

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

File ref: 17.4.9 Mercury /444
16 December 2009

Dear Sir,

Reference is made to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnerships which is open to any government, regional economic integration organization, international organization, industry or business organization, non-governmental/civil society organization or academic institution that supports the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership goal. The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is 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.

This is to indicate the Secretariat's interest to continue its support of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and related projects.

Under the coordination of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, several Basel Convention Technical Guidelines of relevance to mercury waste management have been developed and adopted by the Parties to the Basel Convention, namely: the Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Household Waste; Technical Guidelines on the Incineration on Land; and Technical Guidelines on Specially Engineered Landfills. The Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention included a new Strategic Plan focus area on mercury wastes. Based on this decision, draft Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Mercury Wastes were developed. Currently, the fourth draft of the technical guidelines is under consideration by the Parties. The Ninth Conference of Parties included the further development of the technical guidelines in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2009-2011.

The Technical Guidelines will provide guidance for the environmentally sound management of mercury waste and will give comprehensive information about mercury waste, including the chemistry and toxicology of mercury, source of mercury and mercury waste. These guidelines will also provide knowledge and expertise on the environmentally sound management of mercury waste and provisions for mercury waste under international legal instruments. Expertise on mercury waste has been shared by the Secretariat with partners of the Global Mercury Programme from the beginning.

Mr. Per Bakken
Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Geneva

The Secretariat is involved in a capacity-building and technical assistance programme to reduce risk and prevent pollution from mercury. In order to contribute to the finalization of the draft guidelines on the ESM of mercury waste, country projects in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are under way. Project activities include prioritization of mercury waste sources from the mercury inventory results; planning for national mercury waste management; application of the guidelines through training and raising awareness; human and environmental sampling analysis; and an evaluation of the guidelines by key stakeholders.

The Secretariat will contribute to the partnership activities by providing information and expertise available in the Secretariat on an in-kind basis to develop and implement the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and to meeting its goal. In particular, several staff members of the Secretariat will contribute to the partnership by active participation in the work of the three partnership areas:

- Mercury waste management: Mr Ibrahim Shafii, Programme Support Unit; e-mail: ibrahim.shafii@unep.org
- Mercury supply and storage: Ms Francesca Cenni, Implementation and Capacity Building Unit; e-mail: francesca.cenni@unep.org, and
- Mercury in products: Ms Francesca Cenni, Implementation and Capacity Building Unit; e-mail: francesca.cenni@unep.org

The overall coordination and contact point in the Secretariat for input to the partnership and related projects will be Mr Matthias Kern, Implementation and Capacity Building Unit; e-mail: matthias.kern@unep.org.

We look forward to our continued and fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely



Katharina Kummer Peiry

Enc.

**UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP
REGISTRATION FORM ***

Partnership Area	<p>Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> artisanal and small scale gold mining <input type="checkbox"/> mercury cell chlor alkali production <input type="checkbox"/> mercury air transport and fate research <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mercury in products <input type="checkbox"/> mercury releases from coal combustion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mercury waste management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mercury supply and storage <p>Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.</p>
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Organization Name	Secretariat of the Basel Convention
Name, Functional Title of Representative	Matthias Kern, Senior Programme Officer
Address of Organization	15, Chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Tel. No	+41 22 917 8767
Email	matthias.kern@unep.org
Fax No.	+41 22 797 3454

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