

**Supplementary Information on the Discovery of Hazardous Chemicals in a  
Composite Discharge Pipe Outside the Dongguan Cheongming Printing Co. Ltd.  
Facility**

Date: December 2, 2009

**Background:**

Greenpeace published a report entitled “Poisoning the Pearl: An investigation into industrial water pollution in the Pearl River Delta” (hereinafter known as The Report) on 28 October 2009. The Report listed hazardous chemicals found by Greenpeace in samples from five industrial facilities, including a discharge pipe outside the Dongguan Cheongming Printing Co. Ltd. (Dongguan Cheongming) facility.

Since the publication of The Report, Dongguan Cheongming has contacted Greenpeace several times to inform Greenpeace that the sample taken outside its factory comes from a composite discharge pipe. Wastewater from that pipe is not solely from Dongguan Cheongming, it also contains discharge from other sources in the area. In order to clarify the sources of hazardous chemicals listed in The Report, Greenpeace asked Dongguan Cheongming for test reports on its raw materials, cleaning agents, wastewater and data from its wastewater treatment plant and manufacturing process. Dongguan Cheongming subsequently provided Greenpeace with the requested information.

Greenpeace also learned that the Dongguan Environmental Protection Bureau’s Daling Shan Sub-Bureau (Herein referred to as the EPB) has started an investigation concerning this discovery of pollutants, and therefore sent a letter to the EPB on 18 November 2009 to solicit the investigation results. While the EPB is yet to respond to Greenpeace’s request, Dongguan Cheongming forwarded the EPB investigation report to Greenpeace by email on 25 November 2009.

Greenpeace welcomes Dongguan Cheongming’s initiative in approaching us and providing related environmental information. The following lays out the information collected so far by Greenpeace and outlines our position.

**Existing Information:**

Information provided by Dongguan Cheongming included the following: Cheongming’s test reports documenting the presence of heavy metals, phthalates and pollutants regulated under the European Union’s Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive<sup>1</sup> in the raw materials it uses (released prior to our report)<sup>2</sup>; two test reports by the EPB documenting Cheongming’s wastewater discharge (released prior to our report)<sup>3</sup>; two investigation reports by the EPB documenting Cheongming’s wastewater discharge

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<sup>1</sup> The EU RoHS Directive restricts the following six hazardous substances: Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Hexavalent Chromium, and brominated compounds PBB and PBDE

<sup>2</sup> Heavy metals tested include: Antimony, Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Chromium (VI), Lead, Mercury and Selenium

<sup>3</sup> The report dates are 11 April 2008 and 21 August 2009 respectively

(released as a result of our report)<sup>4</sup>; and a test report by Dongguan Cheongming's own laboratory documenting heavy metals detected in its wastewater discharge (released as a result of our report)<sup>5</sup>. Greenpeace compared the provided information against the findings in The Report and consolidated the data as follows:

<b>Pollutants found in Greenpeace's Report</b>	<b>Pollutants tested by EPB in Cheongming's wastewater discharge prior to Greenpeace's report</b>	<b>Pollutants mentioned in EPB's investigation report on Donguan Cheongming following Greenpeace's report</b>	<b>Dongguan Cheongming laboratory's test on its wastewater discharge following Greenpeace's report</b>	<b>Dongguan Cheongming's test on pollutants in raw materials prior to Greenpeace's report</b>
pH=2, i.e. acidic discharge	Tested. Result neutral	Dongguan Cheongming's discharge was listed as neutral	Not tested	Not tested
Chromium	Not tested	Not mentioned	Tested and not detected	Tested and not detected
Copper	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Not tested
Lead	Not tested	Not mentioned	Tested and not detected	Tested and not detected
Manganese	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Not tested
Nickel	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Not tested
Zinc	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Not tested
Chlorinated volatile organic chemicals <sup>6</sup>	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Not tested
Photoinitiators & related compounds	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Not tested
Phthalates	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Tested and majority of raw materials do not contain this pollutant <sup>7</sup>
Fatty acids and	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Not tested

<sup>4</sup> Report date was 30 October 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Report date was 31 October 2009. Tested heavy materials include: Barium, Antimony, Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury and Selenium

<sup>6</sup> Including Dichloromethane and Trichloroethene

<sup>7</sup> According to document provided by Dongguan Cheongming, DBP was found in one of its materials, i.e. the DiBP/DnBP type found in the Report

derivatives				
Other oxygen compounds <sup>8</sup>	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Not tested
Hydrocarbons <sup>9</sup>	Not tested	Not mentioned	Not tested	Not tested

Based on its investigation on the facility's wastewater's pH and colour, the EPB's report pointed out that it is highly unlikely that the pollutants found in The Report comes from Dongguan Cheongming. However, it is clear from the above that tests conducted by Dongguan Cheongming and the EPB did not include many of the pollutants tested in The Report. The test report on raw materials provided by Dongguan Cheongming only illustrates that its raw materials do not contain some pollutants, but it does not show detailed chemical content.

### **Greenpeace's position:**

Greenpeace believes that the provided information is still not sufficient to explain the sources of pollutants discovered in The Report. We are continuing our correspondence with Dongguan Cheongming and the EPB to clarify pollutant sources so that hazardous chemical pollution can be eliminated.

The information provided by Dongguan Cheongming is a first step in the direction of establishing a comprehensive chemicals management policy. It also lays down a solid foundation for the company to implement clean production in the future. As a next step, Greenpeace asks Dongguan Cheongming to conduct a comprehensive chemical audit or chemical accounting, set up a comprehensive database on its use and release of chemicals, and make this information available to the public. Only in this way may we obtain a full grasp of the chemicals used which can in turn help form a comprehensive chemicals management policy.

Greenpeace views the EPB investigation as an affirmation of the EPB's determination to solve pollution problems. However, available information suggests that the EPB's tests miss out many important hazardous chemicals tests. So far the public does not have access to the complete picture and the situation impedes government efforts to eliminate pollution. Greenpeace suggests the EPB to strengthen and speed up the testing and management of hazardous chemicals.

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<sup>8</sup> Alkyl-enone

<sup>9</sup> Including PAHs, Alkyl benzenes and Aliphatic hydrocarbons