Utilization of es-BANK of Ehime University for Monitoring Environmental Pollutants in Indonesia: A Case Study for Brominated Flame Retardants in Biota, Human and Environmental Samples

Agus SUDARYANTO1,2,3, Iwan Eka SETIAWAN2, Adi Slamet RIYADI2, Muhammad ILYAS2, Yudi ANANTASENA2, Ridwan DIJAMALUDDIN2, Tomohiko ISOBE1, Shin TAKAHASHI3 and Shinsuke TANABE3

1Senior Research Fellow Center (SRFC), Ehime University, Bunkyo-cho 2-5, Matsuyama 790-8577, Japan
2Technology Center for Marine Survey, Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT), JL. MH. Thamrin 8, Jakarta, Indonesia
3Center for Marine Environmental Studies (CMES), Ehime University, Bunkyo-cho 2-5, Matsuyama 790-8577, Japan

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Abstract—The concept of environmental specimen bank for archiving and retrospective analysis of biological and environmental samples has been recognized as an important component of systematic environmental monitoring and research programs. For example, well documented specimens that are preserved over long periods of time are valuable resources that can be used for future retrospective investigations and verification of previous studies that were carried out using such specimens. During the last decade, in collaboration with Ehime University, Technology Center for Marine Survey, Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT), Indonesia have conducted several sampling campaigns to collect various biotic and environmental samples for environmental monitoring in Indonesia, particularly for assessing the levels and risks of persistent toxic substances such as classical persistent organic pollutants (POPs) as well as emerging new contaminants such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDs). Due to limited sample storage and analytical capability in the country, the samples have been preserved and archived in environmental specimen bank (es-BANK) of Ehime University for further studies including analysis of various toxic pollutants. The present report aims at overviewing the findings made through those studies on the emerging new contaminants, the brominated flame retardants (BFRs) such as PBDEs and HBCDs in the environment of Indonesia by utilizing samples that have been stored in es-BANK of Ehime University.

Keywords: Environmental Specimen Bank, PBDEs, HBCDs, distribution and source, human exposure, fate and behavior, temporal variation, Indonesia
Environmental Specimens from Indonesia Archived at es-BANK*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Shellfish</th>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Sediment</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Air</th>
<th>Human</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of species</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of samples</td>
<td>816</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>2845</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:  
- Fish = freshwater, coastal, and offshore-fish  
- Shellfish = bivalves, shrimps, squids  
- Air = air gas phase (PAS), air particulate  
- Human = breast milk, urine and hair  
- Others = house dust, food stuff, etc.

Fig. 1. Map showing sampling locations and environmental specimens from Indonesia archived at es-BANK of Ehime University.
es-BANK for Monitoring Environmental Pollutants in Indonesia

BACKGROUND

During the last decade, through Center for Marine Environmental Studies (CMES), Ehime University—Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (known as BPPT in local abbreviation) research collaboration, we have conducted several sampling campaigns to collect various biotic and abiotic samples for environmental monitoring in Indonesia, particularly for assessing the levels and risks of persistent toxic substances. Due to limited sample storage and analytical capability in the country, the samples have been preserved and archived in environmental specimen bank (es-BANK) of Ehime University for global monitoring study of various toxic pollutants (Tanabe, 2006). The present report aims at overviewing the findings made through those studies on emerging new contaminants used in various consumer products (electrical and electronic equipments, polymer materials, textiles, etc.), the brominated flame retardants (BFRs) such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and hexabromocyclododecanes (HBCDs) in the environment of Indonesia and compared with classical persistent organic pollutants (POPs) such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) by utilizing samples that have been stored in es-BANK to understand their distribution and source, human exposure, fate and behaviors and temporal trends. The data used in the present study was based on available information published in the literature.

ARCHIVING SPECIMENS FROM INDONESIA

Under several projects either from research collaboration between CMES and BPPT (Asia-Pacific Mussel Watch, Sustainable Environment for Fisheries, Marine Environmental Conservation, etc.) or national programs by BPPT, various samples including water, air, soil, sediment, dust, shellfish, fish, foodstuff and human matrices were collected during 1998–2009 at Indonesia representing areas such as urban, suburban, rural, aquaculture, dumpsite, mining area, terrestrial, coastal and offshore. Figure 1 is map showing sampling location of several environmental samples, biota and human matrices in Indonesia. In this figure, number of samples collected from Indonesia and achieved at es-BANK of Ehime University is also included.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Analysis of BFRs and POPs were conducted in the Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry, CMES using GC-MS and LC-MS-MS following procedures described elsewhere (Sudaryanto et al., 2008). For QA/QC, data from our laboratory were in good agreement with Standard Reference Materials.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Distribution and sources

As those of organochlorine compounds (OCs) such as PCBs and DDTs (Monirith et al., 2003; Ueno et al., 2003; Sudaryanto et al., 2005, 2007a),
compiling data on nationwide information of BFRs from samples collected during 1998–2003 (Ueno et al., 2004, 2006; Sudaryanto et al., 2005, 2007b) showed that PBDEs and HBCDs were also present in various samples including sediment, mussel, fresh-water fish, coastal fish and offshore fish (Fig. 2), suggesting their wide occurrence in the environment of Indonesia. In all the samples, concentrations of PBDEs were higher than HBCDs, concomitant with
their different usage patterns in Asia (Watanabe and Sakai, 2003). Higher concentrations of BFRs were found in the locations associated with high population, industry, and urban areas such as Jakarta Bay and Surabaya coastal areas (similar to PCBs but not for DDTs). Whereas, lower levels of PBDEs and HBCDs were found in the samples from rural/remote areas such as Lada Bay (Banten), Hurun Bay (Lampung), Maros (South Sulawesi) and offshore waters revealing from tuna data (Ueno et al., 2004, 2006). In comparison with PCBs, the level of BFRs was lower.

**Human exposure to BFRs**

Preliminary human exposure to BFRs has been conducted through multimedia analysis of the samples collected from four locations representing urban, suburban and rural/remote areas (Wurl et al., 2006; Sudaryanto et al., 2008). BFRs and PCBs were detected in various environmental media (air, soil, and house dust), fish and shellfish, eggs, meats, dairy products, and breastmilk (Fig. 3), suggesting wide environmental contamination and human exposure to these compounds in Indonesia. Except in house dust, PCBs (which have longer pollutant history and larger amount of usage than BFRs) were found to be higher than PBDEs and HBCDs in all the samples. This result indicates a significant source of BFRs in the home environment.

Estimation of total intake of BFRs by adults (52 ng/day for PBDEs and 9.8 ng/day for HBCDs) was lower than that of PCBs (560 ng/day), and agrees well with the body burdens estimated from breast milk concentrations (Sudaryanto et al., 2008). Compared to PCBs (<0.20%), contribution by non-dietary intake of BFRs by adults was much larger (17% for PBDEs and 12% for HBCDs). For toddlers, the contribution by dust ingestion to total intake of BFRs was greater than for adults (41% for PBDEs and 36% for HBCDs).
Fate and behavior

Wide range of the sample matrices and PBDE congeners analyzed allow us to predict the fate and behavior of these contaminants in the environment. Figure 4 shows principle component analysis (PCA) on the similarities of fourteen PBDE congeners (BDE-3, -15, -28, -47, -99, -100, -153, -154, -183, -196, -197, -206, -207 and BDE-209) among sample matrices and available commercial formulations such as Penta-, Octa- and Deca-BDE mixtures (La Guardia et al., 2006). Characterizing BFRs profiles in sediments, soils and dust indicates that BDE-209 was the most predominant (Fig. 4, cluster A), suggesting that Deca-BDE commercial mixtures could be the main formulation used in Indonesia and/or also due to the high binding affinity of this large molecule size congener to
particulate matters. The prevalence of lower BDE-congeners in biota and gas-phase air (Fig. 4, cluster B) indicate selective bioaccumulation and preferable volatilization of these congeners.

**Temporal variation**

By utilizing mussel samples from Jakarta Bay during 1998–2007 (Sudaryanto et al., 2007b; Ramu et al., 2007; Fig. 5), PBDEs and HBCDs shows an increasing trend during that period (in contrast to PCBs in recent years), and thus environmental pollution by these compounds may be of great concern in the future.

**SUMMARY**

This paper provide information on the usefulness of *es-BANK* of Ehime University for understanding the occurrence, fate and behavior, human exposure and temporal trends of BFRs in Indonesia. From above results, it can be suggested that:

- BFRs are widely found in the environment and general population of Indonesia.
- Dietary (fish) and non-dietary sources (dust) are important pathways for BFRs intake by Indonesians.
- Deca-BDE commercial mixtures could be a major source of BFRs in Indonesia.
- Specific PBDE congeners have binding preference to particular environmental matrices or biota,
- BFRs in mussels from Jakarta Bay increased during the period 1998 to 2007.
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A. Sudaryanto (e-mail: aguss@agr.ehime-u.ac.jp)