

Statement by Mr. Kunihiko Yamazaki
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Chemicals
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Distinguished Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honor to speak to you about the Japanese view here at the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting of the 19th Session of CSD. I would like to raise several important points regarding the development of chemical management policies based on our experiences.

1. Measures under the framework of SAICM

It is important that concerned parties including international organizations, national governments and stakeholders take measures under SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management). The framework of SAICM was established as a follow-up of the Johannesburg Summit, so reviewing the progress and overcoming the challenges on chemical management should be conducted within this framework.

2. From hazard-based to risk-based regulation

Japan experienced serious health damage and environmental pollution by PCBs in 1960's and as a result enacted a regulation in 1973 to restrict both production and use of PCB-like industrial chemicals based on their hazardous properties. Since then, we have been developing our chemical management policy stepwise from a hazard-based regulation to a risk-based one.

At the early stage of formulation of a regulatory system, it might be effective to regulate specific chemicals such as POPs with a hazard-based approach and to move stepwise into a risk-based approach.

3. Active participation of broad stakeholders including industries and environmental NGOs

Involvement of and cooperation with other stakeholders including industries in the development of chemical management policies are key factors for effective implementation of the policies.

For example, the PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register) systems developed under the participation of industries and NGOs proved to be effective in reducing the environmental release of subjected chemicals with industries' voluntary actions and public observations.

4. Sharing basic information of chemicals including monitoring data

Collection, publication and sharing of chemicals' basic information including monitoring data are also important.

For example, as results of POPs monitoring are utilized for the effectiveness evaluation of Stockholm Convention, environmental monitoring is especially important for identification and surveillance of pollution. To improve developing countries' capabilities of environmental analyses, it is necessary to transfer analytical techniques established by developed countries and to develop more concise analytical methods, and thus sharing information among relevant countries is important.

5. International harmonization of policies and promotion of related measures

- (1) It is important that the measures against chemicals which impact the globe through transboundary movements via the environment be effectively promoted under the relevant treaties. In addition to the Stockholm Convention concerning POPs, a new treaty on mercury should be internationally agreed upon by 2013.
- (2) It is also important that cooperation and synergy between chemical and waste management be strengthened. Actions for enhancing cooperation and synergy among the three treaties related to chemicals and waste (Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions) should be further promoted. As for emerging issues, synergy among international organizations including OECD is also important.
- (3) By utilizing opportunities for discussion at the CSD and those related to various multilateral environmental treaties and SAICM, information on effective examples and good practices of national-level activities, OECD policy recommendations and UNEP activities and basic data on chemicals should be shared and utilized. As a result, international harmonization of policies and promotion of related measures would be expected to develop among national governments including developing countries.

Thank you for your attention.