



Mercury Waste Management Project: Implementation and Context

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Outcome GC25

- Achim Steiner "Historic Treaty to Tackle Toxic Heavy Metal Mercury Gets Green Light";
- All governments united on the need for a legally binding instrument and immediate action towards a transition to a low-mercury world:
- 1. Decision to launch negotiations on an international mercury treaty to deal with world-wide emissions and discharges of mercury;
- 2. In parallel, because of significant risk to human health and the environment, accelerated action under a voluntary Global Mercury Partnership is needed;
- INC mandate may be supplemented by further decisions of the Governing Council.



The eight-point partnership plan includes:

- Boosting the world-wide capability for nations to safely store stockpiled mercury;
- Reducing the supply of mercury from for example primary mining of the heavy metal;
- Carrying out awareness raising of the risks alongside projects to cut the use of mercury in artisanal mining where an estimated 10 million miners and their families are exposed;
- Reducing mercury in products such as thermometers and highintensity discharge lamps to processes such as some kinds of paper-making and plastics production.





Develop a comprehensive and suitable approach to mercury, including the provisions:

- a) To specify the objectives of the instrument;
- b) To reduce the supply of mercury and enhance the capacity for its environmentally sound storage;
- c) To reduce the demand for mercury in products and processes;
- d) To reduce international trade in mercury;
- e) To reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury;
- f) To address mercury-containing waste and remediation of contaminated sites;
- g) To increase knowledge through awareness-raising and scientific information.



GC-25 Decision

- *Requests* the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, commencing its work in 2010 with the goal of completing it prior to the twenty seventh regular session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2013;
- A meeting of Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) to be held in the second half of 2009.





The partnership areas currently identified include:

- <u>Mercury Management in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold</u> <u>Mining</u>
- Mercury Control from Coal Combustion
- Mercury Reduction in the Chlor-alkali Sector
- Mercury Reduction in Products
- <u>Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research</u>
- <u>Mercury Waste Management</u>

Proposed business plans are available for the following areas:

- Mercury Supply and Storage
- <u>Non-Ferrous Metals Production</u>

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Mercury Waste Management Partnership

- UNEP Global Mercury Partnership established the Waste management partnership area;
- Partnership provides the framework for this "Global project on mercury waste management";
- Draft Business Plan dated 7 August 2008 (includes this project);
- Lead country: Japan Ms. Keiko Segawa, JME (2 years);
- Contribution from JME: USD 200,000;
- Objectives:

Minimize and, where feasible, eliminate unintentional mercury releases to air, water, and land from waste containing mercury and mercury compounds by following a lifecycle management approach.





Priority Action Identified

- a) Identify environmentally sound collection, disposal and treatment techniques for mercury waste following a lifecycle management approach (Training Manual for Draft Basel Guidelines on ESM of Hg Waste, review available BAT/BEP for Hg waste management, develop pilot projects);
- b) Assess environmental impacts of current waste management practices and processes, including providing support to countries to assess their national situation and needs (improving national release inventories and the Mercury Toolkit, promote safe handling of Hg waste);
- c) Promote awareness and education regarding mercury waste (develop and disseminate educational materials).





UNEP

List of Current Activities

- Further development of Technical Guidelines on ESM of Hg Waste - in cooperation with SBC;
- WHO developing a Health Care Waste Management Manual;
- UNDP-GEF project "Demonstrating and promoting BAT/BEP for reducing health-care waste to avoid environmental releases of dioxins and mercury" in eight countries (ARG, IND, LBN, LVA, PHL, SEN, VNM);
- Multilateral activities: Training on hazardous waste management in Asia (JICA); Development of BAT/BEP guidelines on Hg waste management (JPN);
- National projects.







This project will be complemented by a "sister" project presently developed by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention involving four countries from the Latin American region (GRULAC).

- · Activities. Inception workshop (Draft agenda, participant' information)
- Project document: <u>Project approved</u>, <u>Annex</u> (country information)





UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME PROJECT DOCUMENT

Section 1: Project identification

- 1.1 Title of subprogramme: Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste
- 1.2 Title of project: Management of Mercury and Mercury-Containing Waste
- 1.3 Project number*: (to be allocated by BFMS)
- Geographical scope: Asia Cambodia, Pakistan, Philippines; Africa Burkina Faso
 Implementation (Internal, or concerning score; or supporting constitution)
- Implementation (internal, or cooperating agency or supporting organization)
 Duration of the project : (Total number of months) 17 months
 - Commencing: 1 August 2008
 - Completion: 31 December 2009
- 1.7 Cost of project: (Expressed in US S)

USS	%
462.963	0294
102,505	9270
37.037	204
	070
500,000	100%
	462,963 37,037 500,000

1.8 Potential donor: Norway

For UNEP Division of Technology, Industry, Econ (DTIE) Date

Hg Waste Projects

Norwegian package (NF10): Management of Mercury and Mercury-

containing Waste

Period: 8/2008-12/2009 Budget: USD 500,000

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