



Inaugurating a workshop entitled "PCBs contaminated transformer oil and its impacts on public health and environment" organized by CEPHED on 2067-9-14 B. S. at Kathmandu, Former Honorable Minister of Environment, Mr. Thakur Prasad Sharma committed to address the PCB issues from Ministry level and promised to give necessary order about it. Currently, Ministry of Environment is conducting a project of PCBs management. (Insert pictures of Minister)

- Conduct Awareness Raising Workshops for Grill Workers about the Health and Environment Impact of PCBs contaminated oil used in the welding machines.
- Carry out the Health Care Waste Assessment to develop model hospital for sound health care waste management.
- Develop a Model Hospital employing environmentally sound management practices of health care waste management.
- Develop a Model Welding Workshop practicing alternative technology and fuel to reduce POPs (Furan) emission.
- Dissemination of Medical Waste management and POPs related themes via Radio and Newspaper.
- Counseling with various Health Care Facilities towards developing waste management system.
- National Level Essay competition on Medical waste (Journalist and Medical Student) etc. Mr. Om Prakash Sah from College of Applied Science, Pokhara University, Pokhara, Mr. Kshitiz Shrestha from Rampur Campus, Chitwan and Mr. Rajan Ghimire from IOM, Maharajgunj, Kathmandu have won First, Second and Third prize on Essay Competition respectively. Similarly Ms. Sarada

Adhikari from The Himalayan Times, Mr Umesh Ojha from Gorkhapatra and Mr. Abdullah Miya from Kantipur Daily have won first, second and third prize on News /Article competition. Award certificate and cash prize were given out by Dr. Praveen Mishra, Secretary of Ministry of Health and Population on 14th January 2011.

Acknowledging the organization's contribution to minimize the use of PCB-contaminated transformer oil through research, information sharing, awareness-raising, model workshops, campaigning and advocacy with the concerned government agencies and others, Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) has been awarded by The United Nation Stockholm Convention's PEN Award 2011 "Cross-cutting Issues Awards of PCBs Elimination Network-Outreach and Capacity Building". The award has been given away by Dr. Karel Blaha, President of COP5 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Dr. Jim Willis, Joint Executive Secretary of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions was also present in the award ceremony. The award has been received by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director of CEPHED on the occasion of the Award Ceremony held during the 5th Conference of Parties Meeting from April 25 to 29, 2011 at Geneva Switzerland.



"Public Awareness and Participation for Elimination of POPs and its Sources from Nepal"



For More Information
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Project Duration: 19 Months (December 7, 2009 to June 30, 2011).

Supported By: Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme of UNDP.

Total Budget: US \$ 3, 50, 00 (NRs. 25, 90,000)

Implementing Agency: Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), Imadol, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Co-funding Partners: Toxics Link, India, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternative (GAIA). The program is under implementation in close coordination with government agencies such as Management Division, Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) and Ministry of Environment (MOE).

Introduction

Increased number of health care facilities in the urban areas and semi-urban settlement has increased in generation of health care waste. Most of these facilities neither practice onsite separation nor have in-house treatment facilities and hence rely on the services of municipalities for waste management. Thus only few percentage of infectious waste, that needs special treatments get mixed with rest of the non infectious municipal waste. These wastes are then dumped either in the river bank and/or temporary unsecured landfill sites, posing greater risks to environment and public health. In other case, the health care waste including polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastics, gets burned either openly in the corner of the hospitals, or in the drum incinerator, or in locally built, imported or donated incinerators, thus producing highly toxic gases called DIOXIN and FURAN. These are known human carcinogen and also Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) listed under United Nation's Stockholm Convention on (POPs). In addition, highly toxic incineration ash and different heavy metals like mercury, lead and cadmium also get released into the environment. The other POPs chemical called Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCBs) has been used in transformer oil as coolant. These PCBs contaminated obsolete transformer oil is being heavily used in the Grill Workshop's welding machine which upon continuous working gets heated and produce FURAN.

What are "POPs"?

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are organic compounds that are resistant to environmental degradation through chemical, biological, and photolytic processes. POPs persist in the environment for long periods, are capable of long-range transport, bio-accumulate in human and animal tissue, bio-magnify in food chains, and have potentially significant impacts on human health and the environment.

Exposure to POPs can cause serious health problems including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and even diminished intelligence.



Stockholm Convention on POPs

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty initiated in 2001 in Stockholm to protect human health and the environment from POPs. It entered into force in 2004 and covers 21 chemicals so far. Currently, 173 countries and one regional economic integration organization are Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Convention has categorized the chemicals into three Annexes (A, B, C) based on the action to be taken in order to reduce and ultimately eliminate these chemicals and its sources from the mother earth. Nepal has ratified this convention in 2007.

The ongoing project is translating the National Implementation Plan (NIP)'s second prioritised action aiming to make available scientific information, awareness raising and capacity building of all stakeholders and showcasing model hospital and model metal workshop so as to reduce the emission of Dioxin and Furan.

Broad Objective

To aware the impact of POPs and develop model hospital and metal workshop curbing the emission of POPs.

Specific Objective

- Document and Disseminate issues about POPs, Medical Waste and PCBs.
- Raise awareness among general public and stakeholders about the use and impacts of the POPs, Medical Waste and PCBs.
- Develop a model health care facility managing waste with complete non-burning technology to reduce POPs (Dioxin and Furan) emission.
- Develop a model Welding workshop practicing alternative technology and fuel to reduce POPs (Furan) emission.

Activities

- Preparation and production of TOT Training manual for Health Care Waste Management and POPs.
- Preparation and production of Fact sheets on each 21 POPs.
- Preparation and production of Training Manual and Briefing paper on Health Care waste management and POPs.
- Preparation and Production of Briefing paper on PCBs, Dioxin and Furan.
- Conduct TOT on Health Care Waste Management and POPs.
- Conduct Regional Training on Health Care Waste Management and POPs.
- Carry out the Impact Study on PCBs contaminated transformer oil used in Grill Workshop.

