



October 26, 2010

Mr. Per Bakken
Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13 chemin des anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine – Geneva, Switzerland
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Dear Mr. Per Bakken,

I would like to express the Czech Republic's view on the Global Mercury Partnership as a very effective tool to address the challenges posed by mercury until the new global treaty on mercury enters into force. I believe that sharing more data from monitoring activities and scientific information can improve the global understanding of the mercury transport and trends at global level even when negotiating new global instrument in relation to mercury.

Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, member organization of the Ministry of Environment, provides research and science works in field of hydrology, meteorology and climatology, including a wide range of the long-term monitoring activities on mercury. I believe that information we have may prove beneficial for better understanding of the studied phenomena and help in designing remediating measures.

Therefore, on behalf of the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, I would like to express the interest in joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, particularly the Air Transport and Fate Mercury Partnership area.

More information with regard to our planned activities in relation to the above mentioned Partnership area in accordance with its stated goals is in the Annex.

I look forward to our further fruitful cooperation.

Sincerely,

PhDr. Ivo Hlaváč
Deputy Minister, Director of the Environmental Protection Technology Section
Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic

cc:
Brenda Koekkoek, UNEP
Nicola Pirrone, Italy

Annex

Monitoring of atmospheric mercury at Košetice Observatory (Czech Hydrometeorological Institute)

Start of regular monitoring: 2006

Aims:

- To implement the Czech participation in international monitoring programmes under CLRTAP (EMEP and ICP-IM).
- To detect the long-term trends of atmospheric mercury on the background scale of the Czech Republic

Method: manual method according to the EMEP methodological guidelines

<http://tarantula.nilu.no/projects/ccc/manual/index.html>

Types of measurement:

- Gaseous mercury – The sampling of gaseous mercury in the air has been carried out using protective quartz filter followed by two gold traps in series, mercury in atmospheric aerosol is collected on quartz filter and mercury in precipitation is analyzed from bulk samples. Analytical process has been implemented in accredited TESO laboratory in Prague. The analysis of gaseous mercury samples is made using double amalgamation CVAFS. The gold trap is mounted in series with a second analytical trap in a gas stream (Hg-free argon) leading to the CVAFS detector. Heating is achieved with a heating wire. In the first step the mercury is thermally desorbed from the first sampling trap onto the second analytical trap. The second trap is then rapidly heated and the mercury is transported into the CVAFS with an integrator.
- Mercury in aerosols – collected on quartz filter

Plans for the future

Automatic measurements of gaseous mercury (probably TEKRAN Instruments) within already adopted project CzechGlobe (co-ordination: Institute of Systems Biology and Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic). Two monitoring sites are planned; one at Košetice Observatory, the other at mountain station or at the 150 m high pole (ICOS project). Proposed start of automatic measurements: 2011 or 2012.

More information on the Košetice Observatory:

http://portal.chmi.cz/portal/dt?menu=JSPTabContainer/P5_0_O_nas/P5_3_Organizacni_struktura/P5_3_11_Ovzdushi/P5_3_11_9_Odd_observ_Kos/P5_3_11_9_1_Zakl_Info&last=false

**UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP
REGISTRATION FORM**

PARTNERSHIP AREA

Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:

- artisanal and small scale gold mining
- mercury cell chlor alkali production
- mercury air transport and fate research
- mercury in products
- mercury releases from coal combustion
- mercury waste management
- mercury supply and storage

Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.

ORGANIZATION NAME

Czech Hydrometeorological Institute

**NAME, FUNCTIONAL TITLE
OF REPRESENTATIVE**

Milan Vařna, Head of Unit of Observatory

**ADDRESS OF
ORGANIZATION**

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TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

- Government
- Regional economic integration organization
- Non-government Organization
- Industry
- Scientific community
- Other, please specify: _____

*UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal.

The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

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