Inception Workshop: Mercury Storage and Disposal Project



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Background

- 2008 Inventory of mercury using the 1st version of toolkit (UNITAR)
- 2008 National Strategy on Mercury
- 2010 Brief analysis of the situation of mercury products in health's sector
- 2011 Draft resolution to control some healthcare products containing mercury.



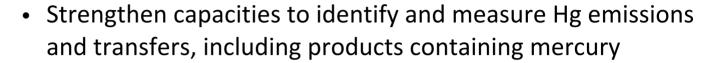
International goals of the Inventory Mercury Project











- Generate data on usage patterns and Hg emissions, including point and diffuse sources
- Explore the institutionalization of the annual report Hg emissions through a PRTR
- Strengthen capacities to identify and evaluate risk management options to reduce emissions of Hg
- Develop and test guidance materials focused to assist governments to identify and reduce Hg emissions



Mercury's Inventory. Conclusions.

- The developed inventory highlighted the need of establishing controls in hospitals and clinics for the entry, use, handling and disposal of equipment and materials containing mercury.
- It is possible to conclude that the Commercial sector and the Health sector in Panama are generating the major amounts of waste containing mercury. We can establish the following areas as priorities for developing future strategies for reducing mercury emissions:
- 1. Laboratory chemicals and equipment (Health Sector, Commercial Sector)
- 2. Minerals and materials with mercury impurities (Mining Sector, Commercial Sector)
- 3. Waste Management (use, treatment and disposal of waste containing mercury)
- 4. Products containing mercury (Health Sector)
- 5. Mercury use in religious rituals and folklore medicine (Health Sector, Commercial Sector)



Conclusions

- According to the results of this inventory, the major route or mercury release occurs
 through the air as a result of Cement Production activities, waste disposal and
 electrical switches.
- It is important to consider that the implementations of instruments for inventory preparation has a limited application at the national reality.
- Panama does not manufacture products containing mercury, so that the life cycle approach applies to the stages of use and disposal.
- The constraints in our customs create biases in the results presented in this inventory for calculating the estimated mercury emissions, therefore it could not be estimated representative releases for the subcategory Chemicals and Laboratory Equipment.



Conclusions

- Waste management regarding the collection and disposal is very limited throughout the national territory, which indirectly affects the real estimation of mercury releases at sites destined for disposal.
- It is required the implementation of the National Policy on Integrated Management of Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste, approved by Executive Decree No. 34 of February 26, 2007.



Existing legislation and institutional responsibilities

Currently, there are over 40 legal instruments (laws, decrees and resolutions) that are relevant to address the import, use, emissions, disposal and storage of mercury in Panama. Panama also has more than 20 agreements ratified in relation to chemical control. (Mercury Action Plan, 2008)



ion of priorities for an action plan

^r Categories

of product containing mercury

lagement of mercury wastes

of mercury in artistic and religious rituals

Problems

tification of the inputs (import and use)
fications of the products containing it
of awareness of the risks for both users and the public
disposal

