

**Intervention by Mr. Mitch Cuna,
Co-chair of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group,
at the 7th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on mercury
Dead Sea, Jordan
10 March 2016**

- On behalf of my former co-chair Mr. Atle Fretheim of Norway, and new co-chair Ms. Marianne Bailey of US, it is a privilege to report on the outcome of the 7th meeting of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership advisory group meeting, which took place on Tuesday.
- Over 50 participants representing governments, civil society, industry, and the academe gathered, all sharing the common goal of taking immediate action to reduce the harmful impacts of mercury on human health and the environment.
- Leads and partners of the eight Partnership areas shared information on the many activities taking place within the Partnership to assist in timely ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- The full suite of activities can be accessed on the Partnership web site and activity report, but I'll just mention a few examples to give you a sense of the type of projects being undertaken.
 - The Partnership is working with the health sector, governments, and civil society to advance the phase down of the use of dental amalgam in the East Africa Region.
 - The Practical Sourcebook on Mercury Waste Management was developed by the Partnership and is a valuable resource to countries and companies looking for information on environmentally sound management of mercury waste
 - The Partnership is training miners on mercury-free artisanal and small-scale mining techniques in countries around the world, from Peru to Burkina Faso to Indonesia. It's also working with governments to build capacity for national action planning.
 - Projects to reduce mercury emission from coal-fired power plants in Southeast Asia are being implemented by the Partnership

- At the meeting, the participants expressed the desire to work with the INC on issues that countries identify as priorities and make Partnership expertise and resources available to the goal of advancing Convention implementation.
 - For example, the Draft Guidance for countries doing ASGM National Action Plans is a product of the Partnership created at the request of the INC.
 - The development of the Draft ASGM NAP guidance is a model for how the Partnership and the INC could work together to give countries the support they need in implementing the Convention.
- At the meeting, participants also emphasized the important role of the Partnership in information-sharing, awareness-raising, and outreach.
- The Partnership website has recently been improved and contains valuable resources on all 8 Partnership areas. I encourage you to take a look and make use of the resources available as you advance toward Minamata implementation.
- The participants expressed that the information-sharing role of the Partnership could be further strengthened, and more beyond simply communication to knowledge management.
- In summary, the main outcome of the Partnership Advisory Group Meeting was a renewed commitment on the part of the Partnership to:
 - Strengthen synergies and collaboration between partners and partnership areas to deliver actions to reduce the risk of mercury;
 - Step up its communication and outreach; and
 - Work closely with INC to provide assistance in the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention.