

To: The Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE, 11-13, Chemin des Anemones, CH-1219, Geneva,

Dear sir,

I am a Chemical Engineer with PG in Industrial Management from IIT, Delhi a leading institute in India with more than 25 years technical and marketing experience in Paints, inks & Coatings, Packaging, Rubber, etc.

Last 12 years I am working independently as Marketing Associate for 2-3 small companies for selling their resins and pigments to paint/ink industries in India.

My major intention for writing this letter to you is request for making me a Partner in UNEP Global Mercury Reduction program in India.

Mercury is used in large quantities in Chlor alkali, thermal power plants (burns along with coal and let out), health care sector, compact bulb sector, paints & coatings, etc.

There is one more major use of Mercury in India is in cultural and spiritual sector. In this there are two types 1) Mercury Parad lingas sold through internet sky shops and spiritual outlets which sell Mercury based small idols to devotees, who in turn do puja by lighting lamps/wash with water and milk and consume washed water/milk as prasad. There are plenty of this type in Sky Shoppe and is more prevalent in North India.

Another major cultural product is making Mercury based idol temples, where each of these idols weighs more than 1000 to 2000 Kg. Here these temples say that once you are near Mercury idol, then your spiritual receptivity increases and you can achieve whatever you have aimed at.

I am giving below some of the web links, which can give you insight into these workings:

<http://www.siddhaashram.net/gallery.htm>

http://www.dhyanalinga.org/theerthakund_qa.htm

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/34886948>

http://mahamerupeetam.in/about_swamiji

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_4AKTdsRtM

I have given you only some of the web links. There are many many such idols in India in places such as Haridwar, Delhi, T Nadu, AP etc. All these put together, there is huge amount of Mercury idols and it shows alarming situation. Every year new idol based in Mercury is being installed with out any control.

In the last 2-3 years, I have taken up with Pollution control board/Environment ministries, TV channels and there has been no positive feedback from these people. I have also sent e-mails to like minded people and their reply is that there is no legislation passed by Government for use of Mercury in these applications.

In this regard, I can tell you that Industry is doing some what better by replacing Mercury based technology in paint/chlor alkali/health care/etc. I give you one industrial disaster based on Mercury hazard.

In early 80's Hindustan Unilever Ltd (earlier Pond's India Ltd) dismantled their Mercury Thermometer plant from US (due to Mercury legislation and local protest) and set up the unit in Kodaikanal, T. Nadu.

In short time people working in the plant and neighbourhood realised danger associated with Mercury. At least 45 Mercury related death and innumerable Mercury related diseases are reported and finally this unit was closed and I believe still compensation litigation is going on. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board ordered HUL to send back Mercury inventory lying at the site to a US Mercury recycler. Refer Greenpeace press release which is attached herewith for more information on it. Even a company of Unilever stature could not handle Mercury properly and handling of Mercury in places like this is questionable.

I would request you to make me partner member in your Mercury reduction program, so that I can closely work with media channels/print media, etc in informing public about the hazard associated with Mercury. I can put up posters/give hand outs, attend various forums for giving out information on Mercury hazard, etc. I can also talk to schools to promote in reduction of Mercury in all fields. Health care sector, I can do campaign at various places on replacing Mercury based instruments with Alcohol based products and digital instruments for reading temperature and pressure. Can do door to door campaign at homes/hospitals, etc.

Regarding industry, I can meet them independently and tell them to replace Mercury with other safer alternatives. I can put up your articles in trade magazines, etc.

I am sure you would be interested in my profile and looking forward to receiving your favourable reply.

If you need any reference, please write to me, so that I can forward the same.

I am enclosing herewith registration form for your reference.

Should you need any further information, please feel free to contact me. If you need any information on Mercury, please write to me.

Thanking you,

V.L.Natarajan,

BMP No : 61, Behind Chinmaya Flats, S G Palaya,

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UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM *

Partnership Area	<p>Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> artisanal and small scale gold mining <input type="checkbox"/> mercury cell chlor alkali production <input type="checkbox"/> mercury air transport and fate research <input type="checkbox"/> mercury in products <input type="checkbox"/> mercury releases from coal combustion <input type="checkbox"/> mercury waste management <p>Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">I would like to partner in "Mercury in Products"</p>
Organization Name	V.L.Natarajan.
Name, Functional Title of Representative	V.L.Natarajan
Address of Organization	BMP No : 61, 6 th Cross,Behind Chinmaya Flats,S G Palaya, C V Raman Nagar Post,Bangalore : 560093,India.
Tel. No	+91-80-25248595
Email	natarajanvaideyanathapuram@gmail.com
Fax No.	+91-80-25248597
Website/URL	No web site
Type of Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Regional economic integration organization <input type="checkbox"/> Non-government Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific community <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: <u>Individual</u>

* 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, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones**