

#### **Project Completion Workshop on**



"Reduction of demand of mercury in mercury containing products in Bangladesh" & Discussion on "Practical Sourcebook on Mercury Storage and Disposal"

#### Organised by

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO In association with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

17 December, 2015 Venue: The Daily Star Azimur Rahman Conference Hall, Dhaka

Under the project "Reduction of demand for Mercury in mercury containing products in Bangladesh" -Implemented by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO in association with UNEP









- The emerging scientific findings about the destructive impacts of even low doses of mercury has been taken into account by WHO. In order to list mercury as one of the top ten chemicals with major public health concerns WHO is paying special heed to this type of findings.
- A sophisticated understanding of the toxicity lets us know that even low doses of mercury intake on a regular basis can transgress the approved 'safe' level for our body. Considering this grave danger of mercury pollution UNEP has established a mercury program within UNEP Chemicals (UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics).
- It has immediate objective to encourage all countries to adopt goals and take actions as appropriate for the identification of mercuryexposed populations for the minimization of mercury exposure through outreach efforts and for the reduction of anthropogenic mercury releases.



# **Project Overview**

ESDO feels responsible in shaping precautionary public policy and documenting the sources of mercury pollution in Bangladesh . ESDO in collaboration with UNEP, undertook this project with the objective of creating awareness and documenting mercury use and mercury added products in Bangladesh. The initiative also aims to support Bangladesh government towards ratification and implementation of Minamata Convention.





#### STUDY ON MERCURY ADDED PRODUCTS: COUNTRY SITUATION ANALYSIS IN BANGLADESH (PRODUCT INVENTORY AND EMISSION SOURCE IDENTIFICATION)

## MERCURY RELEASE SOURCES IDENTIFIED IN BANGLADESH

This report is mainly focused on the preliminary field survey on mercury uses and releases, within Bangladesh territory. These surveys were undertaken during January-May, 2015 throughout Bangladesh by the ESDO team. The team followed the UNEP toolkit format in the design of the survey. Based on the preliminary data,

The findings are as follows;



# **MERCURY TRADING: IMPORT-EXPORT**

#### **Mercury Import**

- □Mercury is not mined or produced in Bangladesh
- □Mostly imported from other countries.
- □ According to NBR, 2015, annual import in 3.73 MT
- □ Illegal import for mercury through trans-boundary movement is 54.27 MT
- Annual storage 18.6 MT
- Annual Supply 39.4 MT

**39.4 MT** mercury is normally sold to the following **target customers**. They are;

- Dental Colleges/Chambers/ Quacks
- Dental Assistants
- Beauty Product or Cosmetics Producers
- Jewelry Producers (used to re-collect gold from the waste)
- Brick manufacturers
- Pharmaceutical Companies
- Pesticide/biocide companies
- Laboratories (Academic institutions/private sectors)



## MERCURY RELEASE SOURCES IDENTIFIED IN Industrial Sector

#### **Chlor-alkali Plants**

Calculations based on existing Chlor-alkali plants, those using previous technology for producing chlorine ( $Cl_2$ ), suggest that, in total, 4.49 MT of mercury per year is being released.

#### **Cement Production**

Though 33 cement industries are present in Bangladesh, only 8 have clinker and cement manufacturing facilities. It is estimated that the release of mercury from the 8 cement factories of Bangladesh is **0.14 MT** per year.

## **Brick field/production Sector**

Mercury emission into air from brick burning sector is **0.06 MT** 

### **Aluminum and Steel Production**

Total emission of mercury into air from Aluminum Production is **0.011 MT** per year. Based on same calculation it was found that **0.16 MT** mercury is being emitted into air during Steel Production process per year.



# MERCURY RELEASE SOURCES IDENTIFIED IN HEALTH CARE SECTOR

# Health care instruments (thermometers & sphygmomanometers)

□ESDO's baseline survey on mercury containing products in 2015 found that 887,472 thermometers are used yearly, and 37.8% of these thermometers break (552,007.58). Similarly, yearly use of the number of sphygmomanometers is 305,926 and 10% (275,333.4) of the total sphygmomanometers break.

 $\Box$ It is estimated that, in a year, approximately 0.69 tons of

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