

REGIONAL STUDY ON

# MERCURY

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE ASEAN COUNTRIES



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# PREFACE

The Secretariat of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) commissioned a regional study on mercury waste management in the region to the Asian Institute of Technology, Regional Resource Centre for Asia-Pacific (AIT RRC.AP), in cooperation with the UN Environment. The study covers the current situation of mercury waste management in the region, which consists of the ten ASEAN Member States (AMS), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. All AMS are Parties to the Basel Convention, however, AMS such as Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand are not signatories to the Minamata Convention.

The result of the study is presented in this report, providing information on the current state of the mercury waste management systems in each AMS jurisdiction, which includes the regulatory framework, institutional framework, mercury waste management infrastructure and operations, as well as the information and control elements. In addition, it also provides information on the mercury management practices for selected activities, inventories of mercury and mercury waste, and AMS' input on the challenges, needs and opportunities implementing the ESM of mercury waste in the region.

The report is expected to serve as baseline information for consideration by the Association and its member states for decision-making in implementing environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury waste as well as to the ASEAN Secretariat and other regional organisations for relevant programme development. It also identifies the current gaps of information and data on mercury management in the region.

The study relied on the secondary data available on the web and a set of questionnaires as the primary survey instrument. It was difficult to obtain the specific information needed for analysis in order to meet the objectives of the study. Although the questionnaire was expected to be the source of more reliable and updated information and data, AMS did not fully complete it. Generally, they also did not have the information and data on certain aspects of the mercury and mercury waste management in their jurisdictions. The unfavourable situation has made the study take a longer time than initially planned. Nevertheless, the author has tried to make all efforts to optimise the results of the study in order to make it more meaningful as per the objectives and purpose of the report.

The author would like to thank the AIT RRCAP and UNEP-IETC for trusting and providing support to the author in undertaking this interesting study, which is the first of its kind in the region. Appreciation is also extended to Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam for their efforts in responding to the questionnaire and their additional input during the Expert Review Meeting in August 2016 in Bangkok.

# CONTENTS

**Acknowledgement** i

**Preface** • iii

**Executive Summary** • x

**1.1 Background** i

**INTRODUCTION** • i

**1.2 Objectives** 2

**1.3 Scope** 3

**1.4 Methodology and systems** 3

**MERCURY WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS** • 5

**2.1 Brunei Darussalam** 13

- 2.1.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 14
- 2.1.2 Legal Framework 15
- 2.1.2 Institutional Framework 15
- 2.1.3 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management Infrastructure/ Services 16
- 2.1.4 Operations 16

**2.2 Cambodia** 17

- 2.2.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 17
- 2.2.2 Legal Framework 18
- 2.2.3 Institutional Framework 19
- 2.2.4 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management Infrastructure/ Services 20
- 2.2.5 Operations 20

**2.3 Indonesia** 21

- 2.3.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 21
- 2.3.2 Legal framework 21
- 2.3.3 Institutional framework 25
- 2.3.4 Mercury waste management infrastructure/services 25
- 2.3.5. Operations 26

**2.4 Lao People's Democratic Republic** 26

- 2.4.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 27
- 2.4.2 Legal Framework 27
- 2.4.3 Institutional Framework 29
- 2.4.4 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management Infrastructure/ services 29
- 2.4.5 Operations 30

**2.5 Malaysia** 30

- 2.5.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 30
- 2.5.2 Legal Framework 30
- 2.5.3 Institutional Framework 33
- 2.5.4 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management Infrastructure/ Services 34
- 2.5.5 Operations 35

**2.6 Myanmar** 35

- 2.6.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 36
- 2.6.2 Legal Framework 36
- 2.6.3 Institutional Framework 38
- 2.6.4 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management Infrastructure/ Services 38
- 2.6.5 Operations 38

**2.7 Philippines** 39

- 2.7.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 39
- 2.7.2 Legal Framework 40
- 2.7.3 Institutional Framework 41
- 2.7.4 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management Infrastructure/ Services 42
- 2.7.5 Operations 42

**2.8 Singapore** 44

- 2.8.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 45
- 2.8.2 Legal Framework 45
- 2.8.3 Institutional Framework 46
- 2.8.4 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management Infrastructure/ Services 47
- 2.8.5 Operations 47

**2.9 Thailand** 48

- 2.9.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 49
- 2.9.2 Legal Framework 49
- 2.9.3 Institutional Framework 51

- 2.9.4 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management Infrastructure/ Services 53
- 2.9.5 Operations 53

## 2.10 Viet Nam 54

- 2.10.1 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management System 54
- 2.10.2 Legal Framework 55
- 2.10.3 Institutional Framework 56
- 2.10.4 Mercury/Hazardous Waste Management Infrastructure/ Services 58
- 2.10.5 Operations 58

## MERCURY WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES • 59

### 3.1 Brunei Darussalam 60

### 3.2 Cambodia 61

### 3.3 Indonesia 62

- 3.3.1 Artisanal/Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) 62
- 3.3.2 Manufacturing Industry (Chlor-Alkali, lighting equipment) 63
- 3.3.3 Fluorescent Lamps Industry 63
- 3.3.4 Households & Institutions (waste MCL) 64

### 3.4 Lao PDR 66

### 3.5 Malaysia 66

- 3.5.1 ASGM 66
- 3.5.2 Chlor-Alkali Industry 66
- 3.5.3 Fluorescent Lamps Industry 67

### 3.6 Myanmar 68

- 3.6.1 ASGM 68
- 3.6.2 Chlor-Alkali Industry 68
- 3.6.3 Fluorescent Lamps Industry 68
- 3.6.4 Households & Institutions (waste MCL) 68

### 3.7 Philippines 68

- 3.7.1 ASGM 68
- 3.7.2 Chlor-Alkali 70
- 3.7.3 Fluorescent Lamps Industry 70
- 3.7.4 Households & Institutions (waste MCL) 70

### 3.8 Singapore 71

- 3.8.1 ASGM 71
- 3.8.2 Chlor-Alkali 71
- 3.8.3 Fluorescent Lamps Industry 71
- 3.8.4 Households & Institutions (waste MCL) 71

### 3.9 Thailand 72

- 3.9.1 ASGM 72
- 3.9.2 Chlor-Alkali Industry 72
- 3.9.3 Fluorescent Lamps Industry 72
- 3.9.4 Households & Institutions (waste MCL) 73

### 3.10 Viet Nam 74

- 3.10.1 ASGM 74
- 3.10.2 Chlor-Alkali Industry 74
- 3.10.3 Fluorescent Lamps Industry 75
- 3.10.4 Households & Institutions (waste MCL) 75

## INVENTORIES OF MERCURY & MERCURY WASTE • 76

### 4.1 Brunei Darussalam 82

- 4.1.1 Mercury Inventories 82
- 4.1.2 Mercury Supply and Uses 82
- 4.1.3 Mercury Waste Sources, Generations 82
- 4.1.4 Mercury Waste Export 82

### 4.2 Cambodia 82

- 4.2.1 Inventories 82
- 4.2.2 Mercury Supply and Uses 83
- 4.2.3 Mercury Waste Sources and Generations 83
- 4.2.4 Mercury Waste Export 83

### 4.3 Indonesia 84

- 4.3.1 Inventories 84
- 4.3.2 Mercury Supply and Uses 85
- 4.3.3 Mercury Waste Sources and Generations 86
- 4.3.4 Mercury Waste Export 86

### 4.4 Lao PDR 87

- 4.4.1 Inventories 87
- 4.4.2 Mercury supply and uses 87
- 4.4.3 Mercury waste sources and generations 87
- 4.4.4 Mercury waste export 87

- 4.5 Malaysia 89**
  - 4.5.1 Inventories 89
  - 4.5.2 Mercury Supply and Uses 89
  - 4.5.3 Mercury Waste Sources and Generations 90
  - 4.5.4 Mercury Waste Export 90
- 4.6 Myanmar 91**
  - 4.6.1 Inventories 91
  - 4.6.2 Mercury Supply and Uses 91
  - 4.6.3 Mercury Waste Sources and Generations 91
  - 4.6.4 Mercury Waste Export 92
- 4.7 Philippines 92**
  - 4.7.1 Inventories 92
  - 4.7.2 Mercury Supply and Uses 93
  - 4.7.3 Mercury Waste Sources and Generations 94
  - 4.7.4 Mercury Waste Export 95
- 4.8 Singapore 96**
  - 4.8.1 Inventories 96
  - 4.8.2 Mercury Supply and Uses 96
  - 4.8.3 Mercury Waste Sources and Generations 97
  - 4.8.4 Mercury Waste Export 97
- 4.9 Thailand 98**
  - 4.9.1 Inventories 98
  - 4.9.2 Mercury Supply and Uses 99
  - 4.9.3 Mercury Waste Sources and Generations 99
  - 4.9.4 Mercury Waste Export 99
- 4.10 Viet Nam 100**
  - 4.10.1 Inventories 100
  - 4.10.2 Mercury Supply and Uses 100
  - 4.10.3 Mercury Waste Sources and Generations 101

## IDENTIFICATION OF CHALLENGES, NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION • 105



### 5.1 Challenges 107

### 5.2 Needs for Solutions 114

### 5.3 Opportunities for Regional Cooperation 115

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS • 117

### 6.1 Conclusions 117

- 6.1.1 Results of the Study 117
- 6.1.2 Data Gaps 119

### 6.2 Recommendations 120

- 6.2.1 Actions and Activities at the National Level 120
- 6.2.2 Actions and Activities at the Regional Level 121

### 6.3 The need and recommendations for developing a regional strategy on the ESM of mercury waste 124

## REFERENCES • 125

## APPENDIX • 127

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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