



Learning with Purpose

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LOWELL CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE  
11-13, chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Via email: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

Dear Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE,

I am writing on behalf of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA to express support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. We would be pleased to join as a partner and contribute to meeting the goal of the Partnership.

The Lowell Center was formed in 1996 to effect a broad, global transition to sustainable materials, production processes, and conditions of life and work. For the past 15 years, our program has actively worked with hospitals to protect humans and the environment from exposure to mercury and other toxic materials. We recognize that pollution prevention solutions could inadvertently introduce new occupational safety and health problems, and vice versa. Therefore the Lowell Center's approach is to integrate pollution prevention (PP) and occupational safety and health (OSH) as a means of achieving sound, sustainable practices.

Our approach to mercury reduction utilizes a tool we developed, the *Pollution Prevention and Occupational Safety and Health (P<sup>2</sup>OSH)* assessment tool<sup>1</sup>. This is a participatory intervention model for introducing environmentally sound, healthy, and safe materials and work practices. It engages workers in a systematic evaluation of alternatives to ensure that new products or practices don't inadvertently introduce new risks or unintended consequences. Because few ideal products exist, the emphasis is on continuously seeking and evaluating alternatives, rather than merely substituting different products. The process becomes second nature to its users and is effective across many products and practices. The Lowell Center also provides readily accessible information and tools to support organizations in alternatives assessment.

Over the past four years we have conducted an EPA-sponsored mercury reduction in hospitals of Ecuador and Mexico. By working with local universities, NGOs, and in cooperation with Ministries of Public Health and Environment, the project reduced use of mercury products, improved mercury waste management, and developed technical skills and organizational capacity in Latin America. Our recent publication *Eliminating Mercury in Health Care: A workbook to identify safer alternatives* (in Spanish and English) enables hospitals to undertake mercury reduction on their own. The team also produced a report on mercury exposures in dental clinics: *Occupational Exposure to Elemental Mercury in Odontology/Dentistry*. (Materials available online: <http://www.sustainableproduction.org/MercuryProject.php>)

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with and support the UNEP Mercury Partnership. Please confirm that we have been accepted as a partner of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Margaret M. Quinn'.

Margaret M. Quinn, Sc.D., CIH  
Professor, Department of Work Environment and  
Principal Investigator, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production

<sup>1</sup> Quinn M, Fuller T, Bello A, Galligan C. Pollution Prevention-Occupational Safety and Health in Hospitals: Alternatives and Interventions. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*. 2006; 3:182-193.



**UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP  
 INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER**

**PARTNERSHIP AREA**

Please check the partnership areas to which 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 mercury supply and storage
- mercury releases from the cement industry

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

**ORGANIZATION NAME**

Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, University of Massachusetts Lowell

**NAME, FUNCTIONAL TITLE  
 OF REPRESENTATIVE**

Margaret Quinn, Sc.D., CIH, Professor and Principal Investigator

**ADDRESS OF  
 ORGANIZATION**

1 University Avenue, Dept. of Work Environment, Lowell, MA 01854 USA

**TEL. No.**

978-934-3196

**EMAIL**

Margaret\_Quinn@uml.edu

**FAX No.**

**WEBSITE/URL**

<http://www.sustainableproduction.org/proj.shos.abou.php>

**TYPE OF ORGANIZATION**

- Government
- Regional economic integration organization
- Non-government Organization
- Industry
- Scientific community
- Other, please specify: Academic (University)

\*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: