

## POPS ANALYSIS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING IN 10 ASIAN COUNTRIES

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### Abstract

The United Nations University (UNU) has been implementing a capacity development project on chemical analysis and monitoring of environmental pollutants since 1996. The project has undertaken monitoring of various organic pollutants in the environment in ten participating countries in Asia using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. Shimadzu Corporation prepared the analytical procedures and quality control protocols that suit the capacities and resources of the institutes participating in the monitoring project. The procedures, quality control protocols and data gathered from fish samples in this UNU project are presented here.

### Introduction

UNU's capacity development project on environmental pollutant analysis using quadrupole gas chromatography coupled to a quadrupole mass spectrometry (GC/MS) by project participating countries has been implemented since 1996 with support from Shimadzu Corporation<sup>1</sup>. In total, more than 66 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, rice, fish, and air). In the previous project phases,

various target environmental pollutant chemicals have been analyzed ranging from Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) to Persistent Organic Compounds (POPs) as reported elsewhere<sup>2</sup>.

Since the Stockholm Convention entered into force in 2004, existing regional networks engaged in POPs monitoring like this UNU project have been recognized as important data sources on the global POPs levels. In this paper, the project's monitoring results, in a selection of countries, as well as the quality assurance and quality control aspects of the project activities, are reported and discussed.

### Materials and Methods

In the current 4<sup>th</sup> phase (2005-2008), biological samples have been analyzed. POPs in shrimps (2006) and in fish samples (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 fish analytical procedure is shown in Fig. 1. The chemical analysis was carried out using Shimadzu GC/MS QP5050A and GC/MS QP2010 systems.

#### Quality assurance and quality control

The project conducted an inter-laboratory study in 2002. The result was reported previously<sup>2</sup>. A closer look at the inter-laboratory data revealed 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> cleanup spike recovery ratio.

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> cleanup spike recovery ratios have been checked with 70-130% as its acceptable range. One of the two internal standards, phenanthrene-*d*<sub>10</sub> and chrysene-*d*<sub>12</sub>, were chosen for the quantification of

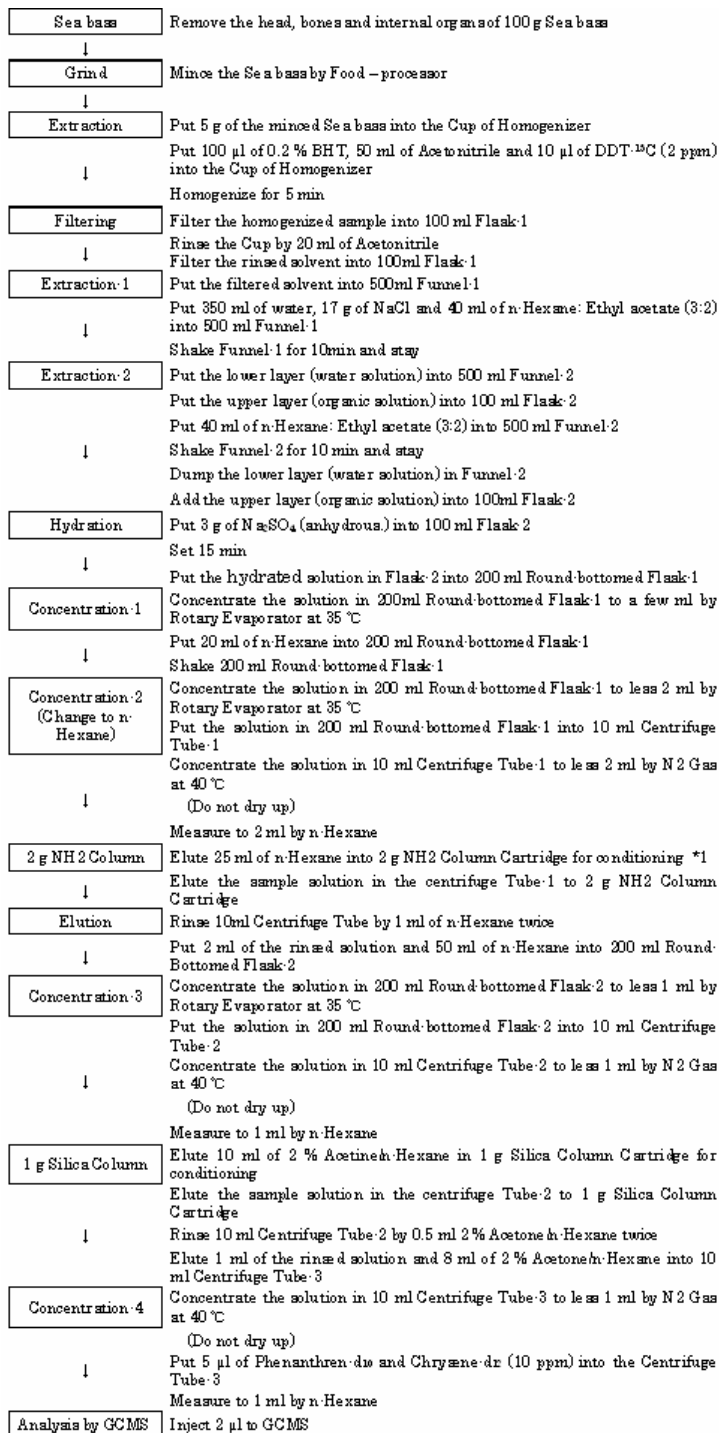


Fig. 1 Project analytical procedure for fish samples

each POPs depending on its GC elution time. To determine instrument detection limit (IDL), five 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.  $IDL = t(n-1, 0.01) \times \sigma$ , where  $t(n-1, 0.01)$  is a value of  $t$ -distribution at  $\alpha = 0.01$  for one tail. More details are described in the UNU Project Quality Assurance Document<sup>3</sup>.

## Results and Discussion

### Fish sampling data in 2007

Due to the wide-ranging capabilities of the laboratory facilities at the project participating institutes, international data comparison must be performed with caution. Each country reported about 15 organochlorine pesticide POPs in fish above their corresponding method detection levels determined by project participants.

In the Philippines, nine fish individuals (*Lates calcarifer*) of various sizes were purchased from fishermen with the assistance of the Fisheries Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC) officer in Tagkawayan, Quezon in July, 2007. The fish samples were classified according to their size and weight as small, medium and large which corresponded to three composite samples for analysis. Water samples were collected about 1.5 kilometers from the shoreline. One fish sample was collected in Roxas City and 7 fishes were collected in Estancia, Ilo-ilo in September. The fishes from Estancia were classified into 2 groups by length and size. Water samples were collected about 2 kilometers from the shoreline. No POPs were detected from the water and fish samples over quantitative limits (MDL).

In Vietnam, Ha Long Bay, Hai Phong Port, and Ba Lat Estuary were selected as sampling locations, as indicated in Fig. 2.

Ha-Long Bay has very diverse ecosystems and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site in Vietnam. It has very important resources for tourism as well as aquaculture and commercial activities. Next to Ha Long Bay is Hai Phong Port, which has facilitated industrial activities for more than one hundred years. These anthropogenic activities may cause pollution of the local aquatic environment and of Ha Long Bay. Discharges from the port site may bring considerable load of

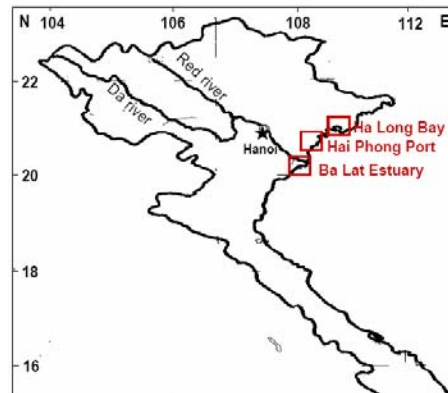


Fig. 2 Three sampling locations in Vietnam

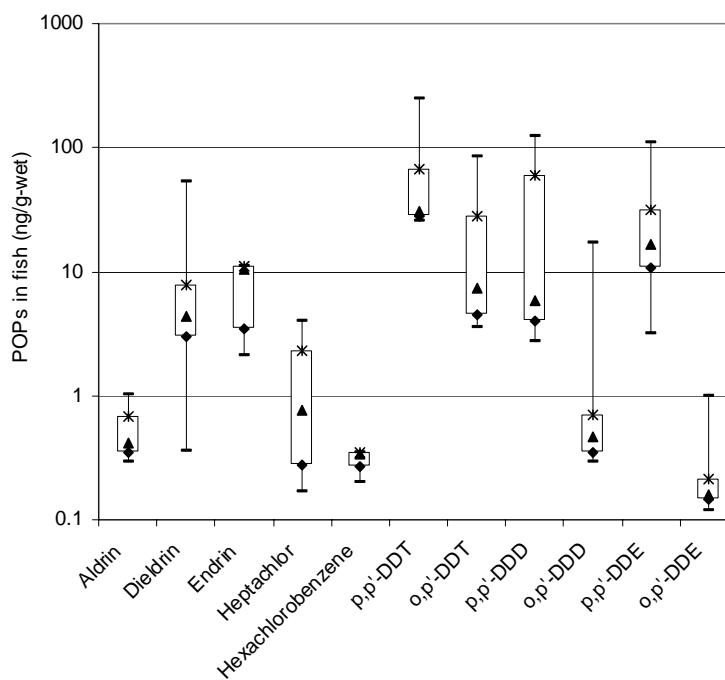


Fig. 3 POPs detected in fish sampled in Vietnam.

Method detection limit (MDL, ng/g-wet weight) for the compounds were: Aldrin 0.14; Dieldrin 0.28; Endrin 2.04; Heptachlor 0.11; Hexachlorobenzene 0.12; p,p'-DDT 0.18; o,p'-DDT 0.18; p,p'-DDD 0.73; o,p'-DDD 0.19; p,p'-DDE 0.11; o,p'-DDE 0.11.

contaminants such as POPs to the coastal waters. Known as one of the main regions in producing rice for the domestic consumption and export, Thai Binh province has annually utilized a large quantity of pesticides and herbicides to protect crops from pest and weeds. Ba Lat Estuary is the final repository where receiving water from channels and streams that contain industrial and agricultural wastes from manufacturing and agricultural activities of Hanoi city and Thai Binh province end up.

Table 1. DDT and its metabolites detected in fish samples from three sampling locations in Vietnam (ng/g-wet)

| Fish samples | p,p-DDT | o,p-DDT | p,p'-DDD | o,p-DDD | p,p'-DDE | o,p'-DDE | DDT/DDE |
|--------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| BL-F11       | 2.6E+01 | 4.1E+00 | 6.9E+00  | 4.8E-01 | 1.8E+01  | 1.3E-01  | 1.6     |
| BL-F12       | 2.6E+01 | 3.6E+00 | 5.9E+00  | 2.9E-01 | 1.7E+01  | ND       | 1.8     |
| BL-F15       | 4.6E+01 | 1.2E+01 | 2.7E+00  | 5.0E-01 | 3.2E+00  | 1.6E-01  | 17      |
| BL-F16       | 2.8E+01 | 4.6E+00 | 3.2E+00  | 3.2E-01 | 7.3E+00  | ND       | 4.5     |
| BL-F17       | 2.9E+01 | 7.3E+00 | 4.1E+00  | 4.1E-01 | 1.1E+01  | ND       | 3.5     |
| BL-F18       | 2.8E+01 | 4.6E+00 | 3.9E+00  | 3.2E-01 | 1.1E+01  | 1.2E-01  | 2.8     |
| BL-F19       | 3.0E+01 | 5.9E+00 | 4.2E+00  | 3.7E-01 | 1.2E+01  | ND       | 3.0     |
| HL-F11       | 2.5E+02 | 6.4E+01 | 1.2E+02  | 1.7E+01 | 3.6E+01  | 1.6E-01  | 8.5     |
| HP-F13       | 8.7E+01 | 8.4E+01 | 5.8E+01  | 4.7E-01 | 2.7E+01  | 1.8E-01  | 6.2     |
| HL-1-TR      | 6.3E+01 | 2.4E+01 | 1.2E+02  | 1.4E+00 | 1.1E+02  | 1.0E+00  | 0.8     |
| HL-1-TH      | 7.0E+01 | 3.2E+01 | 6.1E+01  | 8.9E-01 | 3.5E+01  | 2.5E-01  | 2.9     |

Fish species sampled in Vietnam were Black porgy (*Sparus macrocephalus*), Yellowfin seabream (*Sparus latus*), and Waeigieu seaperch (*Psammoperca*). Among 11 fish samples analyzed, Mirex and cis-/trans-Chlordane were not detected at all. Other compounds detected are shown in Fig. 3. Recent inputs of p,p'-DDT to the water bodies may be indicated by higher ratios of DDT/DDE than 0.5 in Table 1.

Different DDT/DDE profiles in fish tissues were found in data obtained in the Republic of Korea. While in both sampling locations of Tongyeong and Gadukdo that are about 60km apart (Fig. 4) DDT and its metabolites were the dominant compounds among the detected POPs, p,p'-DDT was detected only in Gadukdo, which implied recent inputs of p,p'-DDT to the environment.

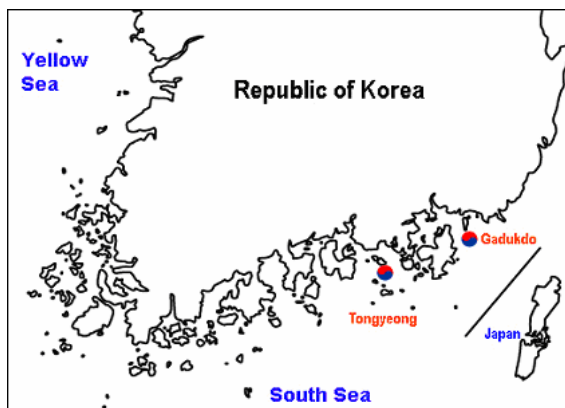


Fig. 4 Two sampling locations in the Republic of Korea

## References

1. UNU Project Website, <http://www.unu.edu/esd/manage/>
2. Iino F, Sebesvari Z, Renaud F, Kitsuwat T, Morita M, Shibata Y, Huang Y, Rajendran B R, Syafrul H, Shim W J, Mustafa Ali Mohd, Muhammad Aslam Tahir, Santiago E, Suthamanuswong B, Lee H K, Viet P H, Boonyatumanond R, 2007, "POPS ANALYSIS AND MONITORING IN THE ASIAN COASTAL HYDROSPHERE", *Organohal. Compds.*, 69, 1406-1409.
3. UNU Quality Assurance Document For "Environmental Monitoring and Governance in the Asian Coastal Hydrosphere", Draft Version, April 2007.