



Ang Tan Loong  
president of PCAM

# PCAM-MPSJ dispute decision on Tuesday

**SHAH ALAM:** The High Court yesterday postponed to Tuesday its decision on the dispute between the Pest Control Association of Malaysia (PCAM) and the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) to allow both parties to decide whether to agree to withdraw the case or ask for a consent judgment.

"We have come to an agreement. Both parties had certain terms, but we have met halfway. However, there was one last issue, which was whether we should enter a consent judgment or just withdraw the case," said PCAM counsel T.Vijayandran.

Vijayandran, who spoke to reporters after a hearing in the judge's chambers, said the case had been postponed as the MPSJ legal department had to deliberate whether to agree to a consent judgment.

"We do not want to withdraw the case, we want to enter a consent judgment and that is the issue which has to be deliberated by MPSJ's legal department," said Vijayandran.

He said he and his clients objected to any move to withdraw the case. "We feel that we have come this far and therefore we should enter a consent judgment laying out the terms agreed upon by the parties.

This would put it in stone as opposed to just having the case withdrawn because another government could come along and say that there was no record (of any agreement). We need it to be etched in stone."

Vijayandran said he hoped for an amicable solution to the almost two-year-long dispute, "I believe that this matter will be resolved amicably because this was a decision taken by the previous government, and I think the present government has decided to reconsider that decision and to withdraw the conditions imposed," he said.

He said the case had been deliberated since 2007. In 2007, PCAM filed a suit in the Shah Alam High Court challenging a MPSJ ruling that all pest control companies operating in the municipality must be on its panel. The suit sought a declaration that MPSJ's condition for a RM3,000 deposit from all exterminators was out of its legal jurisdiction.

"This case was filed on Dec 19, 2007, and we have had several meetings with the MPSJ with the latter agreeing to withdraw certain conditions," said Vijayandran.

PCAM president Ang Tan Loong said he was disappointed with yesterday's event as he was hoping for an end to the dispute with MPSJ.

"I am, of course, a little bit disappointed as we thought today would be the final judgment as the dispute has gone on for too long. We are losing business every day," he said.

Ang said PCAM members were "losing between RM30,000 and RM40,000 a day because of MPSJ's ruling". "We are hoping that this would be settled in a win-win situation without any unnecessary grudges against the government," he said.

theSun | WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2009

THIS IS A PESTICIDE ADVERTISEMENT

# PREMINATOR<sup>®</sup> Cockroach Bait

READ THE PRODUCT LABEL BEFORE USE

**IMASPRO RESOURCES** SDN. BHD. (100955-M)

37, Jalan S. Kwan, 18, Taman Intan, 41300 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.  
Tel: 603 - 3343 1833 Fax: 603 - 3343 1868 E-Mail: imaspro@imaspro.com  
JIRP.P/0607/342



# DEFENDOR

## USE FOR PROTECTION

# 350

Active Ingredient : Imidacloprid .....30.5% w/w

Termites  
(Soldier)

Termites  
(Worker)

Termites  
(Nymph)



IMP BIOTECH SDN. BHD. (Cis No. 482270-H)

33A, Jalan 5, Kawasan 16, Taman Intan, 41300 Klang, Selangor, Malaysia.

Tel : 603 3345 3769 Fax : 603 3341 7089 E-mail : imp.biotech@gmail.com





# World **BATTLES** to curb deadly flu strain

## EDITOR'S NOTE

theSun | WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2009

**ANDROO SUNG**  
androo@pcam.com.my

Government around the world took steps yesterday to curb the spread of a new strain of flu that has killed up to 149 people in Mexico in a couple of weeks and spread to Europe and possibly Asia.

In Asia, financial markets were on edge over the risk the flu could develop into a pandemic and kill off fragile signs of recovery in the global economy after the World Health Organization (WHO) raised its alert level for the outbreak.

No one has died outside Mexico but more than 50 infected people have been found in the United States six in Canada and three across the Atlantic in Spain and Scotland. Possible cases were being tested as far away as Norway and South Korea.

The swine flu bug is curable if treated quickly with antiviral medicine but no one is naturally immune and the WHO has lifted its pandemic alert to phase 4, indicating the risk of a deadly global outbreak.

"This can be interpreted as a significant step towards pandemic influenza, but also it is a phase which says that we are not there yet," acting WHO assistant director-general Keiji Fukuda said.

Most Asian stock markets slipped into negative territory after tentative early gains, and the yen climbed to a seven-week high against the euro and a one month high versus the dollar as investors cut their exposure to riskier currencies.

Drug stocks extended Monday's gains while airline stocks were hit once again. Oil dropped a further 1%, sinking below US\$50 (RM 180) a barrel.

Governments around the world have taken steps to tighten monitoring of their airports or advised against non-essential travel to Mexico.

Britain, France, Germany and the US issued travel alerts for Mexico. Japan advised its citizens in Mexico to consider returning home soon, saying they might find themselves unable to leave and not be able to get adequate medical care.

## Contents ::

PCAM-MPSJ dispute decision	pg 1
Imaspro Advertisement	pg 2
Editor's note:	pg 3
World battles to curb deadly flu strain	
What U need to know: H1N1 – Swine flu	
Managing Chemicals to Ensure Quality of Life	pg 4,5,6,7
Bayer Advertisement	pg 8

China vowed to disclose any human cases of swine flu promptly, while state-run newspaper urged officials to be open and avoid the kind of cover-ups that brought panic during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic in 2003.

The last pandemic, a Hong Kong flu outbreak in 1968 killed about one million people around the world. Mexicans from company directors to delivery men on tricycles wore face masks while airlines checked passengers for flu symptoms.

## What you need to know:

### Pandemic influenza (Swine flu A- H1N1)

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak.

An influenza pandemic occurs as a result of the respiratory disease of pigs that by type A virus influenza, which causes regular outbreaks in pigs, emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population. It begins to cause serious illness & then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide.

### What are the symptoms of Type A virus influenza?

Same symptoms of regular human flu:

- High fever (more than 38 degree celcius)
- Sore throat, headache, fatigue, Muscle/joint ache
- Severe cough without phlegm in the beginning

Patients may also suffer from:

- Conjunctivitis, diarrhoea, & shortness of breath

### How does Flu A virus spread?

Just like the seasonal flu, it is spread from person to person through coughing or sneezing from those infected. It can be also infected through contact with contaminated surfaces or objects, & then touching their mouth or nose.

### What are the precautions we can take?

- Wash your hands and have good personal hygiene
- Lead a healthy lifestyle i.e. plenty of rest/sleep, physically active, manage yr stress, drink plenty of fluids, eat nutritious food.
- Avoid contact or wear protective mask with people who are sick.



Fever



Cough



Sore throat

### Advertisement Rates in our newsletter:

Publication frequency	: Quarterly
Paper Size	: A4 (21cm x 29.7cm)
Color	: 4 colors
Copies to be printed	: 1,500
Half page	: RM600
Full page	: RM1,000
Front inside	: RM1,500
Back inside	: RM1,300
Back cover	: RM1,800
Front page (5 cm)	: RM1,200
Insertion	: RM800 (800 copies)

### Publication Committee:

Editor : Androon Sung      Publisher : PCAM  
Registered Address :  
40C (2nd floor), Jln Perdana 10/12,  
Pandan Perdana, 55300 Kuala Lumpur.  
Tel : 603-9274 7288 Fax : 603-9274 0288  
Email : pcam@streamyx.com  
Website: www.pcam.com.my  
Design & layout : Juize Studio.  
Printer : Direction Printpack Enterprise.

### Disclaimer

1. The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the writers/editor and do not necessary reflect the views of the PCAM.
  2. All rights reserved. No part of this publication and newsletter may be reproduced in any form without the permission from PCAM.
  3. The Pest Link newsletter is distributed FREE to all members and associate members of PCAM.
- "Claims of non-receipt of PestLink will be honoured within 7 days of sending. Additional copies can be requested at a fees of RM5.00 including postage"



# Managing Chemicals to Ensure Quality of Life:

Health Today - Editor Grace Kang speaks to Mr Rengam, Exe. Director of Pesticide Action Network Asia on Pesticide Management in our Region, particularly pesticide usage.

*Healthy Earth, healthier you.  
Empowering You to Healthy Living.*

## 1. What is the current trend of chemicals use in Malaysia as compared to 15 or 30 years ago, as well as before Merdeka?

'Pesticide abuse and overuse is still rampant in South East Asia. Intensive use of extremely and highly hazardous products by small-scale farmers is causing a high incidence of poisoning to farmers. Additionally, it has caused contamination to the environment and has had negative implications for agricultural production and trade. Although most countries now have pesticide regulations, enforcement generally remains weak, noted the 25th Session of the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) held in August 2007 in Beijing.

The quantity of pesticides used in Malaysia has increased tremendously since 1960. According to the 2005 report of Department of Agriculture (DOA), about 52,000 metric tonnes of pesticide were imported. The 2004 annual report of the Malaysian Croplife & Public Health Association (MCPA)-representing the pesticide industry in Malaysia agro-chemical market in 2004 was RM323 million and the use of pesticides was 3.5% higher than year before.

Quoting again from the DOA: 'According to the Department of Statistics, the total export value of herbicides in 2001 was RM120 million, insecticides RM22.6 million and fungicides RM30 million.

'The data collected by both the government and the pesticide industry may not be comprehensive and the pesticide industry may not be comprehensive and representative in the sense that there is still a lot to be done especially in view of the fact that not all the relevant provisions like pesticides export and pesticides manufacturing under legislative control have so far been implemented'.

## 2. What is the impact of chemicals mismanagement on the global environment?

Pesticide can enter the environment through application during disposal and when spills occur. They are transferred via air, water, soil and other modes.

Pesticide are absorbed and known to bind to soil particles; spread via run-offs, leaching and crop removal, as well as when these chemicals degrade. Thus pesticides contaminate soil, water, aquatic sediment and air. Pesticides are found in polar snow, fog and rain. They are also found in the tissues of wild animals and in the bark of trees. Pesticides are implicated in mass die-offs of marine mammals and population crashes of birds and amphibians.

[www.healthtoday.net](http://www.healthtoday.net)



As noted in the 1992 report of the UN Environment Program, some pesticides, such as the halogenated compound methyl bromide, contribute to the destruction of the ozone layer. These toxic pesticides also lead to a loss of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, eg, through endocrine-disrupting effects on birds, fish mammals and turtles.

Highly persistent pesticides build up in food chains and accumulate in fatty tissues of people and animals.

Besides killing beneficial insects-eg, natural predators, food producers, etc-highly toxic pesticides have immediate adverse effects on surrounding eco-system and biodiversity.

As far back as 2002, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) stated that pesticides contaminated water and fish in the rice eco-system in Malaysia as well as pollute air, soil and water in Sri Lanka. It also reported that in Thailand, 'an estimated 70% of applied pesticides are washed away and leached into soil and water, resulting in excessive pesticide residue contamination in the local ecology and food chain. It is not surprising to find large amount of land and water in the country is contaminated with pesticides'.

Pesticides have found their way into drinking water all over the world, at levels that can cause acute poisoning or chronic ill-health through on-going low-level exposure. Even bottled water-based soft drinks have been found to contain pesticide residues. In India, for example, a range of organophosphate insecticides were found in drinks such as Pepsi, Coke, Fanta, Sprite, Mountain Dew and seven other bottled drinks all made by two American companies. Lindane and chlorpyrifos were found in 100% of samples, malathion in 97% and DDT in 81% times higher than the amount considered acceptable by the European Commission.

A parliamentary investigation corroborated the findings, causing parliament to ban its cafeterias from serving Pepsi and Coke. The Defence Ministry also issued a circular ordering its club to stop selling the drinks.





## Managing Chemicals to Ensure Quality of life (continue)

The easy availability of highly toxic pesticides, lack of information and knowledge of their hazards, aggressive marketing by the industry, as well as poverty, illiteracy and lack of health facilities, are the major causes of poisoning in rural farming communities.

### SOME OF THE REPORTED ACUTE EFFECTS ON HEALTH:

- \* Blurred vision
- \* Headache
- \* Nose bleed
- \* Sore throat
- \* Swelling
- \* Chest pain and tightness, wheezing suffocation and difficult breathing
- \* Sweating
- \* Burning sensation, itching and blisters
- \* Discolored and irregular nails
- \* Nausea and vomiting
- \* Abdominal cramps
- \* Rapid pulse
- \* Muscular pain, stiffness and back pain
- \* Seizures
- \* Vaginal pain
- \* Uncontrolled urination
- \* Diarrhoea
- \* Weakness, fatigue, dizziness, disorientation and confusion
- \* Inarticulate
- \* Depression
- \* Memory loss
- \* Difficulty walking
- \* Anxiety or restlessness
- \* Involuntary twitching
- \* Hypertension or drop in blood pressure
- \* Coma
- \* Death

### 3. What are effects of pesticide on health?

Hundreds of millions of people, especially farmers and agricultural workers, are exposed to pesticides and suffer acute and chronic effects every year. An estimated 50 million people work in developing countries and an additional 500 million in other forms of agricultural, including as seasonal workers. The World Health Organization (WHO) recently reported that there are 772,000 new cases of diseases each year due to long-term exposure to pesticides. The WHO also estimates that worldwide, more than 200,000 people die due to pesticide poisoning every year, which works out to approximately 547 men, women and children every day.

Estimates based on direct observation are significantly higher. Surveys and observations of agricultural workers suffering acute health effects from pesticides range from 2%-10% and from 9%-66% respectively.

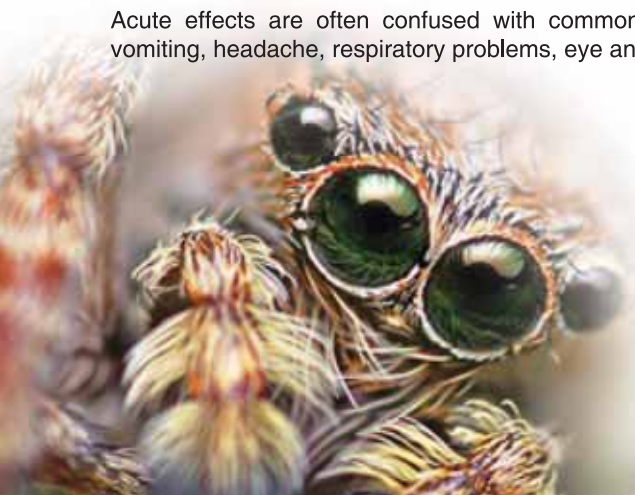
Using a median figure of 32% suggests that 416 million of the estimated 1.3 billion agricultural workers worldwide suffer from acute effects. The conservative figure does not include chronic effects, nor does it include those poisoned in non-agricultural workplaces and at home. Pesticides cause 14% of all known occupational injuries in agriculture and 10% of all fatal injuries.

Acute effects are often confused with common illness eg, vomiting, headache, respiratory problems, eye and skin

irritation and stomach troubles. Therefore, the link to pesticide exposure is often overlooked. Farmers and agricultural workers are heavily exposed to pesticides, resulting in chronic effects, eg damage to the brain and nervous system, cancer, reproductive health problems, birth defects, miscarriage or stillbirth, kidney damage, neuro-behavioural deficits in children, hormonal disruption and damage to the immune system.

Chronic effects are complex and difficult to link to pesticide exposure and, especially, to prove. Hence, chemicals companies, government regulators and other proponents of pesticide use have continually denied the suffering of millions of people caused by exposure to pesticides. Chronic poisoning may arise as long-term sequel to an initial acute dose, eg, organophosphate insecticides-well-known for being acutely very toxic-can also cause long-term damage to the nervous system and undermine the immune system. Most of the time, chronic effects are caused by on-going low-dose exposure to a cocktail of chemicals. Additionally, pesticides may aggravate existing medical conditions-both acute and chronic- eg, asthma, allergies, heart and immune system disorders.

Endocrine-disrupting pesticides have raised alarms as these can particularly affect unborn babies by affecting growth and formation, as well as functional deficiencies, eg, lowered IQ levels, susceptibility to disease, behavioural problems and future fertility. Women and children are particularly susceptible to the effects of pesticides. Women often work and raised their children in toxic environments as they mix the pesticides, harvest pesticide-drenched crops, weed while insecticides are being applied, harvest sprayed crops, and wash pesticide-contaminated clothing. And yet, ironically, women are less likely to receive formal training in risk-reducing handling practices.





### 4. Are there statistics on the health burden in Malaysia?

A 1999 study by the Poison Control Centre in Malaysia, which involved compiling admissions to major general hospitals, identified about 1,150 admission cases and about 199 deaths due to pesticide poisoning. Note: this is only based on hospital admissions and does not cover the actual figure of pesticide poisoning among plantation works and farmers.

In recent times, the issue of pesticide residues contaminating food produce hit the headlines in various countries in the Asia Pacific region. For example, on 27 August 2007, the New Straits Times reported the results of a 5-year study by Institute for Medical Research and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The researchers found out that the most frequently consumed vegetables in Selangor were highly contaminated with carcinogenic pesticide residues!

The study showed that all celery and curry leaf samples taken from the wholesale market in Selayang, Selangor, tested positive for three groups of cancer-causing pesticides. The Selayang market supplies vegetables to about three-quarters of the hypermarkets, wet markets, night markets and grocery stores in Selangor.

It was also reported that two-thirds of the 93 samples of six popular greens were contaminated with at least one kind of pesticides. The study showed that at least 40% of these vegetables were contaminated and almost one-third exceeded the maximum residue level (MRL) under the Malaysian Food Act (1983) and Regulation (1985). The tests were done on unwashed vegetables.

### 5. Who are the culprits of chemical over-use?

The promotion of high-yielding and mono-culture-based (one crop/one variety of a particular crop) crop productions increases the use of agro-chemicals. These crop varieties require massive use of pesticides for their yields and are promoted by international research institutions belonging to the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research and hosted by the World Bank.



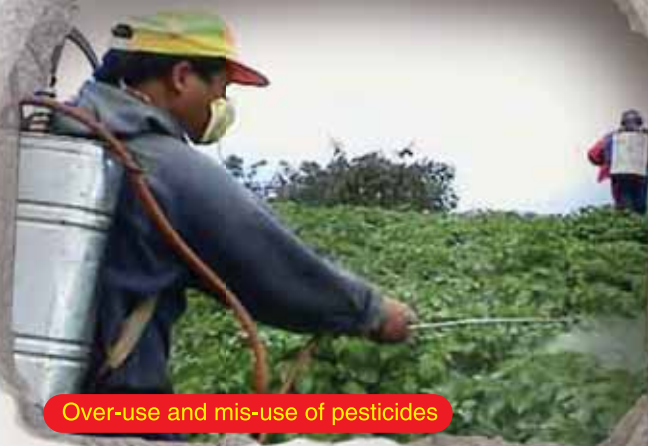
Environmental Pollution

The pesticides market totaled over USD27 billion in 2002. In 2003, the global market for conventional crop protection products (excluding sales of agricultural biotechnology-based products) was over USD26 billion. In 2006, the global market value for conventional crop protection products fell slightly by 2.5% (in nominal US dollar value) to USD30.4 billion compared with 2005. Some 80% of the global pesticide trade is controlled by just 10 companies, with the top six accounting for 70% per cent of market.

The shift from food production to cash-crop production has increased in the last 50 years, thanks to promotional efforts by the World Bank and other international financial institutions (IFIs). In the early 1960's, pesticides were subsidies by governments with loans from IFIs or through official development aid. This created an over-use and misuse of pesticides. Later, when subsidies were removed by most countries, the crops, soil, farmers and industry at large were already 'addicted' to pesticides.



Industrial Emissions



Over-use and mis-use of pesticides



## 6. As an individual, what can be done to preserve the environment?

Buy organic foods

Stop using garden and household pesticides

Grow your own pesticides-free vegetables in your garden or in pots

Support campaigns to reduce pesticide used with the aim of elimination

Be active in a local NGO working on environmental issues

Write to your legislative representatives at state and federal level to ask their position on pesticide reduction

Write to your legislative representative about the ban on paraquat in Malaysia

## 7. What are the golden rules to think about before using chemicals?

- \* Is the so-called 'pest' really a pest or is it a beneficial insect or animal-predator or useful in nature?
- \* Can the pest be controlled naturally, eg, by introducing a predator?
- \* Check if there is a non-chemical method of control.
- \* At home, ensure cleanliness and try to prevent the entry of pests by covering drains with wire mesh, and installing screens for doors, windows and vents.

# ABOUT PAN AP

Pesticides Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) is one of the regional centres of Pesticides Action Network, an international coalition of citizens' groups & individuals supporting safe and sustainable alternatives and opposing the mis-use and over-use of pesticides.

Based in Penang, Malaysia, PAN AP subscribes to the following development principles: a participatory and holistic approach; gender equity and genuine partnership; social justice and global fairness; valuing bio-diversity and appropriate, traditional and indigenous knowledge; and recognizing that our Earth is one interdependent living system.

( [www.panap.net](http://www.panap.net) )



# InPACT™

**Integrated Passive & Active Cockroach Treatment**



Brought to you by



Product support by



**Bayer Environmental Science**

A Business Group of Bayer CropScience

*for details and enquiry, please contact*

**FOGGERS MARKETING SDN. BHD. (377139-X)**

No. 16, Jalan Bukit Permai Utama Dua, Taman Industri Bukit Permai, Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur.

Tel: 03-4292 2594 Fax: 03-4292 6932 e-mail: [info@foggers.com.my](mailto:info@foggers.com.my)