

Japanese Intervention on chemical and waste

(Comment on proposed decision on international chemical management)

Japan recognize, as noted in paragraph 10 of GC25/5, lead and cadmium stays relatively short period in the atmosphere and the transportation of lead and cadmium mainly stay at local, national, or regional level.

Therefore, in order to decide whether the lead and cadmium is global environmental issues and whether there is a need to establish global legal binding instruments on lead and cadmium, we need to accumulate more scientific knowledge and then make intensive discussion based on scientific basis as stated in paragraph 16 and 17 of GC25/5. However, we have not received information documents on lead and cadmium until just before the GC 26, so Japan realizes we have not made enough scientific based discussion by now. We realize we should spend additional time on science based discussion before making final decision.

Concerning the mercury issue, on this occasion, Japan would like to appreciate the decision by UNEP ED and support by members to host the diplomatic conference in Japan. Japan supports to strengthen the global measure against mercury from our experience of Minamata disease. Thus we intend to contribute the establishment legal binding instrument on mercury. Japan realizes we had better prioritize to focus on the negotiation on mercury by at least by the time we will reach to the agreement on mercury convention, hopefully in 2013.

(Comment on proposed decision on waste management)

Japan calls for 3R initiative and have been implementing, with the cooperation of UNEP, waste management and 3R promoting activities in developing countries, particularly in Asia. Japan realizes the importance of waste management and will continue supporting developing countries.

We thinks it is important to promote effective cooperation among Basel Convention Secretariat, Basel Convention regional centre, IETC and other organizations by eliminating the overlapping of the activities of these organization.

Furthermore, concerning the activity of UNEP, we realize IETC has been actively implementing capacity-building program on waste management, particularly on E-wast,

in developing countries. We think it is quite useful to proceed and focus more to utilize the capacity and experience of the IETC as written in the proposed decision.

(Comment on proposed decision of chemical finance)

Japan appreciates the discussion in the consultative process and expects to reach to fruitful result. We also evaluate the efforts of the awareness and outreach activities on the sound management of chemicals and wastes that is going to be implemented by the UNEP in the chemical and waste convention, as a part of this process.

Our position is that we should continue the consultative process and evaluate the situation of current financial mechanism, and then examine the various options to stabilize financial basis.

(Comment on proposed decision on cooperation within chemical and waste cluster)

Japan recognizes the importance of the cooperation and coordination within the chemical and waste cluster. From this point of view, we have to enhance the synergy among 3 conventions relate to chemical and waste. Also, it is important that international organization, governments and other stakeholders will continue to cooperate to foster SAICAM process

Japan thinks that the future chemical and waste management should be based on the result of the following factors; First factor is the enhancement of the synergy among 3 chemical and waste conventions and we will have a review in the COP of these conventions in 2013. Secondly, we will have a final reports on financing options for chemical and wastes in GC27 of 2013, thirdly, we will review the situation of SAICAM in third International Conference on Chemical Management in 2012.

We should make effort to focus on these factors and eliminate the overlapping in related areas. From this point of view, we should wait for the above mentioned discussion to wrap up the direction of chemical and waste cluster within 2011.

Also, we think proposed ED's study should represent the result of the review over synergy among 3 conventions, result of discussion over financial option and review on SAICM in 2012. Therefore, we the submission of the ED's study should be postponed to 13th GCSS in 2014 or GC28 in 2015 so as to represent these reviews.

Finally, Japan is welcome to establish the contact group and prepared to actively participate to the contact group.