Japan

Report on EMF Activities from
National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)
9th International Advisory Committee Meeting on EMF
June 2004
Activities in 2003-2004

(Presented by Dr. M. Kabuto)

1. The epidemiological study on childhood leukemia in Japan: The epidemiological study has been completed as reported last year. The suggested risks for childhood leukemia were 2.63 (95%CI: 0.77-8.96) for (ALL+AML), and 4.73 (1.14-19.7) for ALL alone. The potential selection bias as well as confounders have been examined in detail thereafter, indicating no their significant effects on the results. The risks of electric appliance use has also been examined separately. **The outlines of the above 2 studies will be presented in the following workshop on the sensitivity of children by Dr.Tomohiro Saito, National Research Institute for Child Health and Development.**

2. The WHO group meeting on the risk of childhood leukemia, Tsukuba, Japan, September, 2003: A closed WHO meeting on the above topic was held in Tsukuba with inviting Drs. Leeka, K., Ahlbom, A., Portier, C., Swanson et al., September 2003, which was hosted by Japanese MOE. A related symposium was held in Tokyo on a day before the closed meeting with inviting the above meeting' participants, in which status of risk assessment of childhood leukemia, major output of Japanese epidemiological study as well as WHO perspectives were introduced. The room for the symposium prepared for 350 persons was filled up.

3. Personal MF exposure and indoor spot MF measurements for part of the controls in Tokyo studied in the above epidemiological study. (Funded by MOE): Personal MF exposure levels for 70 children for a week as well as spot MF levels for 10 living rooms were measured for part of the control subjects in Tokyo studied previously. Although 5 children showed their mean exposure levels exceeding 0.4 μT, 2 of which were attributed to the high indoor MF levels elevated by outside source or distributing line (up to 70 μT) and the other 3 of which were especially to high MF generated from electric carpets (up to 40-50 μT). These high personal MF exposures were confirmed by the indoor spot measurements, which showed extremely high indoor spot MF levels as a whole due to distributing line of 6600 V as well as similarly high MF levels in the surrounding areas of TV, humidifier, electric carpet etc..

[Plan for FY2004]

1. A JST workshop on New Environmental and Technological Risks and Governance, UN University, Tokyo, Japan, September, 2004
2. A NIES Symposium on WHO Perspectives for EMF Risk and Governance (late in FY 2004, yet to be discussed with MOE as well as WHO)