

Global Mercury Instrument



Update on progress and process



17 December 2010

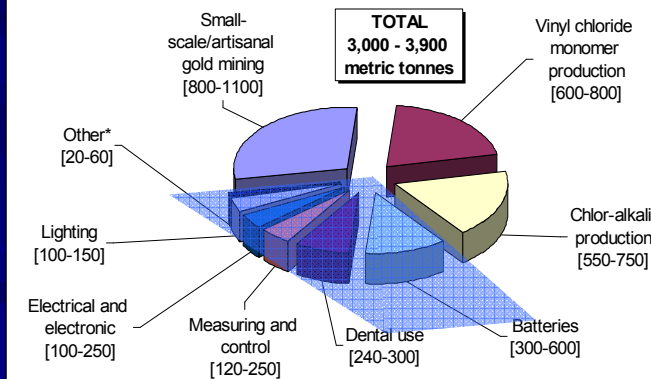
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Mercury use in ASGM



More recent estimates for ASGM are higher, e.g., 1350 tonnes (Pirrone et al, 2009)

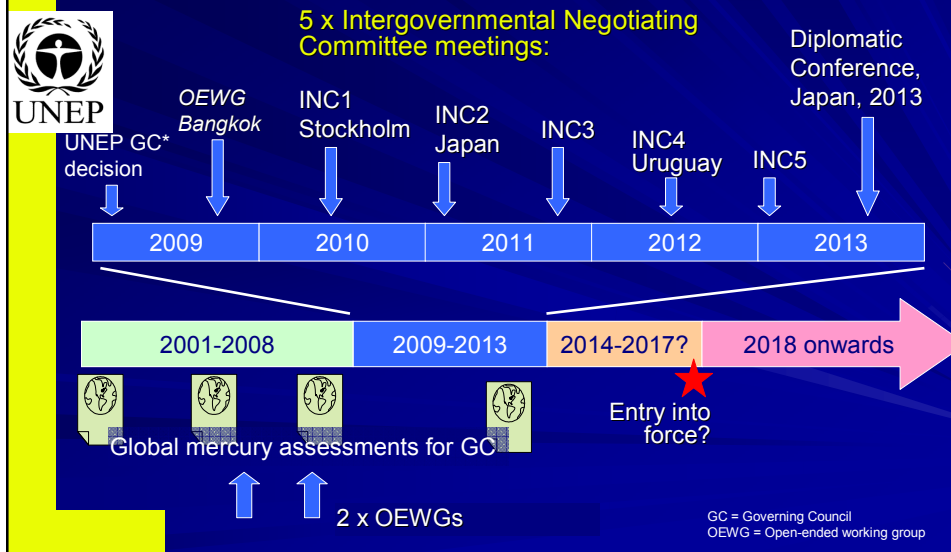
Global mercury demand by use, 2005 (metric tonnes)



* Laboratory, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, cultural/traditional uses, etc.

P. Maxson, "Mercury flows and safe storage of surplus mercury," for the Environment Directorate, European Commission, August 2006 (with data ranges). See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/pdf/mercury_flows_safe_storage.pdf

The treaty negotiation process



A legally binding instrument



...including provisions to:

- Reduce supply and enhance capacity for sound storage
- Reduce demand
- Reduce international trade
- Reduce atmospheric emissions
- Address waste and remediation of contaminated sites
- Increase knowledge
- Build capacity and technical and financial assistance
- Specify objectives
- Address compliance

...considering the following:

- Flexibility
- Tailored approaches to specific sectors
- Availability of Hg-free alternatives
- Cooperation and coordination
- Prioritization of sources
- Co-benefits of conventional controls and other environmental benefits
- Efficient organization
- Addressing risks to human health and the environment

Treaty basics



- Treaty = legally binding agreement between governments
- Treaty = convention = legally binding instrument (LBI) = multilateral environmental agreement (MEA)
- INC: negotiations between governments, with opportunities for participation by qualified non-governmental observers

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Treaty basics, cont'd



- INC *negotiates* the treaty
- Diplomatic conference *adopts*
- Individual governments *ratify*
- Treaty becomes binding on *Parties at entry into force*

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“Draft elements of a comprehensive and suitable approach”



- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3
- Purpose: Assist negotiators by providing focus and structure
- INC2 to consider whether to accept paper as the basis for negotiations

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Key elements



- Supply, storage, international trade
- Products & processes
- ASGM
- Atmospheric emissions
- Releases to water & land
- Wastes
- Contaminated sites

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Key elements, cont'd



- Transitional measures
- Financial resources & technical assistance
- Implementation assistance (compliance)
- Awareness raising, research & monitoring, communication of info.

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Element 9: ASGM



- *Parties with ASGM* to reduce and, where possible, eliminate use of Hg
- No import of Hg for use in ASGM
- National or regional action plans
- *Cooperation between all Parties* for prevention of Hg trade, promotion of capacity building, & provision of technical/financial assistance

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Questions



- What are some of the provisions on ASGM that could be contained in the global instrument on mercury?
- What provisions should *not* be considered for the instrument?

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Questions (cont'd)



- What are the most important steps that national governments could take to tackle the issue of mercury in ASGM?

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Thank you
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<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/tabid/3320/Default.aspx>

17 December 2010

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