



# ZMWG/BAN Toxics: Philippines Current activities and challenges for the reduction of mercury releases from waste

Makati City, Philippines

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Richard Gutierrez, *JD, LL.M.*

BAN Toxics!

# WHO WE ARE

## Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG)

- International coalition of 98 NGOs, 54 countries
- strives for zero supply, demand, and emissions of mercury from all anthropogenic sources
- Located in Brussels, Belgium

## BAN Toxics!

- Office of the Basel Action Network in Southeast Asia
- Formed in 2006
- Goal is to promote environmental justice in the Southeast Asia region (prevention of toxic trade)
- Participating Organization of ZMWG



ZMWG strong civil society partner  
UNEP Mercury Negotiations  
process and UNEP Mercury  
Partnerships:

- Acting lead for Storage Partnership;
- Active participant in ASGM, Products, and Emissions

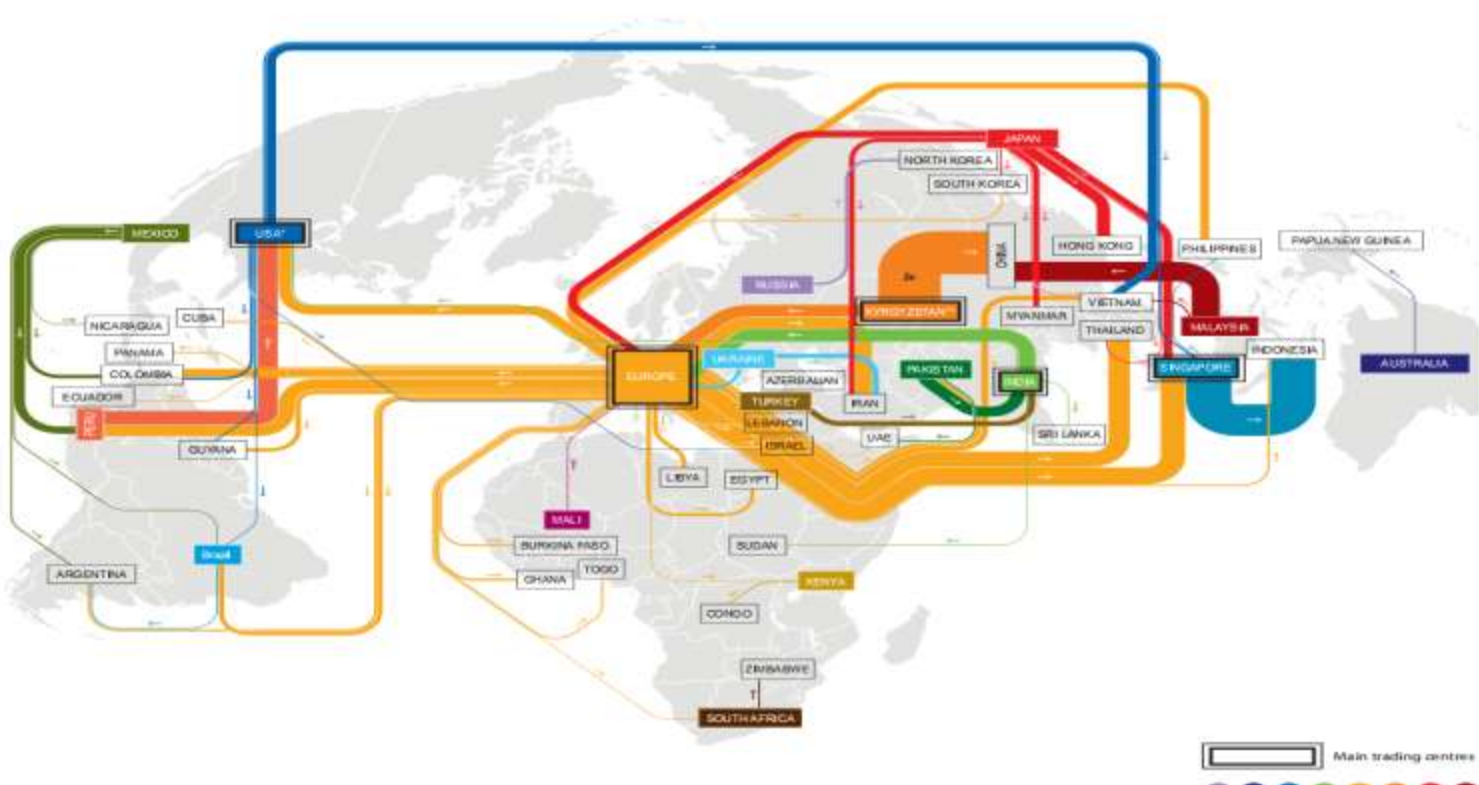
ZMWG - NGO capacity building  
Waste Dumps in the following  
countries: Philippines, Lebanon,  
Kenya, Bangladesh and Armenia



# KEY AREA OF FOCUS: PREVENTION

- ZMWG PO Stop of trade in Mercury
- Export Ban US and EU
- Special relevance to Asia: Emerging Hg trading hub

## mercury trade in the world



# Hg Trade Routes: Philippines

- Lack of markings in mercury flasks make it difficult to determine real point of origin.
- Empty flask examined in Zamboanga del Sur showed **Kyrgyztan** as a potential origin.
- 2006 survey in Mt. Diwata showed **Algeria** as potential origin.



## Hg Trade Routes: Philippines

- 2012 interviews with local mercury traders reveal **China** and **Spain** as points of origin.
- Interviews with Muslim retailers in Zamboanga also reveal smuggled mercury from **Indonesia** and **Malaysia**, entering through the ports of Zamboanga, South Cotabato and Sarangani





*Unless controls on trade are in place – addressing both legal and illegal, problem of mercury waste will be very difficult, especially for developing countries.*

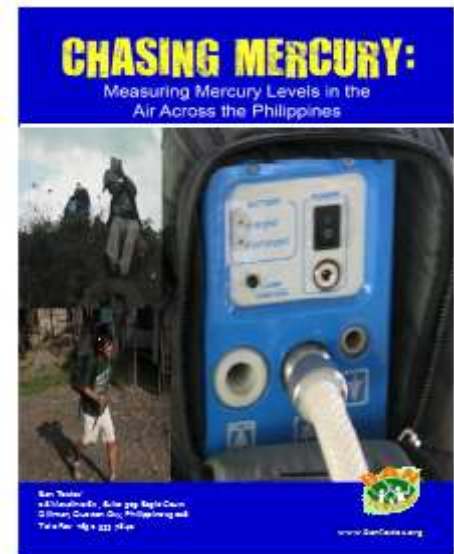
- Identification of key sources
- Identification of major emitters
- Inventory and approximation of releases or wastes
- Environmentally sound management
  - Collection
  - Handling
  - Transportation
  - Final Disposal

# PHILIPPINE ACTIVITIES: Raising Awareness, Data

**2010** – Report on the Need for Terminal Options for Mercury in the Philippines

**2011** – Generating Data or Inventory of Hg Waste Cebu, Davao, Marikina

**2011** – Generated Data on Mercury emissions from various sectors – ASGM, Hospitals, Dental Clinics, etc.

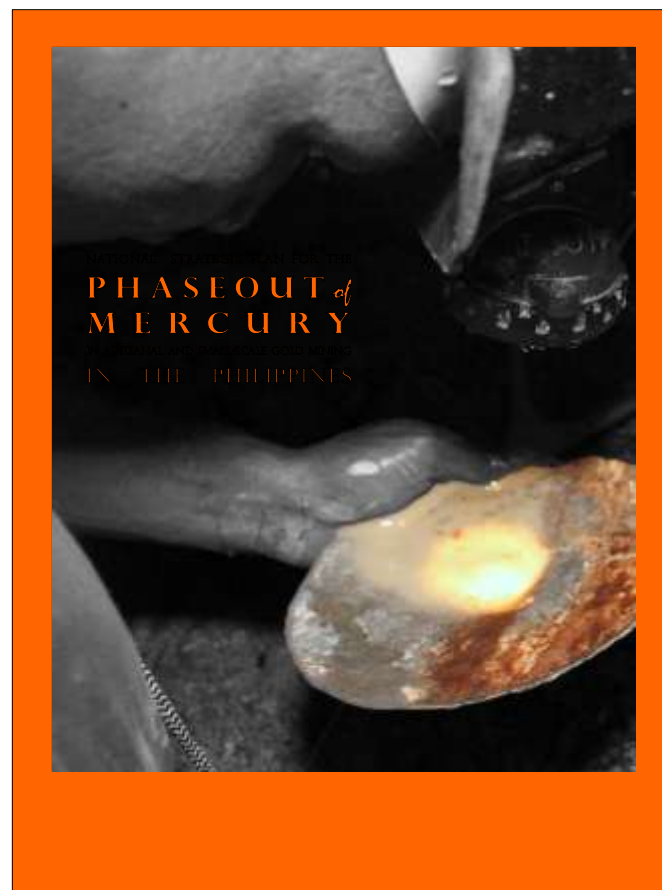


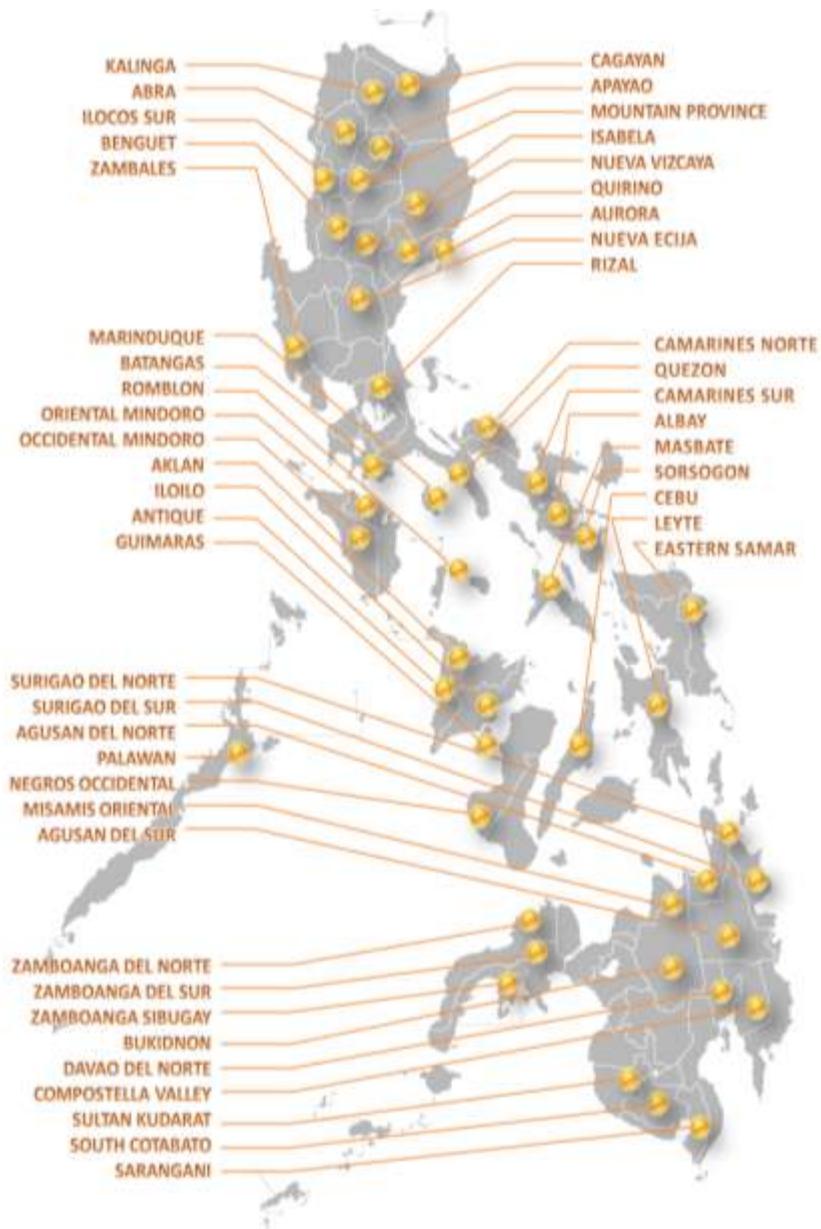


# PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE

## Philippine National Strategic Plan for the Phase-out of Mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector

- Global Template
- Pushed Philippine government in the lead
- Objective 6: Identifies need for storage





- Philippine gold resource/ reserve estimated to be more than 5 billion tons (USGS)
- Gold deposits reported in more than 40 provinces **ASGM activities take place in more than 30 provinces**
- 350,000 miners
- 2,000,000 people reliant on the sector
- Rural, poverty and conflict
- ☐ **Sector main mercury emitter**
- ☐ **70 tons of mercury annually (2008, DENR)**

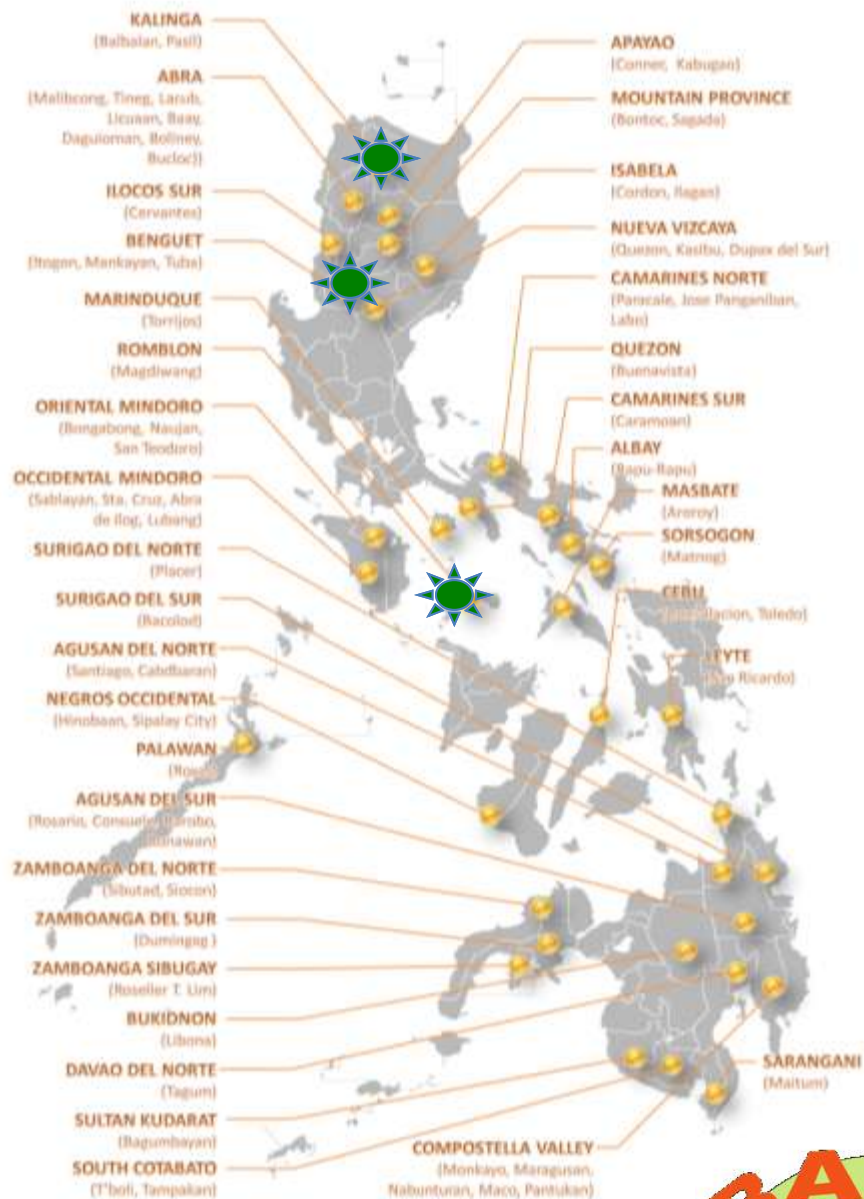
✓ Prevented at least 10 tons of mercury from being used past 2 years in 3 areas

✓ Sustained change

✓ BT Model is being used in Indonesia, Bolivia, and Tanzania.

Challenges:

- x Handling
- x Collection
- x Storage
- x Final Disposal



# Storage Structure Critical for Hg Waste!

- x Need for storage of confiscated or surrendered mercury.
- x Endanger health of officials administering or managing the mercury.
- x Disincentive for enforcement.
- x Incentive for improper management.
- x Improper handling and management of mercury in the affected areas impacts health and environment of community





# Hg Waste Partnership Can Help!

- ✓ Linkage with experts
- ✓ Develop network for and initiate research and development
- ✓ Mobilize funds for pilot projects
- ✓ Help raise profile of the issue of Hg Waste
- ✓ Ensure projects and activities conform and work towards objectives of Minamata and Basel Conventions



Thank you!



26 Matalino St., Suite 332  
Eagle Court, Diliman  
Quezon City 1101 PHILIPPINES

[www.bantoxics.org](http://www.bantoxics.org)