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Federal Department of the Environment,  
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN  
International Affairs

**CH-3003 Berne, FOEN, EG**

United Nations Environment Programme UNEP  
Mr Per Bakken  
Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE  
11-13, chemin des Anémones  
1219 Châtelaine / Genève

Reference: I261-2243

Your reference:

Our reference: EG

Contact person: EG

Berne, July 29, 2009

**Swiss support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**

Dear Mr Bakken,

Mercury is a toxic heavy metal of global concern. Voluntary partnerships can be an effective strategy to address some of these concerns, especially if undertaken within a broader politically binding framework. The 25<sup>th</sup> session of the UNEP Governing Council has decided to develop a legally binding instrument on mercury. However, it will take several years until the new Convention on Mercury will enter into force. UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership will address immediately some of the challenges posed by mercury until the new Convention on Mercury enters into force. Moreover, it may continue to do so within the broader framework of the Convention after its entry into force. Switzerland is committed to continue to support these processes. Therefore, Switzerland is ready to become an official partner of UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership.

Switzerland is contributing already now to the achievement of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership goal and is committed to continue to do so. Namely, Switzerland is actively engaged in and provides financial support to the mercury mining project in Kyrgyzstan that is implemented by UNITAR, UNEP, ZOI and the Kyrgyz Government. This project aims to support Kyrgyzstan to phase-out its primary mercury mine in Haidarkan - the last major mine exporting mercury to international markets. Thus, this project will contribute to decrease the supply of mercury on the global market. Moreover, this project enhances coordination and cooperation within the government and other actors in Kyrgyzstan as well as between international institutions such as UNITAR, UNEP and ZOI.

Switzerland also supports financially the Ban Toxics project on terminal storage options of mercury waste in the Philippines. The aim of this project is to provide information and insight on sustainable storage options to the Philippine decision makers and to raise awareness among the Philippine

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community on the necessity of environmentally sound management of mercury waste. It provides an insight of the challenges faced by a developing country in the disposal and storage of mercury waste. Thus, this project offers experience that could be used in other Asian countries or in other countries facing similar problems with mercury storage.

With its engagement in the two projects, Switzerland directly contributes to the accomplishment of the following general objective of the Global Mercury Partnership:

- to minimize and, where possible, eliminate the mercury supply considering a hierarchy of sources, and to retire mercury from the market to environmentally sound management.

Moreover the Swiss engagement contributes to achieve the following specific goals of the supply and storage partnership area:

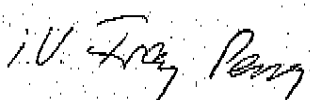
- Reducing global supply of mercury, especially from primary mining.
- Retiring surplus mercury stocks from the market to safe and secure long-term storage.

Furthermore we would like to inform you that Switzerland is willing to make a general contribution of **CHF 50'000.--** to UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership. Please note that our contribution must be fully acknowledged in all relevant documents and materials related to this area.

Please confirm that you agree with our conditions and, in order to facilitate the transfer of funds, please send us an invoice for the above mentioned amount, along with your banking information as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN  
The Head of the International Affairs Division

  
Thomas Kolly  
Ambassador

Enclosure:

- Registration form to become a UNEP GMP Partner

Copy to:

- BAFU: koy, ka, pfr, EG, BMC
- EDA: PAV

## UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet is intended to provide an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at the following web address: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm>

### What is the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship amongst various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership complements and supports the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3.

As of June 2008, the following partnership areas have been initiated:

- 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; and
- mercury waste management.

Other partnership areas are in the process of being considered and initiated.

### What is the Overall Goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

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.

### What does joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership mean for prospective partners?

- Supporting the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contributing resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities.
- Networking with other organizations/agencies/individuals addressing mercury issues.

### How does an organization join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Such letters should be submitted to:

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DITE  
11-13, chemin des Arémoles  
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland  
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460  
E-mail: [mercury@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:mercury@chemicals.unep.ch)

In submitting this letter, UNEP asks partners to also complete the attached registration form. Participation to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP through a letter of confirmation.

Your letter of support will be posted on the UNEP Chemicals web site.

## UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

<b>Partnership Area</b>	<p>Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> artisanal and small scale gold mining</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> mercury cell chlor alkali production</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> mercury air transport and fate research</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> mercury in products</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> mercury releases from coal combustion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> mercury waste management</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MERCURY SUPPLY AND STORAGE</li> </ul> <p>Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.</p>
<b>Organization Name</b>	Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Switzerland
<b>Name, Functional Title of Representative</b>	Gabi Eigenmann, Senior Scientific Advisor
<b>Address of Organization</b>	FOEN, International Affairs Division, 3003 Berne
<b>Tel. No.</b>	0041 31 322 93 03
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:gabi.eigenmann@bafu.admin.ch">gabi.eigenmann@bafu.admin.ch</a>
<b>Fax No.</b>	0041 31 323 03 49
<b>Website/URL</b>	<a href="http://www.environment-switzerland.ch">www.environment-switzerland.ch</a>
<b>Type of Organization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Government</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Regional economic integration organization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Non-government Organization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific community</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:</li> </ul>

\* 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:

**Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DME**  
 11-13, chemin des Anémones  
 CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland  
 Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460  
 E-mail: [mercury@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:mercury@chemicals.unep.ch)