

Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances - Sources and Concentration of PTS in the Environment -

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Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) poses a significant threat to both our environment and our health. In addition to 12 Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), PAHs, Pentachlorophenol, Org. Mercury Compounds, PBDE, Org Tin Compounds and HCH need to be identified, assessed and added to the list for global action in Central and North East Asia (Region VII). This study focused on major sources of PTS and PTS concentrations in environmental compartments at the regional level. We evaluated the responses obtained from questionnaires developed by UNEP chemicals for sources and environmental levels. In this paper, data for the Republic of Korea, China and Kazakhstan were collected from questionnaire in websites, while technical reports and country reports were used for China, Russia and Japan. At this point, however, data for the full understanding or description of the regional environmental level of PTS are insufficient. Scoring system for prioritizing PTS for sources, environmental levels and data gaps was used as a primary tool to assist in the establishment of priorities for Region VII. Chemicals have been ranked according to highest score in 'Sources', 'Levels' and 'Data Gaps'. More monitoring data from the countries in this region should be collected for the full understanding and evaluating the present environmental levels of PTS in the region VII. The information will be used to provide UNEP and GEF with science-based rationale for the assignment of priorities for action aimed at initiating and facilitating co-ordination and co-operation among the countries involved.