Mercury Waste Management
Related Activities by UNEP
Chemicals

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Coverage

• Negotiation for legally binding instrument ("UNEP mercury negotiation team");
• UNEP mercury waste partnership activities (part of UNEP’s Global Mercury partnership activities; “UNEP mercury and metals team”);
• Progress report on UNEP’s mercury waste project
Mercury Negotiations

- At its 25th session, the Governing Council agreed to elaborate a legally binding instrument on mercury (decision 25/5);
- UNEP to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) with the mandate to prepare the legally binding instrument, commencing its work in 2010;
- 1st INC - Stockholm, Sweden, 7-11 June 2010;
- In preparation, a preparatory meeting was held in Bangkok from 19 to 23 October 2009;
- Regional meetings were held/are being held.
- Previously, two ad-hoc Open Ended Working Group meetings to address the global issue of mercury were held:
  - Bangkok, Thailand, November 2007
  - Nairobi, Kenya, 6 to 10 October 2008
INC1

- 7-11 June 2010, Stockholm, Upplands Väsby at Scandic Infra City
  [http://www.respoint.se/itp/event/inc1/9475](http://www.respoint.se/itp/event/inc1/9475);
- Invitation letters and nomination forms have been sent out to official contact points;
- Options for regional consultations on Sunday, 6 June 2010;
- UNEP Chemicals to organize an information session on Sunday morning, 6 June 2010;
- WebSite established at [http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/INC/INC1/INC1_homepage.htm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/INC/INC1/INC1_homepage.htm)
Background

• The Global UNEP Chemicals project on mercury waste management and the regional SBC projects on mercury waste management were jointly developed and will be implemented in close cooperation and consultation between Chemicals Branch and SBC;

• They contribute to the priority area on “harmful substances and hazardous waste” under UNEP’s medium-term strategy (MTS).
**Mercury Waste Management Partnership**

- UNEP Global Mercury Partnership established the waste management partnership area;
- Lead country: Japan – Mr. Takeshi Sekiya;
- Objectives: Minimize and, where feasible, eliminate unintentional mercury releases to air, water, and land from waste containing mercury and mercury compounds by following a lifecycle management approach;
- Partnership provides the framework for UNEP’s global project on “Management of mercury and mercury-containing waste”;
- Business Plan for Mercury Waste Partnership developed at 1st face-to-face partnership meeting (13 March 2009).
http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Sector-Specific-Information/Waste_management.htm

Waste management

The objective of this waste partnership is:

- Minimize and, where feasible, eliminate unintentional mercury releases to air, water, and land from mercury waste* by following a lifecycle management approach.

Activities within the partnership area and other useful information

Business plan

* "mercury waste" refers to obsolete mercury, waste containing or contaminated with mercury
Mercury Waste Management Project

- Project funded by Government of Norway (NF 10)
- Period: 8/2008-06/2010; Budget: USD 499,000

**Objectives:**
- To increase the technical capacity to manage mercury waste in an environmentally sound manner;
- Contribution to the further development of the Draft Basel Technical Guidelines (⇒ OEWG, May 2010)

**Participating developing countries:**
- Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Pakistan, Philippines (NF), and Chile (Hg-TF)
- Sister project in Latin America by SBC (Argentina, Costa Rica, Uruguay → SBC presentation).
Waste management project (2008-2010)

This project, dealing with the management of mercury and mercury-containing waste, will contribute to the UNEP priority area on harmful substances and hazardous waste under its Medium Term Strategy with the ultimate goal of minimizing the impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste to the environment and human beings. Specifically, the project supports the UNEP medium term strategy objective by reducing releases of mercury into the environment and reducing the exposure of workers and communities to mercury and mercury-containing waste. The objectives of the project, which is executed by Chemicals Branch and funded by the Government of Norway, are:

(1) to increase the technical capacity of selected countries and other stakeholders in assessing, managing and reducing the risks to human health and the environment posed by mercury and mercury-containing waste, and in doing so,

(2) to test the applicability of the Draft Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Mercury Waste.

This project builds on the results of the national mercury inventories that have been developed using the "UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases." Participating countries are Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Pakistan, and Philippines.

This project will be complemented by a "sister" project presently developed by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention involving four countries from the Latin American region (GRULAC).

- Activities. Inception workshop 2009: Draft agenda, Report and presentations
- Project document: Project approved, Annex (country information)
- National workshops and activities:
  - Burkina Faso national workshop 2009
  - Cambodia national workshop 2009
  - Chile national workshop 2009
  - Pakistan national workshop 2009
  - Philippines national workshop 2010
Activities under the UNEP Hg Waste Project

1. Review of the national mercury inventories;
2. Prioritization of mercury sources and the corresponding sectors;
3. Development of a national mercury waste management plan;
4. ESM application in selected sources and sectors;
5. Sampling and mercury analysis of environmental and human samples;
6. Final national reports and final project report; lessons learned; evaluation of project.
Burkina Faso

- Project manager and team assigned;
- National workshop held in Ouagadougou, 9-11 November 2009;
- Workshop report available in French;
- 45 participants
- Workshop included site visit to the gold mine at Bouda (100 km from capital)
Cambodia

- Inception WS, June/July 2009
- Identification of sectors and sources of Hg release
- Draft waste management plan available

⇒ country presentation
Chile

- Coordination committee formally established
- National Workshop held 2-3 November 2009
- Hg analysis by CENMA
- 4 national coordination meetings held
- Draft waste management plan available
- Information workshop for Andacello mine, remediation plan, 19 March 2010
Se Inicia Proyecto de Cooperación Internacional para la Gestión de Residuos con Mercurio

- Presentaciones Día 1 (2 de noviembre): Plan de Gestión Ambientalmente Racional de Residuos con contenido de Mercurio
- Presentaciones Día 2 (3 de noviembre): Estudio de Prefactibilidad Técnico-Económica de Remediación de un relave minero en Andacollo

Los días 2 y 3 de noviembre se realizó en la ciudad de Santiago, el taller de inicio del Proyecto "Gestión Ambientalmente Racional de Residuos con contenido de Mercurio", que se enmarca en el Plan Nacional para la Gestión de los Riesgos del Mercurio, aprobado por el Consejo Directivo de CONAMA, en agosto de este año.

Al taller asistió un representante del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente, PNUMA, el Director de CONAMA Región de Coquimbo y representantes de organismos públicos, empresas privadas de carácter productivo, nacionales e internacionales con inversiones en Chile, organizaciones gremiales, centros de investigación, y ONGs ambientales vinculadas.

Durante el Taller, se revisó en forma preliminar el borrador de un Plan de Gestión de Residuos y se confirmó la mesa interinstitucional de implementación y seguimiento de este proyecto.

A continuación ponemos a disposición de la ciudadanía, las presentaciones de la jornada:

Presentaciones Día 1 (2 de noviembre): Plan de Gestión Ambientalmente Racional de Residuos con contenido de Mercurio

PARTE 1

- Descargar Archivo: [pdf, 237.4kB] Introducción proyecto y programa Hg_UNEP.
- Descargar Archivo: [pdf, 535.4kB] Óvniue Basle TG mg waste, PNUMA.
- Descargar Archivo: [pdf, 937.7kB] Proyecto Gestión Residuos mg genérico, CONAMA.
Pakistan

- National inception WS, 30 July 2009
- Final WS planned for late May 2010

Priority areas identified:
1. Chlor-alkali sector
2. Dental amalgam
3. Light sources
The Philippines

1st National Workshop held February 16, 2010

Priority Areas Identified:
1. Primary virgin metal production (mining)
2. Consumer products with intentional use of mercury in industrial processes
3. Other intentional use (e.g., thermometers)
4. Wastewater
5. Extraction and use of fuel and energy resources
The criteria used are:

1. Estimated release quantities from sources
2. Comparative health risks
3. Technical, financial, and organizational capacity to implement the ESM
4. Willingness of the sector to implement ESM
5. Barrier to implementation
6. Possibility of institutionalizing a legal framework
7. Cost-effectiveness
8. Priorities in the national poverty reduction
9. Opportunities for outreach
10. Awareness-raising and training

⇒ country presentation
Next Steps

- Finalization of mercury analyses and reporting of results;
- Development of waste management plan;
- Results workshops at national level;
- Report of the international consultant;
- Synthesis of experiences with Draft Technical Guidelines on ESM of Mercury Waste and feedback to SBC;
- Final results and lesson learned workshop (May 2010);
- Publication of final project report.
References

- Mercury waste partnership:
  http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Sector-Specific-Information/Waste_management.htm

- Mercury waste management project:
  http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Sector-Specific-Information/Waste_management_project.htm

- Draft Basel Guidelines on ESM of Mercury Waste:
  http://www.basel.int/techmatters/mercury/guidelines/010110.doc