



European Union



a toxics-free future

Green Beagle

## Report on IPEN – EU Project Meeting in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China

### Workshop on Building a Pollution Victim Aid System in 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)*

September 15-16, 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. Green Beagle has been fulfilling this project goal hand in hand with local activists as well as with other civil society groups by investigating several pollution cases. As a result, Green Beagle found some barriers to promoting chemical safety including difficulty in protecting pollution victims' rights, lack of polluters' responsibility and in remediating the harms caused by pollution at the legal and policy levels. This workshop focused on how to address these issues and served as the final of six major trainings to be held under the Project.

The first day of the workshop was oriented towards individual experience sharing on barriers to legal, science and technology, medical, humane and financial aid by environmental groups to pollution victims. The practical experience was supplemented by views of respective experts to help introduce and clarify various issues. For example, in the field of "right to know", citizens' legal requests for information are often postponed or rejected by requiring so-called "proof of qualification". In the field of environmental impact assessment (EIA), the fact that the law does not indicate clearly which party (the EIA company or the project developer) is responsible for the errors in public participation survey was introduced. Another often mentioned barrier was the legal situation where a victim files a lawsuit and then experiences illegal rejection of the case without receiving any official order stating the rejection by the court. Possible solutions of those situations were assessed and discussed. Therefore, the meeting provided information on the technical, social, and regulatory aspects of a pollution victim aid system. 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.

On the second day, the dialogue continued with an in depth analysis of standards and difficulties in enforcement that results in significant releases of toxic chemicals and metals causing subsequent human exposures in communities. These externalized costs of industry result in a variety of health impacts including cancers and other serious diseases. It was illustrated that the lack of monitoring data makes it difficult to push for industry responsibility and governmental enforcement. Municipal solid waste incineration was taken as an example. The Ministry of Environmental Protection recently promulgated a new air emission standard for this highly controversial industry. According to this new standard, the dioxin air emission limit has been reduced by ten-fold to match EU standards. However, in practice, without adequate enforcement and comprehensive environmental standards including limits for soil, water, air and food, the goals of environmental and health protection

cannot be reached and more pollution victims will be created. In addition, the mercury emission limit for waste incineration is still twice the EU standard. Workshop participants expressed concern that weak limits such as this can hardly stop the waste incineration industry from being a major mercury pollution source in China, precisely at a time when global momentum is building to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Participants included representatives of civil society, pollution victims, Ministry of Environmental Protection, university students, and journalists. The group agreed that lack of appropriate pollution standards is a key barrier to pollution aid system implementation in China. Additionally, lack of information disclosure and monitoring data that would enable tracking of industrial emissions was recognized as a related obstacle. Identification of the main barriers to pollution victims' aid in China provides a good resource for future case study and policy interventions.

# Annex 1. Photos from the Kunming workshop

**Manny Calonzo, IPEN, and Mao Da, Green Beagle, open the workshop**



**Workshop participants**



**Working group and its members: MEP official, expert, pollution victims, and Jitka Straková (Arnika NGO)**



**Working group and its members: expert, pollution victims, Liwen Chen (Green Beagle NGO), and Björn Beeler and Joe DiGangi (IPEN NGO)**



**Dai Renhui (CLAPV) introduces the difficulties and challenges of legal assistance to pollution victims**



**Huo Taishan (Huaihe River Guard) introduces clean water supply for cancer villages**





**Group photo of workshop participants**

# Annex 2. Agenda

**Agenda for 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**

**Topic: Social Assistance System for Pollution Victims**

9:00—9:10 Welcome remark and orientation

Section One: Legal assistance

9:10—9:30 The challenges that legal assistance faces (Dai Renhui, CLAPV)

9:30—9:50 The practice of environmental lawyer volunteer corps (Zhao Liang, Tianjin Green Collar)

Section Two: Humanity aid

9:50—10:10 Clean water supply in Huaihe River watershed (Huo Daishan, Huaihe Guard)

10:10—10:30 An introduction to Yirenyizhu (public support to public interest activists) fund

10:30—10:40 Tea break

10: 40—12:00 Group discussion

Section Three: Medical assistance

14:00—14:20 The problems of environmental health systems in China: discussion from dust lung victims

14:20—14:30 Medical assistance demand from the reality (Zhang Yapei, Green Beagle)

14:30—15:30 Group discussion

15:30—15:40 Tea break

Section Four : Technological assistance

15:40—16:00 The threshold of testing (Gong Yan, Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology)

16:00—16:20 Where are the technical experts (Wang Chunsheng, pollution victim from Shouguang, Shandong)

16:20—17:20 Group discussion

Section Five: How foundations can support?

17 : 20—17:40 The role of foundations on pollution victim assistance (Li Xiang, FON Foundation)

17:40—18:00 Free discussion

18:00 End

## **Agenda for 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**

### **Topic: Institutional Obstacles for Pollution Assistance**

#### Section One: Difficulties in EIA and information disclosure

09:00-09:30 Public participation to EIA (Ding Wenzhang, Chongqing Liangjiang Volunteer Center)

09:30-09:50 Problems of environmental information disclosure: from the perspective of waste management issue (Chen Liwen, Green Beagle)

09:50-10:00 What have been encountered when applying for information disclosure (Ling Yanxue, Green Anhui)

10:00-10:20 The barriers to EIA hearing: based on case study of dam building (Yu Xiaogang, Green Watershed)

10:20-10:30 Tea break

#### Section Two: Difficulties in testing and standards

10:30-11:00 Pollution evaluation and testing difficulties: Qihua Case study (Xie Xinyuan, Green Beagle)

11:00-11:10 The lessons from drinking water testing (Pan Qingan, Changsha Dawn)

11:10-11:40 Waste incineration-related standards and their problems (Mao Da, Green Beagle)

11:40-11:50 Demonstration of DIY air pollution monitoring (Yan Lei, Guangzhou Clean Air)

11:50-12:00 Expert comments (Gong Yan, Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology; Liu Liqun, Peking University)

12:00-14:00 Lunch break

#### Section Three: Difficulties in litigation

14:00-14:30 Why litigation so difficult: case study of Guodingshan, Wuhan (Yue Zhongyi; Kang Xiaofeng, Wuhan Green Collar)

14:30-15:00 Legal action by citizens of Honghualing, Shenzhen (Wang Ligong)

15:00-15:10 Heavy metal case of Yizhang, Hunan (Zhang Yapei, Green Beagle)

15:10-15:20 Comments by lawyers (Bu Xiujun, Dai Renhui)

15:20-15:30 Tea Break

#### Section Four: Free discussion on obstacles

15:30-15:50 Group discussion on institutional obstacles to pollution assistance

15:50-16:00 Top ten obstacles voting

16:00-16:00 Concluding and end

## Annex 3. Participant list

	Name	Institute/Region
Victim/Activist	Wang Chunsheng	Green Weifang
	Zhang Yiqian	Huaibei, Anhui
	Yue Zhongyi	Wuhan, Hubei
	Wang Ligong	Shenzhen, Guangdong
	Chen Hua	liangyungang,jiangsu
	Li Shengxiang	Kunming, Yunan
Government Institute	Gao Junping	MEP Education Center
Environmental NGO	Ding Wenzhang	Chongqing Liangjiang
	Zhao Liang	Tianjin Lvling
	Xu Yong	Tianjin Lvling
	Tian Zuning	Tianjin Lvling
	Pan Qingan	Hunan Shuguang
	Huo Daishan	Huaihe Guard
	Dai Renhui	CLAPV
	Zhou Xiang	Green Anhui
	Lin Yanxue	Green Anhui
	Yue Caixuan	Wuhu Ecology Center
	Yan Lei	Clean Air Group
	Yao Jia	REEI
	Jiang Chao	REEI
	Yang Hui	Jiangxi Qinggan
	Kang Xiaofeng	Wuhan Lvling
Lawyer	Bu Xiujun	Impact Law Firm
Environmental Expert	Li Qinglu	Shenyang Chemical Industry Institute
	Gong Yan	Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology
Medical Expert	Kuang Jie	Green Henan

	Zhao Qingqiong	Central Hospital of Mineral Bureau of Tongchuan, Shanxi
	Liu Liqun	Medical School, Peking University
Foundation	Li Ang	FON Foundation
Other	Zhu Xiangzhe	Volunteer Supporting Foundation
	Yang Jing	Ourworkers
	Cai Chao	SSRC
Green Beagle	Zhang Haiyan	
	Shao Wenjie	
	Xie Xinyuan	
	Li Zhenzhen	
	Yang Yuetao	
	Zhang Yapei	
	Zhang Wenbin	
	Chen Liwen	
	Mao Da	
Kunming Local	Yang Hongyan	PEAC
	Chen Jing	PEAC
	Geng Ruijin	YHDRA
	Chen Xiangxue	Green Kunming
	Mei Nianshu	Green Kunming
	Wang Zhe	Green Kunming
	He Bo	Southwest Forestry University
	Zhao Chunli	Southwest Forestry University
	Chen Yue	Southwest Forestry University
	Yu Yin	
	Wang Xinxin	
Media	Li Meng	Democracy and Legality
	Ding Xiaojing	Minsheng Weekly
International NGOs	Manny Calonzo	IPEN
	Joe DiGangi	IPEN
	Bjorn Beeler	IPEN
	Martin Salmonsson	IPEN
	Jitka Strakova	Arnika



## **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

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](http://www.ipen-china.org)

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**European Union**

The Kunming 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, Arnika 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."