining serious metals pollution case studies from Guangxi, Henan, and Hunan provinces. After dinner, XRF testing of community samples helped reveal new data and provide information to pollution victims and community residents.

The EIA portion of the workshop began with thoughts from a former Director of the EIA Department at the Ministry of Environment Protection. Research results on public participation in EIA followed along with the experience with Strategic EIA in Europe. Subsequent presentations included examples of fake public participation in EIA, social impact analysis, participation in EIA activities in waste incineration projects, and a discussion of cases in the Guidebook on EIA Public Participation – a Project output.

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 Changsha workshop



Zhang Haiyan, Green Beagle, moderated the workshop.



Wu Jianfeng, pollution victim, Beihai, Guangxi Province provides an overview of steel pollution issues.



Wang Yanyan, Green Beagle, discusses court cases and legal strategies.



Wu Jing, Nankai University, presents research results on public participation in EIA.



Guangzhou community member shares a lighthearted, ironic story of the situation in his community.



Group photo of participants in the Changsha meeting



Ding Wenzhang, Chongqing Liangjiang Voluntary Service Center, describes findings of EIA applications with fake public participation.



Chen Liwen, Green Beagle, presents efforts to obtain EIA documents on incineration facilities.



Joe DiGangi, IPEN presents a mercury case study.



Feng Yong Feng, Guanming Insights, provides thoughts on NGO strategies.

Annex 1. Agenda



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Workshop on Heavy Metal Pollution and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Strategic Approach and Practical Skills

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)*

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Metals pollution in China is a rising concern. In April 2014, the Ministry of Environmental Protection revealed in a report that pollutants in more than 16% of soil in China exceed national standards and that for arable land, the figure rises to 20%.¹ The Ministry found that the top three contaminants were cadmium, nickel, and arsenic and conclusion was based on an analysis of approximately 100,000 samples. The study called samples that were twice the national standard “lightly polluted”. The report follows a warning in January 2014 by Chex Xiwen, a deputy director of the Ministry of Agriculture, that millions of hectares of farmland in China could be withdrawn from production because of severe metal pollution.² The Ministry of Agriculture also noted that farming on land the area of Belgium has been stopped due to metals pollution so that it could be remediated. Finally, the Ministry of Environmental Protection reported that 12 million tonnes of grain are polluted by metals every year. Clearly, metals pollution poses serious threats to human health and the environment in China and this raises questions about the approval of Environmental Impact Assessments of metals producing and releasing facilities.

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 both metals pollution 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 and metals experts, and researchers. The main objectives of the workshop include:

¹ http://www.mep.gov.cn/gkml/hbb/qt/201404/t20140417_270670.htm

² <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jan/23/china-lose-millions-hectares-farmland-pollution>

- Sharing key skills for intervening in metals pollution cases sampling and testing, legal actions, public communication, and referencing international treaties and agreements
- Building capacities of NGOs and pollution victims with regard to strategic/planning EIA, including getting familiar with its basic concepts, relevant policies and foreign experience, and learning to how to apply knowledge to practice.
- Sharing lessons and experience from individual cases regarding metals pollution and EIA process, and coming up with clearer strategies and tactics to protect human health and the environment and enforce Chinese law.

Green Beagle and IPEN will jointly host this forum in cooperation with Nature University and Shuguang Huanbao (Dawn Environment Institute). 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)* and jointly funded by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

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Agenda

Workshop on Heavy Metal Pollution and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Strategic Approach and Practical Skills

	Time	Theme
2014.5.10	8:30	Register
	9:00	Welcome speech by the host
	9:05-9:35	Chen Chengchang, Guangdong Institute of Eco-environment and Soil Science Heavy Metal Pollution and How to Avoid Harm
	9:35-10:15	Zhang Miao, Director of Pollution Prevention and Control Program, Green Peace Simple and Effective Way of Testing Heavy Metal Pollution
	10:15-10:50	Xia Jun, Zhongzi Law Office Pollution Victims' Rights
	10:50-11:00	Tea Break
	11:00-11:30	Feng Yongfeng, Guangming Insights How Pollution Victims Can Make Use of Media Effectively
	11:30-12:20	Joe DiGangi, IPEN Civil Action for Compliance of International Environmental Conventions and Examples of NGO Case Studies and Strategies
	12:20-14:00	Lunch
2014.5.10	14:00-14:30	Wu Jianfeng, Pollution Victim in Beihai, Guangxi Case in Beihai, Guangxi
	14:30-15:00	Xu Renyi, Pollution Victim in Dexing, Jiangxi Case in Dexing, Jiangxi
	15:00-15:30	Liu Shu, Dawn Light Environment Case in Xianghe, Hunan
	15:30-15:45	Tea Break
	15:45-16:15	Zhang Jiqiang, Environment Volunteer Group in Xinxiang Case of Heavy Metal Pollution in Xinxiang, Henan
	16:15-16:45	Gao Liang, Dawn Light Environment Case of Arsenic Pollution in Shimen, Hunan
	16:45-17:30	Time for Diagnosis by Experts
	17:30-18:00	Free Discussion
	18:00	Dinner
2014.5.10	19:30-21:00	Joe DiGangi, IPEN Training on Testing with XRF and Testing of Community Samples
	9:10-9:50	Mu Guangfeng, Retired Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), Inspector Planning and EIA for planning
	9:50-10:30	Wu Jing, Nankai University, Associate Professor

2014.5.11		Public participation in EIA for planning
	10:30-10:40	Tea Break
	10:40-11:30	Alan Watson, IPEN Public participation in EIA of waste disposal facilities in Europe
	11:30-12:00	Discussion: How can the public and NGOs participate in EIA for planning in an effective way
	12:00-13:30	Lunch
2014.5.11	13:30-14:00	Liu Bo, North Yangtze River Water System Management Office in Changde City Public Participation in Qiandao Lake Water Diversion Project as a Second Water Source for Hangzhou City
	14:00-14:30	Xia Jun, Zhongzi Law Office Public Participation in Yunnan Oil Refinery Project
	14:30-15:00	Ding Wenzhan, Chongqing Liangjiang Voluntary Service Center Reporting falsification in EIA qualification
	15:00-15:30	Chen Liwen, Green Beagle Public Participate in EIA for Waste Incineration Projects
	15:30-16:00	Lin Yang, Independent Researcher, Former official in general office of Yunnan Provincial Government Social Impact Assessment for Para-Xylene Projects in China
	16:00-18:00	Discussion on Cases for A Guidebook for Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment
	18:00	Dinner

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

Annex 2. Meeting participants

Name 姓名	Affiliation 所属机构
Chen Nengchang	Guangdong Institute of Eco-environment and Soil Science
Zhang Miao	Green Peace
Xia Jun	Beijing Zhongzi Law Office
Feng Yongfeng	Guangming Insights
Joe DiGangi	IPEN
Ding Wenzhang	Chongqing Liangjiang Volunteer Service Center
Mao Jianwei	Green Hunan
Chen Xiangxue	Green Kunming
Wang Chunsheng	Pollution victim in Shouguang
Wu Jianfeng	Pollution victim in Beihai
Xu Renyi	Pollution victim in Dexing
Mu Guangfeng	Ministry of Environmental Protection
Wu Jing	Nankai University
Liu Bo	North Yangtze River Water System Management Office in Changde City
Zhang Jiqiang	Environment Volunteer Group in Xinxiang
Alan Watson	IPEN
Qian Fangping	Green Anhui
Luo Xiaoqian	Green Stone
Dong Jian	Green Collar
Lin Yang	Independent Researcher
Chen Liwen	Green Beagle
Zhang Haiyan	Green Beagle
Xie Xinyuan	Nature University
Ren Xuefei	Institute of Subtropical Agriculture, Chinese Academy of Science
Xiang Xingcheng	Hunan Ziye Construction Engineer Co. Ltd
Li Yali	Changsha Environmental Protection College
Pan Qing'an	Dawn Light Environment
Liu Meng	Dawn Light Environment
Pan Donghai	Dawn Light Environment

Name 姓名	Affiliation 所属机构
Liu Shu	Dawn Light Environment
Gao Liang	Dawn Light Environment
Chen Shanghua	Protect the Sima River
Murong Shenlin	Protect the Sima River
Feng Haitao	Guangzhou Senior Engineer Society
Li Zhiping	Guangzhou Senior Engineer Society
Su Mingjiu	Guangzhou Senior Engineer Society
Bu Lijuan	School of Chemistry in Hunan Normal University
Ni Yaling	Green Chenzhou
Jiang Ji	Ningxiang Environment Volunteer Group
Kang Hui	Green Community Volunteer Service for Senior
Yue Caixuan	Wuhu Ecology Center
Jiang Qiao	Sichuan Province Shun Blue Sky Environmental Technology Consulting Co. Ltd
Chen Jianjun	China Three Gorges University
Sun Wei	Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
Tang Linxi	Individual
Zhang Wenbin	Ganzhou Environment Exchange Center

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 Beihai steel manufacturing facility in Guangxi Province, Liuyuan cadmium pollution case in Hunan Province, and the Xinxiang chromium waste dump case in 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

www.ipen.org



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The Changsha training on metals pollution, environmental impact assessment and right to know 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."