



for a toxics-free future

IPEN Intervention on Emissions from Open Burning

Given by Yuyun Ismawati

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Thank you, Mr. Chair -

Open burning in developing countries are taking place in various places and in various scales, not only in the city landfills but also in neighbourhoods where imported wastes are being dumped.

Recently, IPEN released a report regarding dioxins, PFOS, and other POPs chemicals found in eggs collected from two villages in Indonesia. One village burned the plastic wastes piles regularly to give more space for the next drop. Another village burned plastic wastes in the furnace as fuel in tofu factory to create steam to cook.

We collected eggs from houses near the tofu factory and found the second highest dioxins in Asia after the eggs collected from an Agent Orange site in Vietnam. The eggs we collected from the open burning site, showed high concentration of PFOS at the same level as an industrial area in Europe.

Measuring emissions from open burning should include investigations about where the wastes are coming from, main types of wastes that are being burned, whether fuel or used oil contaminated by PCBs are also being used to burn the piles, and many more criteria.

Recommendation the strengthening of political commitments to establish a legislative framework to prohibit open burning is necessary. However, the establishment of a waste management plan to promote the transition from open burning of waste to sanitary landfills and to a closed burning plant such as the incineration plant, need a careful consideration.

Recommendation to establish waste to energy or thermal treatment to solve the open burning issues in developing countries with low GDP will not be financially and economically sustainable. Lack of capacity to monitor and dispose of Unintentional POPs emissions and fly ash as well as mercury will create another problem.

IPEN recommends the establishment of communication between the Minamata Secretariat with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.