

**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
Waste Management Partnership Area Meeting
Chair's Summary
10 March 2010**

1. The 2nd Waste Management Partnership Area meeting was held in Tokyo on 9-10 March 2010 in order to effectively promote the Waste Management Partnership through information exchange on relevant current and future activities, development of Draft BAT/BEP Guidance Document for the Reduction of Mercury Releases from Waste Management, revisit of business plan, and discussions on how this Partnership Area can contribute to the intergovernmental negotiations for a global legally binding instrument on mercury. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and was attended by 41 participants, consisting of representatives from twelve countries, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, Japanese organizations as well as experts. Agenda and participant list are attached to this summary. Professor Masaru Tanaka of Tottori University of Environmental Studies, the lead of the Waste Management Partnership Area, chaired the meeting.

Session 1: Activities for the Reduction of Mercury Releases from Waste Management

2. In Session 1 (Activities for the Reduction of Mercury Releases from Waste Management), participants shared the challenging issues faced by not only developing countries but also developed countries and exchanged information about their activities to reduce mercury releases from waste management. The participants also identified increasing people's awareness on the effects of mercury on human health as an important factor to promote actions to reduce mercury releases from waste management. It was pointed out that increasing awareness of political leaders was effective to move the society. Difficulty of establishing mercury recovery facilities for collected waste products and treated residues was recognized as one of the most challenging issues for the countries that have established waste collection systems. Capacity of managing municipal waste is a basis to realize reduction of mercury releases from waste management. In addition, new issues were discussed, such as the urgent needs for environmentally sound management of waste CFLs, which is growing in number because of replacement of energy-consuming incandescent lamps to combat global warming. In addition, the participants recognized that geographical and socioeconomic conditions of atoll island countries should be taken into account. These countries face difficulties to establish sanitary landfills and depend on diet based on seafood and national revenues on fishing rights. The brief summaries of the presentations given by the participants are as follows.
3. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler, UNEP Chemicals, representing the UNEP Secretariat for this Waste Management Partnership Area, addressed the INC process for a legally binding

instrument on mercury briefly and then went into detail on the UNEP waste management project¹. The project includes five countries – Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Pakistan, and the Philippines –and is funded by the government of Norway. All countries have held their national workshops and some draft mercury waste management plans are available. The main guidance used in the project is the UNEP Mercury Toolkit and the Draft Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Waste of the Basel Convention (herein after referred to as “the Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines”). The experiences from this project will feed back into the Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines. A final workshop is scheduled to share the project’s results and lessons learned for May/June in Aberdeen, UK, hosted by the Aberdeen University, which also serves as the expert laboratory for mercury analysis in this project.

4. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon, representative of UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre, highlighted in his presentation the importance of building national and local capacity on integrated solid waste management (ISWM) and management of specific waste streams including E-waste covering mercury containing wastes. The focus for capacity building is on data collection (technical capacity, cost and time) and development and implementation of ISWM or WEEE/E-waste management plan based on 3R approach covering identification of appropriate policies (regulatory and fiscal) and development of a policy framework, identification and implementation of environmentally sound technologies (EST), and risk management, especially for informal sector. Furthermore, the focus for institutionalization is on (1) establishment of an inventory cell due to dynamic nature of data and (2) implementation of WEEE/E-waste policies (coordination among various departments managing different waste streams, stakeholders’ participation (waste generators, service providers, regulators/government, recyclers and community)).
5. Mr. Shafii from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention presented on the activities related to mercury waste under the Basel Convention. He highlighted, in particular, the status of the development of the Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines, which is now at its fifth draft stage. The Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines will be presented to the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group in May 2010 for its consideration and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2011 for its possible adoption. He thanked the Government of Japan for its excellent contribution into the above process and called on experts to provide further input in this task so that the Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines would meet the needs of all stakeholders especially developing countries.
6. Mr. Farran Redfern, representative of Kiribati, shared the current situation on mercury

¹ Information on the project can be accessed at:

http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Sector-Specific-Information/Waste_management_project.htm

releases from mercury thermometers in the health care waste management system. There is no health care waste management plan/strategy in Kiribati, and only in 2009, the WHO commissioned a study focused on the health care waste management assessment and short term improvement plan for South Tarawa. It is estimated that 50 kg of mercury through mercury-containing thermometers has been imported to Kiribati during the last 10 years or so. Mercury from broken thermometers is mixed with other health care wastes and destroyed by incineration. The existing hospital incinerator is operated at low temperature.

7. Dr. Xuemei Zhu from China through her presentation shared the current status of mercury waste management in China. She emphasized that the new challenge in her country was to enhance collection and treatment facilities for used fluorescent lamps, which is increasing in consumption due to its energy-saving characteristics.
8. Mr. Sambo Sarun, representative of Cambodia, briefed on the completed UNEP Mercury Inventory Project in addition to the on-going UNEP Mercury Waste Management Project, which aims to develop the national mercury waste management plan. He also shared the challenges his country faced in implementation of activities regarding mercury waste management, such as lack in technical and financial resources and social awareness.
9. Mr. Kubanycbek Noruzbaev from Kyrgyzstan shared the fact that the National Action Plan on primary mercury mining in Kyrgyzstan has been developed in Kyrgyzstan². The Action Plan proposes the implementation of measures in priority project areas, where the first priority is given to the reorientation of mercury mining activities at Khaidarkan mercury plant – the only primary mercury producer and exporter plant in the world – towards other less environmentally harmful economic activities. Also projects on recovering mercury-polluted areas in Kyrgyzstan are proposed.
10. Mr. Thomas Groeneveld of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency summarized the issue of mercury use, releases, and environmental fate of waste dental amalgam. He also provided examples of how U.S. EPA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are addressing the collection and recycling of waste dental amalgam.
11. Mr. Patarapol Tularak, representative of Thailand, presented the background of the pilot project on waste fluorescent lamp collection and how the pilot project was turned into a countrywide project with the cooperation of large-sized municipalities. He also gave examples of awareness raising and training activities and presented the development and modification of containers, trucks and temporary storage facilities.
12. Mr. Jorge Gabriel Conte Burrell of Grupo Parques Nacionales Panama presented the program “Get on the batteries with batteries”, which is a pilot program in the Latin America and Caribbean region that promotes dissemination of information on mercury

² The National Action Plan can be found in: http://www.nature.kg/images/files/acting_plan_en.pdf.

and segregation of batteries³. The achievements in the year 2009 to 2010 and the goals from year 2010 to 2011 were shared in the presentation.

13. Dr. M. Subba Rao, representative from India, made a presentation on mercury containing medical waste such as thermometers, with focus on the national initiatives being taken in his country to control mercury releases into the environment. National initiatives in India include formulation of policy framework document and guidelines in relation to medical waste management.
14. Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, representing the Philippines, shared that there are existing national legislations in relation to mercury waste, namely Toxic and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act (and orders that are under this Act) and the Health Departmental Order on the “Gradual Phase-out of Mercury in Philippine Healthcare Facilities and Institutions”. There are also on-going projects supported by UNEP, namely on (1) Management of Mercury and Mercury-containing Wastes and (2) Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (herein after referred to as ASGM), in addition to a project supported by UNDP that promotes appropriate management of used fluorescent lamps. Furthermore, the Philippines has submitted a project proposal to UNIDO entitled “Pilot Project on Selecting Appropriate Mercury Wastes Storage and Disposal Technology for the Philippines”.
15. Dr. Livinus Nnamdi Nwankwo of Nigeria presented the Action Plan, guidelines and policy documents regarding health care waste management. The Plan discourages the use of mercury-in-products and encourages alternatives. Mercury waste will be separated from other health care waste streams by collecting and storing them in drums labeled “Mercury”. Implementation will commence when the Ministers of Environment and Health obtain approval from Federal Executive Council to use the documents and establish National Steering Committee.
16. Dr. Thomas Brassler, representative of GRS from Germany, presented general options for long-term storage of mercury and explained them in more detail. Storage after stabilization thereby may constitute an additional safe storage option. He stressed that disposal in deep underground formations is the most favored option in Europe since it enables the complete inclusion of waste (i.e. its isolation from biosphere). Both must be proven inevitably by a long-term safety analysis. Specific criteria for underground storage of liquid mercury are currently under development in Europe.
17. Mr. Eyad Ibrahim as the representative of Syria presented the cooperation activities with UNEP Chemicals concerning mercury and also shared the national plan to reduce and prevent mercury releases and its plan to apply for a JICA project. A project proposal is currently being drafted for the sound management of mercury containing wastes.

³ Additional information is available in Spanish at: <http://www.mercuriocero.blogspot.com/>

Session 2: Draft BAT/BEP Guidance Document for the Reduction of Mercury Releases from Waste Management

18. In Session 2 (Draft BAT/BEP Guidance Document for the Reduction of Mercury Releases from Waste Management, herein after referred to as “the Draft BAT/BEP Guidance Document”), the secretariat introduced the Draft BAT/BEP Guidance Document which was prepared based on the comments and recommendations made at the previous meetings of this Partnership Area and the Partnership Advisory Group (PAG) in March/April in 2009. The participants discussed how the Draft BAT/BEP Guidance Document could be improved so that it could meet the need of developing countries. For establishing a take-back programme, involvement of a whole chain (not only manufactures but also importers, retailers, and municipalities) was considered to be important. The usage of terms such as landfills and long-term storage should be clarified. Through discussions, the needs for BAT/BEP for measuring equipment at health care facilities were identified. Participants suggested more diverse cases of BAT/BEP be included in the draft guidance, which depends on availability of information. Necessity of coordination with other Partnerships, especially the Mercury-Containing Products Partnership in terms of upstream and downstream actions of products was again recognized. It was noted that the Mercury-Containing Products Partnership is preparing a table showing mercury contents in products and that it will share the table with the Waste Management Partnership as an input to this Draft BAT/BEP Guidance Document. Participants were asked to provide further comments within the next two weeks, and the meeting secretariat will revise the draft based on the comments and invite the participants and the Partners of this Partnership Area for further review.

Session 3: Current Status and Future Directions of Activities under the Waste Management Partnership

19. During Session 3 (Current Status and Future Directions of Activities under the Waste Management Partnership), the participants welcomed the increased number of Partners from 12 to 27 within one year. Challenges identified by the participants in further promoting activities under the Waste Management Partnership Area were awareness raising though more enhanced information campaign and expansion of replicating lessons learnt from projects implemented. For the former, each country was encouraged to utilize information materials prepared by UNEP Chemicals to apply in their countries. Needs for continuous information exchange among Partners or in regions were also identified. The participants discussed a resource person list and agreed to apply a self-nomination and screening process; details will be elaborated among the participants. As for the indicators to monitor the progress of this Partnership Area, they should be measurable, relevant to objectives, and selected from viewpoints of process and outcome.
20. Topics in Session 3 included discussion on possible collaboration with other Partnership

Areas, especially Mercury-Containing Products and Mercury Supply and Storage Partnership Areas. Brief summaries of presentations on different Partnerships are as follows.

21. Mr. Thomas Groeneveld of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representing the Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area presented the overall objectives and emerging issues for this Partnership Area. He also discussed core project areas (e.g., health care facilities, schools, inventories and risk management, and retirement, collection and management of mercury-containing products) and potential opportunities for collaboration with the Waste Management Partnership Area.
22. Dr. Desiree Narvaez, UNEP Chemicals, presented the “UNEP Global Partnership on Supply and Storage”, on behalf of the Partnership lead, the Zero Mercury Working Group. An understanding of global trade flows is crucial to Partnership efforts. The Partnership aims to reduce by 50% mercury supply by 2013 from the baseline in 2005. Among its activities are UNEP mercury storage projects in the Asia Pacific and in Latin America and the Caribbean. While the US and the EU have mercury export ban legislations with storage obligation, there is the need to assist developing countries to deal with their excess supply. She informed the meeting that the Partnership is developing a document on a decision-making framework and on storage options that is being planned to inform the participants at INC (mercury negotiations).
23. Following this presentation, Mr. Takeshi Yasuma, representative of the Zero Mercury Working Group, the interim lead for the Supply and Storage Partnership Area, commented that phase-out of primary mining, export ban and provision of long-term storage are key measures to reduce the global mercury supply. He also stressed that Japan, as a country that experienced the Minamata tragedy, should become the third global power to ban mercury export following the European Union and the United States.
24. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler, UNEP Chemicals, in her presentation addressed the four remaining Partnership areas, namely ASGM, chlor-alkali, coal combustion, and air transport and fate research. According to UNEP’s information, 45% of mercury emissions are from coal combustion. In order to better address this source, a project has been carried out which is funded by the European Commission and implemented by UNEP in China, India, Russia, and South Africa, the main coal users. She highlighted possibilities for cooperation such as between the Draft BAT/BEP Guidance Document from this Partnership Area and the flue gas cleaning part of the Coal Combustion Partnership. The reports received from the Chlor-alkali Partnership indicate a decline in plants relying on mercury technologies and more efficient processes (less mercury used per ton of chlorine produced). The main challenge in the chlor-alkali sector remains with the disposal of excess mercury. ASGM remains a challenge due to its decentralized nature and difficulties to introduce advanced techniques coupled with severe possible socio-economic impacts. For the Air Transport and Fate Partnership, she pointed to the Web Page maintained by the Italian National

Research Council. Finally, she called the attention of the participants to the draft of the “Paragraph 29 Study”, which was mandated by GC 25 decision; a draft is available at the UNEP Mercury Web Page and open for comments until 15 April 2010.

25. Following these presentations, the participants identified possible collaboration areas with other Partnerships as the followings:

<Product>

- Coordinate activities (e.g. input to and utilization of Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines and BAT/BEP Guidance Document)
- Identify and design joint projects to meet objectives of the two Partnerships
- Enhance communication (attending meetings)

<Supply and Storage>

- Input to and usage of Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines and BAT/BEP Guidance Document
- (Identification of gaps of two Partnerships)

26. Based on the discussions in Session 3, the participants agreed on revision of the existing business plan from the following points:

- Organize the activities listed in the business plan in accordance with stages of waste management
- Reorganize and add if necessary indicators to evaluate progress
- Include projects presented in this meeting
- Update of the projects
- Collaboration with other Partnership

It was agreed that the meeting secretariat would draft the revised business plan based on the discussions in this meeting and that it would be shared with relevant stakeholders for comments.

Closing Session

27. In the closing session, Chair thanked all the participants for their contributions and efforts that led to the success of this meeting. Participants agreed to circulate the chair’s summary to the Partnership Advisory Group meeting to be held in September this year.

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

2nd Waste Management Partnership Area Meeting

Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, March 9th

Time	Topic	Speaker
09:00-09:30	Registration	
Opening		
09:30-09:35	Opening Address by the Chairperson	Chairperson
09:35-09:40	Opening Address by the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan	Dr. Norihisa Hara, Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MOEJ)
09:40-09:50	Background, objective of the meeting and adoption of agenda	Mr. Takeshi Sekiya, MOEJ
Session 1: Activities for the Reduction of Mercury Releases from Waste Management		
(1) Activities at the International Level		
09:50-10:35	Mercury Waste Management Related Activities by UNEP Chemicals	Dr. Heidelore Fiedler, UNEP Chemicals
	Mercury-Containing Waste: Capacity Building & Institutionalization	Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon, UNEP-International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC)
	Mercury Waste Management Related Activities under the Basel Convention	Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Secretariat of the Basel Convention
10:35-10:50	Coffee break	
(2) Activities at the National/Regional Level		
10:50-12:35	Mercury issue in health-care waste management in Kiribati	Mr. Farran Redfern, Kiribati
	Mercury Containing Waste Management in China	Dr. Xuemei Zhu, China
	Activities under the UNEP Waste Management Project	Mr. Sambo Sarun, Cambodia
	National Action Plan on Primary Mercury Mining in Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Kubanycbek Noruzbaev, Kyrgyzstan
	Mercury Dental Amalgam Collection and Recovery	Mr. Thomas Groeneveld, USA
	Waste Florescent Lamp Management in Thailand	Mr. Patarapol Tularak, Thailand
	Collection and Recycling of Battery	Mr. Jorge Gabriel Conte Burrell, Grupo Parques Nacionales Panama (NGO)
12:35-13:35	Lunch	
13:35-14:35	Mercury Containing Medical Waste	Dr. M. Subba Rao, India
	Collection and Recycling of Measuring Devices or Medical Waste	Atty. Juan Miguel Cuna, the Philippines
	Implementation of Health Care Waste Management plan (HCWMP) in Nigeria	Dr. Livinus Nnamdi Nwankwo, Nigeria
	Metallic Mercury Storage Possibilities/Options	Dr. Thomas Brassler, Germany

Time	Topic	Speaker
14:35-14:50	Coffee break	
14:50-15:45	Discussion on interlinkages	
Session 2: Draft BAT/BEP Guidance for the Reduction of Mercury Releases from Waste Management		
15:45-17:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft BAT/BEP Guidance Discussions on Draft of BAT/BEP Guidance 	MOEJ, Meeting Secretariat
17:45-18:00	Summary of Day 1	Chairperson
18:30-20:30	Reception hosted by MOEJ	

Day 2: Wednesday, March 10th

Time	Topic	Speaker
09:00-09:15	(As part of Session 1) Mercury Containing Waste Management in Syria	Eng. Eyad Ibrahim Wajih, Syria
Session 3: Current Status and Future Directions of Activities under the Waste Management Partnership		
09:15-09:30	Report on Current Status and Future Directions of Activities under the Waste Management Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current status and challenges regarding the activities under the Waste Management Partnership Review of comments from the Partnership Advisory Group Meeting Discussion on creation of resource person list 	Meeting Secretariat
09:30-09:45	Discussion on Current Status and Future Directions	
09:45-10:15	Collaboration Possibilities with Other Partnership Areas	
	(1) Mercury-Containing Product Partnership Area	Mr. Thomas Groeneveld, USA
	(2) Supply and Storage Area	Dr. Desiree M. Narvaez, UNEP Chemicals
	(3) Other Areas	Dr. Heidelore Fiedler, UNEP Chemicals
10:15-10:30	Discussion on Collaboration Possibilities with Other Partnership Areas	
10:30-10:50	Discussions on Revision of Business Plan	
10:50-11:20	Coffee Break	
Closing Session		
11:20-12:00	Review of Chair's Summary	Chairperson
12:00-12:10	Closing Remarks	Mr. Teruyoshi Hayamizu, MOEJ
12:10-13:10	Lunch	
Field visit		
13:30-17:30	Visit to Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Plant in Tsurumi, Yokohama	

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
2nd Waste Management Partnership Area Meeting
Participant List

1. International Organizations

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