



- PROGRAM OVERVIEW -

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Replicating Good Practices on Soil Contamination

Background

Improper management of toxic and hazardous waste and other materials due in part to inadequate enforcement of environmental laws and regulations has led to an increasing number of contaminated sites in many countries in Asia. Challenges facing by Asian regulatory agencies related to land contamination prevention and management include: (i) lack of a legal and institutional frameworks including standards and guidelines to manage and remediate contaminated sites; (ii) inadequate transportation, storage, treatment and disposal systems; (iii) overlapping authorities of agencies to effectively manage and enforce relevant laws and regulations; (iv) lack of participation from the public and private sectors; (v) inadequate financial mechanisms to support remediation of contaminated sites; and (vi) lack of proper technology to remediate and rehabilitate contaminated sites.

Recognizing the urgent need to address soil contamination, some Asian countries have established national policies and legal framework for preventing soil contamination and rehabilitating contaminated land. In particular, Japan enacted the Soil Contamination Countermeasures Act, which the Ministry of Environment Japan has been implementing successfully for over 8 years. Facing similar challenges, the Department of Environment of Malaysia recently developed the Contaminated Land Management Framework, guidelines for assessing and reporting of contaminated land, and guidelines for planning and management of contaminated land including training modules for environmental officers. With assistance from the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN), the Pollution Control Department (PCD) of Thailand established a twinning partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan to support development of a national policy framework on soil contamination countermeasures.

Program Objectives

As a side event to the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific: ISAP 2010, on July 12-13, 2010, the Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan will host a regional workshop in collaboration with AECEN. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia), a regional program of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will provide coordination and funding support. The objectives of this three-day event are to:

- Share best practices, policies and innovative approaches and lessons learned from Asian countries on land contamination with a focus on challenges and solutions for effective soil contamination prevention and management including remediation methodologies, enforcement mechanisms, and natural resource damage assessment;
- Present an assessment of soil contamination management status and initiatives to tackle land contamination management in Asia;
- Conduct a focused workshop to develop a regional replication roadmap for Asian countries on regulatory control of land contamination; and
- Identify opportunities for AECEN member-to-member “twinning” initiatives.

Event Format

The regional workshop will include: expert presentations, panel discussions and interactive workshop sessions aimed at developing a replication roadmap for regulated control of soil contamination in Asian countries, as well as an instructive field visit.

Participants: Workshop participants include over 30 selected environmental officials, policymakers, and other environmental experts from across Asia.

Date: July 12-14, 2010

Location: Pacifico Yokohama Hotel, Yokohama, Japan

Organizers: Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Environmental Cooperation – Asia (ECO-Asia), a regional program of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN)