

Topic:Oil Spills and resolution in Republic of Korea
Country:Republic of Korea
Name:Chan Kin Yan
School:Creative Secondary School

Oil Spills in the globe

Oil spills refer to the leakage of fossil fuels, diesel oils caused by human activity. It's generally caused by oil-transporting ship, and it may led to water pollution and damage the local eco-system.¹ Moreover, if oil spill accidents are not being treated well, it may led to fire accidents. On April 20, 2010, eleven workers are being killed by an explosion caused by oil spills.² Also, when mammals touch the oil, It's fur will be penetrated and loss it's water-resistant ability, so they are unable to survive. Due to heavy impacts brought by oil spills, it is being actively concerned by governments among the globe.

Oil Spills in Republic of Korea

In year 2007, the largest scale oil spill accident occurred in Republic of Korea. Estimated 10,500 tons of crude oil leaked to the ocean, near Yellow ocean in the Daesan Port. The infected area was a seafood farm, even worse, Mallipo, which was affected by the accidents, was an transit point for migrating birds³, and those birds might be infected by oils, so it's eco-system was being damaged.

After the accidents, the government response and launched the cleanup campaign. Totally USD\$ 330,000,000 was spent in the campaign, also 200,000 people joined the cleanup campaign, including soldiers but most of them are volunteers. Though, environmentalist estimated that it takes years for the environment to fully recover.⁴

Possible remedies to the situation

Through building secondary containment oil tank, leakage of oil can be prevented by stoping the oil in the second layer of protection. It is effective solution of oil spills as it dramatically reduces the risk of oil leakage, however, building secondary containment will increase the cost of the tank and lower the ship's capacity of transporting oil, so in business aspect, companies are not willing to build it. In such circumstances, the government need to investigate solving the problem through legislation, in order to strike a balance between different stakeholders.⁵

¹ 油外洩. (n.d.). 維基百科，自由的百科全書. Retrieved December 21, 2013, from <http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/油外洩>

² Deepwater Horizon explosion. (2013, December 17). *Wikipedia*. Retrieved December 21, 2013, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_explosion

³ South Korea fights huge oil spill. (2007, October 12). *BBC News*. Retrieved December 21, 2013, from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7135896.stm>

⁴ Rehab Prospects Good After Korea's Worst Oil Spill. (n.d.). *Environment News Service*. Retrieved December 21, 2013, from <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/dec2007/2007-12-31-02.asp>

⁵ Secondary Containment and Impracticability. (n.d.). *US Environmental Protection Agency*. Retrieved December 22, 2013, from http://www.epa.gov/oem/docs/oil/spcc/guidance/4_SecondaryContainment_Impracticability.pdf