

# Jordan country presentation

# Jordan country situation

- Based on environmental law and public health law, mercury is regulated as hazardous substance;
- Relevant stakeholders include:
  - Government: MOENV, MOH, MOI, Customs Department
  - Private sector: Chamber of Industry (individual industries), pharmaceutical industry, medical sector
  - NGOs: public interest groups, research institutions

# Legal framework on mercury

- Mercury is banned in pesticides
- Mercury is banned in paints
- Mercury is phased out in chlor-alkali plants  
(was used in two plants; presently 5 chlor-alkali plants operating mercury/free)

# Mercury activities undertaken

- So far, mercury issue not specifically addressed in national profiles (2002, 2006)
- Preliminary mercury inventory made in 2002 (desk study)
- Response to UNEP questionnaire identified potential areas of mercury use or contamination

# Mercury – intentional uses

- Jordan has converted chloralkali plants into mercury-free processes
- The mercury from these plants is ....?  
Need action/solution from international community?
- Other uses?

# Potential/identified waste problems

End of life consumer products such as

- Batteries
- Dental amalgam
- Thermometers, syringes
- Compact fluorescent lamps
- Pharmaceutical uses
- Cosmetics
- Electrical and electronic equipment

# Unintentional mercury releases

Possible sources for mercury containing waste include:

- Oil industry  $\Rightarrow$  raw materials containing mercury? Mercury catalyst
- Cement kilns
- Hospital waste incinerators  
 $\Rightarrow$  solid residues (ashes) and air emissions

# Needs for guidance (1)

- Identification of environmentally sound (waste) management practices at all levels:
  - Individual level, e.g., at the site of production (factories) or use (households)
  - Community level, e.g., collection systems? Transport systems? Interim storage?
  - Provincial/national level, how to treat mercury waste (all types, all concentrations)

# Needs for guidance (2)

- Which technologies constitute “environmentally sound management” during
- Collection – hazardous waste?
- Transport – as hazardous waste?
- At disposal – all forms of mercury?
- Low mercury content to be defined? (like for POPs)

# Next steps

- At regulatory and policy level
  - Active participation at mercury INC process
  - Active participation at Basel guideline development
  - At national level, set-up multi/stakeholder process to eliminate/reduce uses and releases of mercury
  - Encouraging use of alternative e.g. free taxes ext.
- At institutional level:
  - sector/specific studies and assessments
  - Create necessary infrastructure to ESM of mercury including mercury waste

Thank you for attention