National Action Plan on Primary Mercury Mining in Kyrgyzstan

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International developments and national action

- UNEP Governing Council’s decisions to address mercury have led to action in Kyrgyzstan;
- Kyrgyzstan has received international assistance from Switzerland, UNITAR, UNEP, the United States of America and Norway to-date, under the Global Mercury Partnership;
- These international developments have assisted the State Agency on Protection of Environment and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic to raise awareness in Kyrgyzstan about the global situation;
Action Plan development

- In 2007, UNITAR approached the Kyrgyz Government regarding possibility of an Action Plan project;
- An April, 2008 mission to Kyrgyzstan from UNITAR, UNEP and Switzerland raised awareness about the project among government officials and other stakeholders;
- Memorandum of Agreement was signed between UNITAR and the Kyrgyz Government in August, 2008;
- The development of a technical assessment, socio-economic study and action plan commenced after that time;
Action Plan Development (cont’d)

- Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on March 10, 2009
  #101-r: “An Inter-ministerial Working Group on developing of a Plan of measures on the issues of production of primary mercury and reduction of its impact on the environment in the Kyrgyz Republic”
- A series of interviews also took place among workers and residents of Khaidarkan
Action Plan Development (cont’d)
Composition of Inter-Ministerial Working Group

- Lead Agency: State Agency on Protection of Environment and Forestry
- Key Ministries:
  - Ministry of Industry, Energy and Fuel Resources
  - State Agency on Geology and Mineral Resources
  - Ministry of Health
  - Ministry of Emergencies
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
  - National Statistics Commission
  - Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
  - Batken Oblast Administration
  - Khaidarkan Mercury Mining Complex
  - Kyrgyz Mining Association
  - State Committee on State Property
Action Plan Goals

- Identify activities to eliminate the hazardous impact of the Khaidarkan mine on the environment;
- Elaborate, with the aim of improving the legal basis related to mining in Kyrgyzstan;
- Address issues related to the social and economic development of Khaidarkan community;
- Explore issues related to two options:
  - Upgrading and improvement of production or;
  - Reorientation of mercury mining activities at Khaidarkan towards other less environmentally harmful economic activities
- Raise public awareness on the risks related to primary mercury production
Action Plan Development (cont’d)

- Technical and economical information summarized in Technical Assessment;
- Socio-Economic information also addressed;
- Action Plan followed methodology developed by UNITAR for country use;
- Draft Action Plan reviewed by Inter-Ministerial Working Group (July, 2009 National Forum);
- Action Plan officially endorsed by the Office of the Prime Minister on 12 October 2009
Main Results/Options

- The Action Plan recommended actions to lead to the consideration of closing the Khaidarkan Mine;
- Various options to facilitate the economic development and environmental/health protection in the community/region were also developed;
Main Results/Options

- These options include:
  - Development of lower seams of the “Novoye” deposit containing fluorite, antimony and some mercury;
  - Commissioning of a Cluster Gold Extracting Plant (GEP);
  - Production of cement from cinder resulting from mercury manufacture process;
  - Production of the gypsum building plaster;
Main Results/Options (cont’d)

- Bentonite Production;
- Assessment of an actual condition of the environment of territory of the Khaidarkan and the former mercury productions (Chuvay, Ulu-Too, etc.);
- Construction of a factory for fire-resistant bricks and magnesite powder production;
- Remediation of sludge sedimentation ponds and sediment bowls with high concentration of mercury containing wastes.
Conclusions and Recommendations

The Khaidarkan mine is faced with several pressures that put its future into question. These include:

- Decreasing ore quality;
- Limited resources;
- Difficult conditions for mining mercury ore;
- Awareness of developments at the international level on a legally binding instrument;

However, the Khaidarkan Plant Administration asks the Government to assistance and benefits in order to increase mercury production.
In light of these developments, a decision to address the future of the mine through the identification of alternatives has been made by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic;

Alternatives have been developed for consideration by the international community for advice/support in an international forum in Bangkok in October 18, 2009;

This international forum is a significant next step for ensuring the protection of the environment/human health from primary mercury mining;

There was requested an assistance in recovering mercury-polluted and polluted with toxic metals mining areas such as Chauvay, Ulu-Too, Symap and Khaidarkan.
THANK YOU!

Благодарю за внимание!