

Summary of situation evaluation (Thailand POPs)

Questions	Answers	Comments/ Possible Solutions
Which Ministry/Department(s) is/are involved in managing toxic chemicals?	Multiple, but feed-back mechanism remains rather challenging.	Requires stronger coordination and synergy.
Which Ministry/Department(s) is/are involved in managing the selected hot spot?	Involves several national and local agencies, as well as communities, but the synergy among them remains weak.	Requires stronger responsibility, coordination and synergy, as well as public participation and public accountability.
What chemical-specific legislation/regulations are in place in the country?	The Hazardous Substance Act B.E. 2535 (1992) is a specific legislation to regulate all chemicals including all POPs. There are also a number of general laws and regulations to address aspects of unintentional POPs, especially incinerator and solid waste.	Law and policy development.
Is enforcement of regulations (if they exist) undertaken as necessary?	Yes, but constrained by spreading of enforcement and monitoring functions of various acts/regulations among several agencies.	Harmonization and integration.
What relevant industry (ies) use toxic chemical?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture; ▪ Industry (energy); ▪ Public health; and ▪ Waste management. 	Awareness, guidelines, codes of practice and standards, and BAT/BEP.
Are there research institutes that are undertaking relevant research/investigations?	Numerous, but the consumption of the research results in the policy formulation needs to be intensified.	Measures needed for encouraging flow of research results into policy making process.
What level of understanding exists in government and industry about the hazards the chemical poses?	Relatively high.	
What level of awareness exists among workers and the public concerning toxic chemicals?	Extremely low. Training and awareness campaign have not produced any remarkable change yet.	
What related technical infrastructure exists (e.g. information on quantities produced/ generated, imported, in use)?	Relatively high. But inter-agency flood of information is somehow restricted by lack of uniform exchange platforms.	Appropriate /common knowledge management system, and guidelines on data sharing.
Existing programs for monitoring releases and environmental and human health impacts.	Many programs.	
Are there any 'bottlenecks' in the management of toxic chemicals nationally and/or locally?	Yes, wide-spread legal provisions/acts, and jurisdictional issues.	Good environmental governance.
Are there cases of accidents, poisonings, contamination, etc. involving toxic chemicals, and routinely reported to the relevant authorities?	Not mentioned in NIP.	