



Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine -Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Per Bakken,

On behalf of Environment Canada, I would like to confirm Canada's support of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and its goal to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land. To date, Canada has participated in the Partnership Advisory Group and intends to continue in this capacity.

To further the goal of the Partnership, Canada will formally support two partnership areas, whose objectives and activities are of particular relevance to Canada:

- Mercury air transport and fate research
- Mercury release from coal combustion

Mercury air transport and fate research

Canada is committed to share our expertise in mercury science to advance the objectives of the partnership. We will contribute to the partnership by advancing global mercury science and addressing data gaps; by enhancing the exchange of information between scientists, their peers and policymakers; and, by providing technical assistance and training.

Scientists from Environment Canada are globally renowned for their expertise in the field of atmospheric mercury fate and transport. To date, Canada has participated in the Fate and Transport Partnership by providing significant contributions to the business plan, financial support for updating inventories and supporting monitoring activities, development of measurement protocols, provision of information from global transport modeling, and through participation and leadership in global and bi-national assessments. The specifics of these contributions can be seen in the partnership business plan.



Going forward, Canada intends to support the partnership through continued involvement in assessment and monitoring activities; collaboration and coordination with our partners to augment these projects as resources allow; participation in the evolution of the business plan and helping to capitalize on synergies amongst domestic, international and partnership activities.

Canada intends to provide in-kind contributions of scientific expertise through participation in technical reviews and networking at workshops, meetings and scientific conferences. Of note, Canada is hosting the Mercury as a Global Contaminant conference in Halifax in 2011. In addition, Canada is leading a team of scientists from China, Japan, Vietnam, Russia and the US to measure and model the transport and fate of persistent organic pollutants and mercury from the Asian Pacific area into the Canadian Arctic, through the Intercontinental Atmospheric Transport of Anthropogenic Pollutants to the Arctic (INCATPA) project (2007-2009). Canada is considering extending this project.

As resources allow, Canada will consider providing technical support and sharing of relevant science and information via targeted projects. Canada and India have identified mercury air emissions as an area of cooperation as part of the Canada-India Environment Forum. Bringing this activity within the framework of the partnership may be an opportunity for enhancing information exchange and extending the benefits more widely.

Mercury release from coal combustion

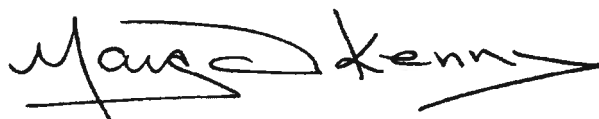
Canada will continue to monitor the activities of the partnership seeking opportunities to offer in-kind support to advance the objectives of the partnership, i.e., to promote the clean and efficient use of coal, minimizing mercury emissions, and evaluating mercury emissions from coal use around the world. Specific contributions could include providing assistance for translation of documents, scientific review of guidance documents, business planning, and networking with stakeholders. Where possible, and as resources allow, Canada will consider providing technical assistance and training for targeted projects.

As noted in the coal combustion partnership area's business plan, Canada has been engaged in the activities of the partnership since 2005. Along with China, Japan, the U.S. and UNEP, Canada held a workshop in Beijing in November 2005 on the measurement and control of mercury from coal-fired power plants. In 2007, Canada provided training to Chinese technicians on the measurement of mercury from fossil fuel combustion. Canada has also provided assistance to compare the current China Mercury Emission Inventory with the UNEP mercury emissions toolkit; to examine the status of coal washing technology and mercury removal in China, and to examine coal combustion-related mercury emissions from small scale use in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.

Canada's involvement in the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate Change is another opportunity to link into an existing network with similar objectives. The Asia Pacific Partnership partner countries agreed to cooperate on the development and transfer of technology to address both green house gas emissions and air pollution. Current projects have the potential to yield significant reductions in mercury emissions from the coal fired power sector and cement manufacturing sector through improved energy efficiency, better control of air pollution emissions, and use of alternate fuels and waste materials.

We look forward to continued involvement with the UNEP Global Mercury Convention and achieving concrete reductions in atmospheric mercury emissions.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Kenny
Director General, Chemicals Sector
Environmental Sustainability Branch, Environment Canada



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