



Green Beagle

Report on IPEN – EU Project Meeting in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Risk and Control: Forum on Public Monitoring of Municipal Solid Waste Incineration, Guangzhou

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)*

14 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 aspect of chemical is waste management – a topic of great public, scientific, and government concern in China and one of the three principal categories of Project case studies. The Guangzhou workshop served as one of six major trainings to be held under the Project.

The meeting convened by the Project in Guangzhou focused on building civil society capacity on incineration and its accompanying potential risks. Environmentally sound waste management is a key component of chemical safety policy and highly relevant to national obligations under the Stockholm Convention. Since the establishment of the Eleventh-Five Year Plan, China has started aggressively promoting municipal waste incineration as a primary waste management strategy. However, there is a large mismatch between the strategy of burning municipal waste and the actual high water content of the waste (~70% is wet waste primarily from food). As a result, waste incineration in China typically involves adding coal so that the waste material will actually burn. This led one journalist specializing in waste issues to call Chinese waste incineration facilities, “...very dirty coal-burning power plants with some trash thrown in.”¹ A cheaper, less polluting alternative would include waste separation and composting of food waste, with possible biogas fermentation.

Another factor surrounding waste management issues concerns public participation in decisions on waste management practices including the siting of incineration facilities. This is actually a legal requirement under Chinese law, but has been not been adequately implemented. As a result, large community protests have occurred against proposed incineration facilities. Public concerns include the mismatch between waste composition and burning noted above along with valid concerns about pollution emissions. The debate has technical issues as well as social, environmental, and health risks.

The meeting provided information on the technical, social, and regulatory aspects of waste incineration. The combination of participants provided an excellent opportunity for information sharing and capacity building – especially since there was a mixture of viewpoints about the topics among the participants.

The Forum began with comprehensive technical information on waste incineration followed by challenges with information disclosure on the siting and operation of facilities in China. The social risk aspects of incineration figure prominently in the

¹ <http://www.pri.org/stories/2014-05-17/what-makes-people-overturn-police-cars-authoritarian-china?utm>

controversy in China and were presented in a detailed, balanced manner. A case study of the controversy of incinerator siting in Hong Kong provided an interesting comparison and contrast to the similar issues in mainland China. Finally, the national obligations of China with regards to the Stockholm Convention provided some insights into how regulatory authorities need to approach this issue and how civil society representatives might provide input.

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 Guangzhou workshop



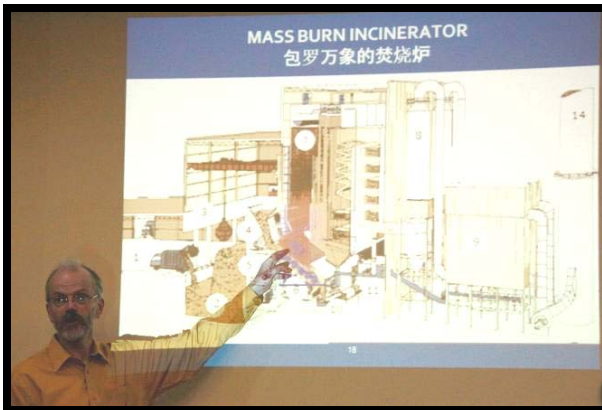
Mao Da, Green Beagle, opens the workshop.



Luo Jianming, EcoCanton, moderates the forum



Audience members record important details from the presentations.



Alan Watson, IPEN, presents technical information on incinerator operation and health risks.



Joe DiGangi, IPEN presents info on Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.



Presenters further discuss issues with the audience.



The audience.



Zhu Hanqiang describes incineration issues in Hong Kong.



Participants in the Guangzhou Forum

Annex 1. Agenda



Green Beagle



Forum on incineration and risks: Building civil society capacity and participation

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)*

Guangzhou and Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China

14 - 15 May 2014

Environmentally sound waste management is a key component of chemical safety policy and highly relevant to national obligations under the Stockholm Convention. Since the establishment of the Eleventh-Five Year Plan, China has started aggressively promoting municipal waste incineration as a primary waste management strategy. However, there is a large mismatch between the strategy of burning municipal waste and the actual high water content of the waste (~70% primarily from food). As a result, waste incineration in China typically involves adding coal so that the waste material will actually burn. This has led one journalist specializing in waste issues to call Chinese waste incineration facilities, "...very dirty coal-burning power plants with some trash thrown in."² A cheaper, less polluting alternative would include waste separation and composting of food waste, with possible biogas fermentation.

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This conference will focus on the environmental, social and health risks from incineration and seek to explore issues surrounding incineration with the goal of advancing public participation and compliance with Stockholm Convention obligations. Invited participants will include pollution victims, public interest civil society representatives, lawyers, reporters, researchers, and government officials. The meeting will include opportunities for discussion so that pollution victims can discuss relevant issues with other victims, public interest NGOs, lawyers and experts and try to develop strategies for further actions to achieve chemical safety. 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: Kai Rong Du International Hotel, No.3, Jiangnan Dadao, Guangzhou.

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² <http://www.pri.org/stories/2014-05-17/what-makes-people-overturn-police-cars-authoritarian-china?utm>

Agenda

14 May 2014

Forum on incineration and risks: Building civil society capacity and participation

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30-8:50	Registration	
8:50-9:00	Opening speech	Mao Da (Green Beagle)
Section One: Incineration risks		
9:00-9:40	The Burning Issue	Alan Watson (IPEN)
9:40-9:50	Q&A	
9:50-10:10	MSWI and information disclosure	Chen Liwen (Green Beagle)
10:10-10:20	Q&A	
10:20-10:50	International Conventions and MSWI	Joe DiGangi (IPEN)
10:50-11:00	Q&A	
11:00-11:30	MSWI and social risk	Prof. Guo Weiqing (Sun Yat-Sen University)
11:30-11:40	Q&A	
11:40-12:00	MSWI controversy in Hong Kong	Zhu Hanqiang (Independent Commentator, Hong Kong)
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion	
14:00-19:00	Field trip to MSWI at Honghualing, Shenzhen City	

15 May 2014

Capacity building on waste incineration, Shenzhen

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00-9:20	Waste management in Shenzhen	Wu Jiansheng (Shenzhen Jingbao Newspaper)
9:20-9:40	Waste treatment fee reform	Wang Zheng (Association for Waste Recycling of China)
9:40-10:10	Waste pollution in Honghualing, Shenzhen	Local residents
10:10-10:30	Discussion	
10:30-11:10	Landfill and medical waste management	Alan Watson (IPEN)
11:10-12:00	Q&A and Discussion	
14:00 – 16:00	Consultation with Shenzhen MSWI pollution victims	

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 Fushan waste park and Likeng incinerator.

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



European Union

The Guangzhou training on incineration 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	Organization
Edio Fu	ISC
Yueyi Feng	Eco-Canton
Juehang Chen	China Southern Normal University
Lan Hu	Individual
Yun Zang	Beijing Lianggao Law Firm
Qian Liu	Guangdong Construction (Newspaper)
Zhixi Zhu	NRDC
Yanli Luo	FoE
Aohong Zeng	Individual
Lang Dai	New Life (Magazine)
Dehui Lin	Individual
Shumin He	Individual
Zhi Yu	Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims
Zheng Wang	Individual
Yaping Lan	Gaoyuan Recycling (Guizhou Province)
Jie Kuang	Green Henan
Jiansheng Wu	Shenzhen Jingbao Newspaper
Dan Luo	Roots and Shoots (Chengdu)
Xijiao Zhang	Wuhan City
Rui Ren	Individual
Yaojie Mei	Southern Metropolitan News
Ziseng Chen	Sun Yat-Sen University
Tingting Zhang	Sun Yat-Sen University
Da Lin	Sun Yat-Sen University
Feng Huang	Sun Yat-Sen University
Hanqiang Zhu	Individual
Xiaolei Chen	Individual
Weishan Li	Green Dot
Xiaohong Huang	Panyu, Guangzhou City
Huina Diao	Individual
Xiaoling Xie	Qianhe Foundation
Na Chen	Green Dot
Wenjin Fan	Likeng, Guangzhou City
Ruoqian Zhang	Individual
Lanchuan Huang (A Jia Xi)	Public consultancy committee on MSW, Guangzhou City
Haibo Luo	FoE
Yongcong Huang	Sun Yat-Sen University
Dongliang Zhang	Geochemistry Institute, CAS

Qing Wan	Volunteer
Zewen Jiang	Volunteer
Bingqiang Su	MSWI pollution victim
Tianyu Su	MSWI pollution victim
Jiawen Li	New Express (Newspaper)
Zenan Du	MSWI pollution victim (Zhongshan)
Kai Zhong	MSWI pollution victim (Foshan)
Xinyi Cheng	Sina
Zhixin Lan	China Business News