

Thailand characterization factors for human health damage of chemical substances in life cycle impact assessment

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Abstract: The environmental impact assessment for chemical substances on human health damage has been of significant interest sometime in the EU, USA, and Japan. In Thailand, such an environmental impact is now receiving more attention. The present study focuses on developing the damage factors of chemical substances on human health based on the multi-media box type fate and exposure model via IMPACT 2002, with the model adapted to Thailand. Human health damage factors are expressed in terms of disability-adjusted life year (DALY) per kg emission. The development method includes four steps: fate analysis, exposure analysis, potency, and severity analysis. This study derived new damage factors of 144 chemical substances that quantify the impact damage of an emission change on human health damage. It was found that the characterization factors for human health damage range from 7.34×10^{-9} to 1.30×10^3 DALY per kg emitted. This work provides new information for damage factors on human health in Thailand based on the IMPACT 2002 model, modified for Thailand. Future research should include uncertainty analysis of the major relevant parameters, which could provide information on the reliability of the damage function.

Keywords: Human Toxicity, Impact Assessment, Endpoint Damage

1. Introduction

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a tool used in assessing the environmental impacts of a product or service throughout its life cycle. It considers impacts from raw materials procurement, manufacturing process, transportation, use and disposal or, in other words, all the stages of a product's life from cradle-to-grave. LCA is covered by ISO 14040 Standard Series [1] which includes four steps: goal and scope definition, Life Cycle Inventory Analysis (LCI), Life Cycle Impact Assessment (LCIA) and interpretation. In the third phase, the aim of the LCIA is to

converts the inventory data into potential environmental impacts [2]. It should be noted that LCIA classified into two approaches: midpoint and endpoint damage.

Traditional impact assessment methods (e.g. CML, EDIP, TRACI, and Eco-indicator 95) involve indicators somewhere between emission and endpoint in the environmental mechanism. The quantitative modeling is stopped before the end of the impact pathways and linked with LCI results in terms of "midpoint impact", e.g. global warming or acidification. Damage oriented methods (e.g. Eco-indicator 99, IMPACT 2002+, ReCiPe, and LIME) interpret the LCA results in a way that can be easily

understood, by modeling the cause-effect chain up to the environmental damage on human health, ecosystems and natural resources [3]–[6].

Several LCIA methods have incorporated environmental damage from toxic substances [5], [7], [8]. The scope and methodologies of the toxic models have different development paths for each method. Some toxic model consider fate, exposure, and effect analysis on both human health and ecosystem impact such as CalTox model, while Eco-indicator 99, IMPACT 2002, and USEtox have developed damage factors for toxic chemicals by using damage analysis [9]–[16].

In addition, in Japan a LCIA method has been developed for evaluating environmental loading in the country, known as LIME [17]. The LIME framework includes toxic chemical damage with cancer and chronic disease as the endpoints integrated into the human health safeguard areas, as shown in Figure 1. Moreover, the LIME method used the IMPACT 2002 model that was developed by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne for calculating damage factors [18].

This paper aims to develop the characterization factors for human health damage of chemical substances by using the IMPACT 20002 model based on LIME method.

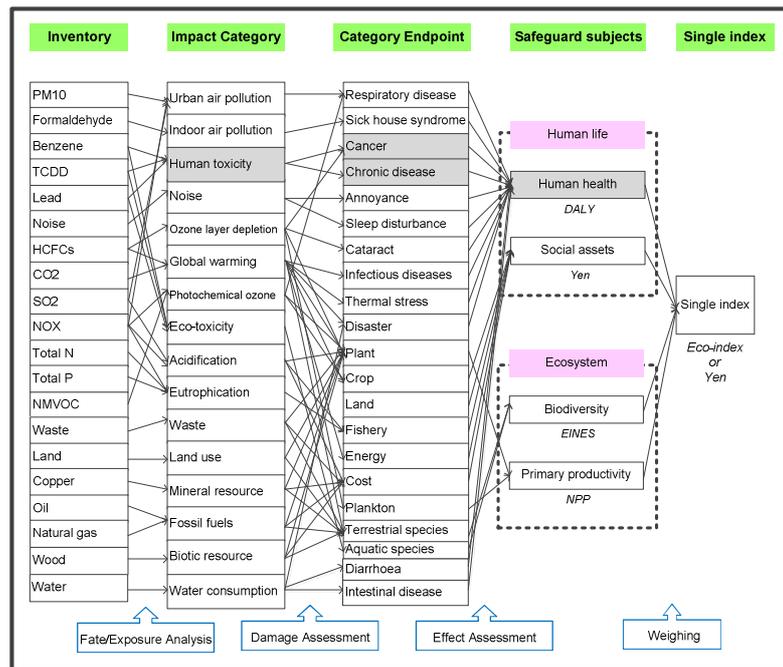


Figure 1. LCIA framework of LIME [18], [24]

2. Methodology

This study estimated the characterization factors for chemical toxicity effects on human health at endpoint level using the IMPACT 2002 model under conditions for Thailand and has adopted methodology based on the LIME method.

IMPACT2002 model respect a multimedia, multi-pathway, fate, exposure, effect, and damage steady-state model. In this model, concern the relationships between the movement of the chemical substance *i* from compartment *m* to compartment *n* in the environment to humans through inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact. The result of fate and exposure analysis is to anticipate the Intake Fraction (IF) that can affect humans exposed to toxic substances. Potency is considered as the relationship between dose and response by converting the increased amount of exposure to the incident rate of cancer and other chronic diseases caused by various chemical hazards detected according to the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(US EPA) [19], database and Environmental Health Criteria Monographs (EHCS) of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) [20]. The last factor, severity, is the damage function that will occur to each person, which can be measured as DALY (Disability Adjusted Life Year), in relation to the rate of incidence of cancer and chronic disease. The Characterization Factor (CF) of chemical substances on Human Health (CF_{HH_i}) in unit (DALY/kg) can be shown as in the equation (1).

$$CF_{HH_i} = \sum_i \{ (i^F \cdot Pop_{TH}) \cdot EF_i \} = \sum_i \{ (i^F \cdot Pop_{TH}) \cdot (\beta_i \cdot D_i) \} \tag{1}$$

The *IF* depends on ingestion and inhalation exposure (mg/kg/day). The Effect Factor (EF) is the relationship between potency and severity (case/(mg/day)). β_i is toxicology potency (dose–response function) (risk of incidence/(mg/day)). D_i is toxicology severity (DALY/incidence). *i* is any chemical toxic substances. Pop_{TH} is the population of Thailand based on the year 2012 (Applied from [18]).

Table 1. Input parameters for intake fraction

No.	Parameter	Unit	Amount	Reference
1	Temperature	K	3.00E+2	[25]
2	Precipitation	mm/yr	1.49E+3	[26]
3	Precipitation days during a year	day/sec	1.62E+2	[26]
4	Evaporation	mm/yr	1.05E+3	Estimated 70% of precipitation
5	Wind speed	m/sec	1.32E+0	[25]
6	Ocean current speed	m/hr	1.06E+4	[26]
7	Surface area of lake	km ²	8.51E+3	[27]
8	Surface area of river	km ²	2.76E+3	[27]
9	Watershed area	km ²	3.76E+4	[27]
10	Land area	km ²	5.13E+5	[28]
11	Density of aerosol	mg/m ³	7.70E-2	[27]
12	Pavement rate	%	1.16	[29]
13	Pork production	ton	7.55E+5	[30]
14	Beef production	ton	1.55E+6	[30]
15	Chicken production	ton	8.73E+5	[30]
16	Goat production	ton	2.94E+4	[30]
17	Mutton production	ton	4.35E+3	[30]
18	Egg production	ton	5.00E+5	[30]
19	Milk production	ton	8.41E+5	[30]
20	Exposure production	ton	3.74E+8	[30]
21	Unexposure production	ton	3.76E+07	[30]
22	Deep sea fishery	ton	1.88E+05	[30] based on shrimp and prawn
23	Offshore fishery	ton	8.75E+05	[30] based on pelagic and demersal fish
24	Sea culture	ton	6.27E+05	[30] based on other fisheries such as jelly fish, shellfishes
25	Inland fishery water	ton	7.44E+04	[30]
26	Inland water culture	ton	4.17E+08	[30]
27	Culture fish of inland water	ton	1.99E+7	[30]
28	Ratio of surface drinking water	-	0.66	[31]

The IMPACT 2002 model separated into three scales (1) direct surroundings (indoor or outdoor); (2) local scale (urban or non-urban); and (3) regional scale (which air cell, watershed or ocean zone is considered). This model can be adapted to Thailand conditions, which are change of watershed zone, coastal/ocean, and air zone models. For instance, the watershed zone modeling was adjusted by replacement with Thai databases include temperature, rainfall, land areas, pH of water, and number of eggs, pig, and goat. Coastal/ocean zone modeling has been adjusted by using data as Thai sea fish. Air zone was adopted by using

Thai databases such as dry deposition, Thai population, unexposure and exposure productions, and burnable area (as shown in Table 1). Toxicological potency is a quantitative measurement that determines the dose–response relationship and uses a slope factor based on risk per unit dose of a given effect for cancer. Crettaz *et al.* [22]–[23] proposed the cancer effects by using the related ED10. The toxicological severity average value is around 6.7 and 0.67 DALY per incidence for most cancer and chronic effects, respectively [22].

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Intake Fraction (IF) for Chemical Substances

Figure 2 shows Thai intake factors for chemical substances. *IF* concerns to air, water, and soil via inhalation and ingestion exposure to incident of cancer and chronic diseases for chemical substances range from 0 to 1.95×10^{-3} mg intake/mg emitted. This implies that 0–1.95 g chemical substance is inhaled and ingested by Thai population per 1 kg of substance emitted. Two interesting points of *IF* of chemical substances as following:

a) Ingestion exposure presented higher than inhalation exposure. With respect due to exposure human intake on the level separated, interconnected any location over the world, while ingestion only specific in Thailand.

b) Dioxin exposure in water was the highest value is 1.95×10^{-3} mg intake/mg emitted for both cancer and chronic diseases. The second value due to Hg is also exposure in water about 6.73×10^{-4} mg intake/mg emitted for both cancer and chronic diseases.

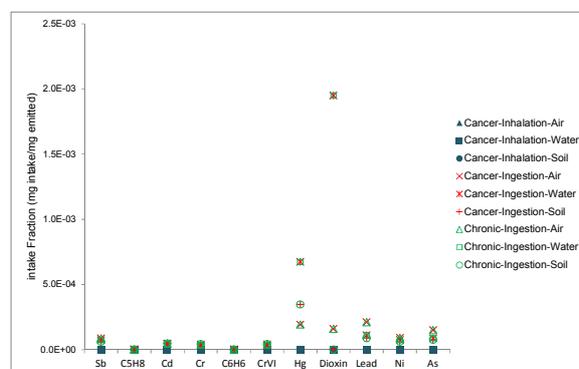


Figure 2. Intake factor of chemical substances

The *IF* of C₆H₆ via inhalation and ingestion was obtained in this study range from 1.84×10^{-7} to 1.91×10^{-6} and 1.32×10^{-10} to 3.72×10^{-6} mg intake/mg emitted, respectively. When comparing this result with a similar study by Humbert *et al.* [12], they reported the *IF*_{C₆H₆} exposure via inhalation was 7.9×10^{-6} mg intake /mg emitted, while exposure via ingestion was 1.2×10^{-8} mg intake/mg emitted. This study is similar value to those obtained in previous studied.

3.2. Characterization Factor of Chemical Substances

The results of the *CF* of chemical substances in this study can be divided into emissions to atmosphere, surface water,

and soil. It was found that 144 substances affect on human health expressed in term of DALY/kg emitted. The variation in damage per kg emitted is large, up to thirteen orders of magnitude for human health damage (from 7.34×10^{-9} DALY/kg for permethrin up to 1.30×10^3 DALY/kg for dioxin). The damage factor on human health from the emission of toxin to atmosphere is between 3.13×10^{-5} to

1.06×10^2 DALY/kg emitted. The damage factor on human health from the spread of toxin to water is between 3.33×10^{-5} to 1.30×10^3 DALY/kg emitted and the damage factor to human health from the discharge of toxin to soil is between 7.34×10^{-9} to 1.26 DALY/kg emitted (the example of damage factors are shown in Table 2).

Table 2. Characterization factors of chemical substances on human health damage.

No.	CAS number	Formula	Substances	Emission compartment	DALY/kg emitted
1	1746-01-6	$C_{12}H_4Cl_4O_2$	Dioxin, 2,3,7,8 Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-	Atmosphere	106.54
				Water	1300.66
				Soil	1.26
2	7439-97-6	Hg	Mercury	Atmosphere	2.01E-02
				Water	7.00E-02
				Soil	3.60E-02
3	10031-13-7	As_2O_4Pb	lead(II)-arsenite	Atmosphere	1.45E-02
				Water	8.42E-03
				Soil	7.36E-03
4	1303-00-0	GaAs	Gallium arsenide	Atmosphere	1.45E-02
				Water	8.42E-03
				Soil	7.36E-03
5	87-86-5	C_6HCl_5O	Pentachlorophenol	Atmosphere	8.58E-03
				Water	5.65E-02
				Soil	1.24E-06
6	1336-36-3		1,1'-Biphenyl, Chloro derivs	Atmosphere	6.95E-03
				Water	6.33E-01
				Soil	1.12E-04
7			Nickel and compounds	Atmosphere	4.05E-03 – 1.20E-05
				Water	3.18E-03 – 5.63E-05
				Soil	2.72E-03 – 4.82E-05
8			Arsenic and compounds	Atmosphere	3.37E-03 – 7.78E-04
				Water	1.60E-03 – 4.53E-04
				Soil	1.39E-03 – 3.96E-04
9			Lead and compounds	Atmosphere	1.09E-03 – 3.63E-04
				Water	5.76E-04 – 1.90E-04
				Soil	4.59E-04 – 1.51E-04
10			Cadmium and compounds	Atmosphere	9.71E-02 – 3.38E-03
				Water	2.78E-03 – 3.33E-05
				Soil	3.08E-03 – 3.69E-05
11	7782-49-2	Se	Selenium	Atmosphere	1.50E-03
				Water	9.05E-04
				Soil	5.61E-04
12	7446-34-6	SSe	Sulfur selenide	Atmosphere	1.10E-03
				Water	6.59E-04
				Soil	4.08E-04
13	117-81-7	$C_{24}H_{38}O_4$	Phthalate, dioctyl-	Atmosphere	9.42E-04
				Water	1.54E-02
				Soil	3.23E-06

No.	CAS number	Formula	Substances	Emission compartment	DALY/kg emitted
14	41198-08-7	C ₁₁ H ₁₅ BrClO ₃ PS	Profenofos	Atmosphere	8.29E-04
				Water	1.42E-02
				Soil	3.29E-07
15	7440-36-0	Sb	Antimony	Atmosphere	1.07E-03
				Water	9.02E-04
				Soil	7.67E-04
16	7440-41-7	Be	Beryllium	Atmosphere	3.40E-03
				Water	3.05E-03
				Soil	2.88E-03
17	52645-53-1	C ₂₁ H ₂₀ C ₁₂ O ₃	Permethrin	Atmosphere	3.08E-04
				Water	4.33E-03
				Soil	7.34E-09
18	1163-19-5	C ₁₂ Br ₁₀ O	Decabromophenyl ether	Atmosphere	2.63E-04
				Water	1.22E-03
				Soil	1.25E-07
19	1314-62-1	O ₅ V ₂	Vanadium pentoxide	Atmosphere	2.56E-04
				Water	1.71E-04
				Soil	1.29E-04
20	15972-60-8	C ₁₄ H ₂₀ ClNO ₂	Alachlor	Atmosphere	6.54E-05
				Water	2.05E-03
				Soil	4.20E-07
21	33089-61-1	C ₁₉ H ₂₃ N ₃	Amitraz	Atmosphere	4.90E-05
				Water	9.74E-03
				Soil	4.63E-07
22	55-38-9	C ₁₀ H ₁₅ O ₃ P ₃ S ₂	Fenthion	Atmosphere	4.58E-05
				Water	1.23E-03
				Soil	6.12E-08
23	103-23-1	C ₂₂ H ₄₂ O ₄	Adipate, bis(2-ethylhexyl)-	Atmosphere	4.04E-05
				Water	5.28E-04
				Soil	9.02E-09
24	40487-42-1	C ₁₃ H ₁₉ N ₃ O ₄	Pendimethalin	Atmosphere	3.82E-05
				Water	1.04E-03
				Soil	9.47E-08
25	2312-35-8	C ₁₉ H ₂₆ O ₄ S	Propargite	Atmosphere	3.13E-05
				Water	6.05E-04
				Soil	1.04E-08

Dioxin (C₁₂H₄Cl₄O₂) causes the largest number of life years lost per unit emission, followed by mercury. The damage on human health due to cancer and chronic dioxin exposure to water has dominant contribution compared to other emitted substances. CFs for dioxin is 6–13 orders of magnitude more than other substances due to this substance can be deposited in the liver through ingestion of freshwater fish [32]–[33] and it is very popular in Thailand.

When comparing this results with a similar study by Kubo and Itsubo [18], they reported the CF_{Hg} in Japan was range from 2.25×10^{-4} to 4.42×10^{-3} DALY/kg emitted (excluding cancer disease). This is lower than the value obtained in this

study (CF_{Hg} of this study ranged from 2.01×10^{-2} to 7.00×10^{-2} DALY/kg emitted). The main difference was due to Kubo and Itsubo study excluded cancer disease in the analysis, whereas our study included this aspect. ReCiPe is one impact assessment method that developed the CF for human toxicity by using the USES-LCA model for calculating the CF on human health. The CF_{Hg} based on ReCiPe method was range 6.6×10^{-3} to 3.6×10^{-1} DALY/kg emitted [34], which is similar range to the value obtained in this study.

4. Conclusion

In this study, the IMPACT 2002 model was modified to be suitable for Thailand based on LIME method. The adapted model was used in calculating the damage factors of 144 substances for human health expressed in term of DALY per kg emitted to air, water and soil. The variation in damage factor is large up to thirteen orders of magnitude. Dioxin causes the largest number of life years lost per unit emission, followed by mercury. CF of dioxin is 6–13 orders of magnitude more than other emitted substances due to this substance can be denoted in the liver through ingestion freshwater fish and it is very popular in Thailand. For CF of mercury, when compared to the previous study conducted by Kubo and Itsubo, they reported the CF_{Hg} in Japan was lower than the value obtained in this study due to Kubo and Itsubo studied excluded cancer disease in the analysis. However, in comparison with the CF_{Hg} based on ReCiPe method, the value obtained in our study was similar range to the ReCiPe method. Further development, the uncertainty analysis for key relevant parameters could be providing helpful information on the reliability of the calculated damage functions.

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