

The International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP)

Martin Scheringer,
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Highlights Session

27th Dioxin Conference
Tokyo, 7 September 2007

IPCP Overview

◆ Description of IPCP objectives and context as discussed at Dioxin Conference 2006, Oslo

International Panel on Chemical Pollution

Science and Policy

Science and Policy

Initiative for an International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP)

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At the 2006 Dioxin Conference in Oslo, an *Open Meeting* public and policy makers, that research in priority areas such as measurements of chemical properties and monitoring pro-

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Format of the Session

- ◆ Three more general/conceptual talks
 - ➔ IPCP objectives (M. Scheringer et al.)
 - ➔ Management-science interface (N. Suzuki, M. Morita)
 - ➔ Links between SETAC and IPCP (D. Muir et al.)
- ◆ Four talks from Africa/Latin America showing problems, needs, and possible role of IPCP
 - ➔ Contamination of the **Amazon** (J. Torres et al.)
 - ➔ Lindan usage in **Ghana** (S. Adu-Kumi, J. Dennis)
 - ➔ POPs sources and levels in **Latin America** (R. Barra et al.)
 - ➔ Implementation of the Stockholm Convention in **East Africa** (B. Kiremire et al.)

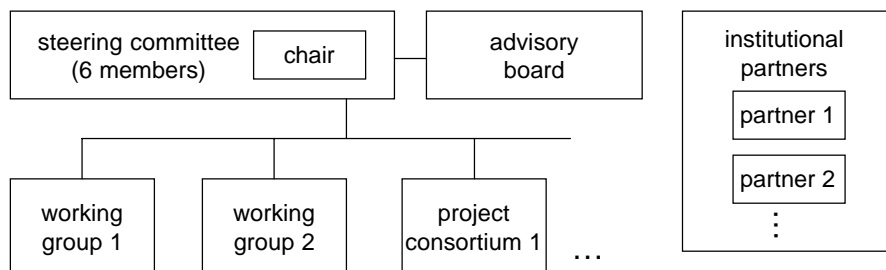
Objectives of the IPCP Initiative

- ◆ The International Panel on Chemical Pollution:
Background and Perspectives (M. Scheringer et al.)
 - ➔ Main objective: improve science-politics interface
 - ➔ Provide more/better scientific support for politics
 - ➔ Encourage political support for science
 - ➔ IPCP **global network of scientists**,
focus on scientific discussion of:
 - ➔ Consensus and disagreement
 - ➔ Uncertainties and knowledge gaps
 - ➔ Main outcome: **IPCP reports** on priority topics

Organization of the IPCP

◆ Bodies:

- ➔ Steering committee and chair
- ➔ Working groups and project consortia
- ➔ Advisory board
- ➔ Institutional partners



Need for Management-Science Interface (I)

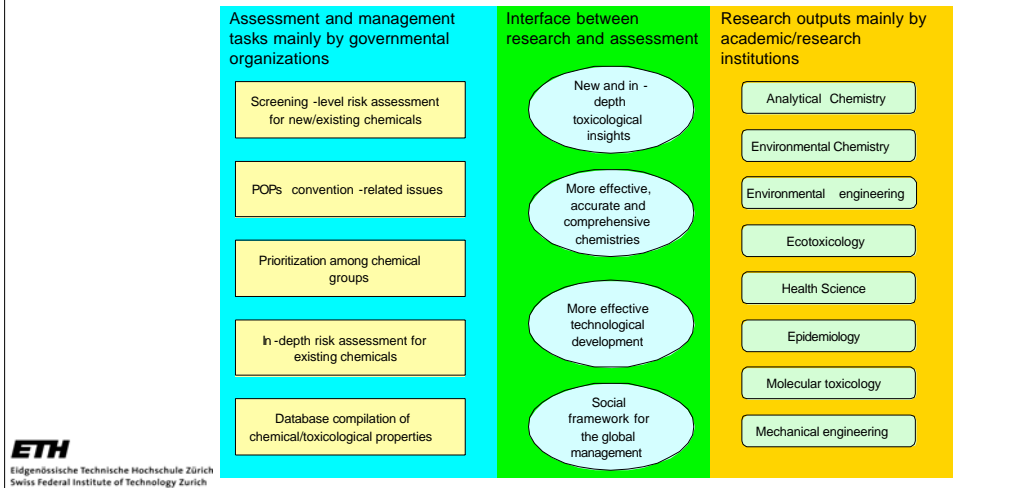
◆ What role is expected for IPCP as the interface?

(N. Suzuki, M. Morita)

- ➔ IPCP to cover **all relevant aspects** of pollutions problems
- ➔ **Interface** between „management concerns“ and „scientific concerns“ needs to be improved; IPCP to contribute with scientific input
- ➔ Maybe **no scientific forum exists** that is expected to discuss the whole scope of chemical pollution

Need for Management-Science Interface (II)

- ◆ What role is expected for IPCP as the interface?
(N. Suzuki, M. Morita)



Relationship of IPCP to SETAC

- ◆ Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (D. Muir et al.)
 - ➔ IPCP and SETAC have several similar goals
 - ➔ SETAC is a global organization of environmental scientists that hosts several global technical advisory groups
 - ➔ Collaboration of IPCP and SETAC suggested and both wanted and needed

Contamination of the Amazon

- ◆ Contamination and education problems in Brazil (J. Torres et al.)
 - ➔ Conflicts between environment and development
 - ➔ Far too little financial and political support for research
 - ➔ Links between health problems, poverty, scientific illiteracy
 - ➔ Development projects in the Amazon, deforestation, high pollution with DDT, mercury, ...
 - ➔ Very high fish consumption, high levels in humans

- ➔ IPCP should help to **establish international scientific collaboration**

Lindan Usage in Ghana

- ◆ Multi-Stakeholder Approach to reduce usage of lindane (S. Adu-Kumi, J. Dennis)
 - ➔ Lindane extensively used on cocoa
 - ➔ Mixed cropping: lindane also on many other crops; also used for fishing and hunting (!)
 - ➔ Six-step process of risk characterization and risk management

- ➔ **IPCP could serve as a forum**
 - ➔ to promote the dialogue between scientists and policy/decision-makers
 - ➔ to convey scientific ideas and current trends to scientists in developing countries, particularly those on the continent of Africa

POPs in Latin America (I)

- ◆ Research needs and strategies to support decision makers (R. Barra et al.)
- ◆ Most countries parties to the Stockholm Convention
- ◆ Problems:
 - ➔ **Priority chemicals not clear** (POPs, but also other pesticides; PAHs; mercury)
 - ➔ Some information on **emissions**, but large data gaps
 - ➔ **Illegal use** of POPs; dioxins, furans from open burnings
 - ➔ Understanding of **transport pathways** poor,
 - ➔ Almost no information about **levels and trends**
 - ➔ **Absence** of toxicological and ecotoxicological research

POPs in Latin America (II)

- ◆ Research needs and strategies to support decision makers (R. Barra et al.)
- ◆ **Role of IPCP:**
 - ➔ Scientific support in priority setting
 - ➔ Capacity building in
 - ➔ instrumental methods of analysis
 - ➔ design of monitoring programmes
 - ➔ Training of human resources through
 - ➔ exchange of PhD students, visiting professors
 - ➔ establishing postgraduate multidisciplinary programs related to POPs

Stockholm Convention in East Africa

- ◆ Preparation of National Implementation Plans in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda (B. Kiremire et al.)
- ◆ Gaps in POPs management identified:
 - ▶ Re-packaging of pesticides, no proper labeling
 - ▶ No public information, education, and awareness
 - ▶ No search for suitable alternatives
 - ▶ Lack of waste disposal facilities
 - ▶ Insufficient capacity for tracking effects of POPs

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- ◆ **Role of IPCP:**
 - ▶ For implementation of NIPs, **training/education is crucial** and will be best handled by a network of international experts
 - ▶ **Summer schools** in African countries: IPCP could design contents, identify experts, search for funding

Summary

◆ Problem:

- ➔ Scientific results inconsistent, not harmonized, difficult to use
- ➔ Political and financial support insufficient

◆ Mission:

- ➔ Scientific support of politics
- ➔ Political support of science

◆ Next Steps:

- ➔ Make IPCP more visible
- ➔ Establish collaborations with existing institutions
- ➔ Identify priority topics, establish working groups

◆ www.ipcp.ch

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