Mercury Storage-Supply Partnership

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UNEP Global Mercury Partnership on Waste
Tokyo, Japan
9-10 March 2010
Trade Flows set the Agenda
Supply and Storage work

Figure 4  Commodity mercury shipments among world regions, 2004

## Global Mercury Supply context (2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main mercury sources</th>
<th>Metric tonnes/year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary mercury mining</td>
<td>1300-1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By-product mercury recovery</td>
<td>400-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlor-alkali facilities</td>
<td>700-900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling of mercury catalysts, wastes and products</td>
<td>600-800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercially available mercury stocks</td>
<td>As needed (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>3100-3900+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Measures to Reduce Mercury Supply

- Ban on new primary mercury mining, and phase out existing mercury mining
- Collect mercury from major sources (e.g. chlor-alkali and by-product mercury) and sequester it from the global marketplace ("long-term storage")
- Mercury export bans
Kyrgyz Republic Primary Mercury Mine Closure Project

• Initiated in December 2007 through funding from Switzerland and the United States.

• In October 2009, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic announced willingness to consider closure of the mine if a number of outstanding issues could be addressed.

• UNEP and UNITAR working with the Kyrgyz Republic and the international community to design a framework for a mine closure project.
Creation of new partnership area on supply and storage

- Initiated during Partnership Advisory Group in April 2009:
  - Purpose is to enhance the on-going work in these areas, identified as a priority in GC Decision 25/5, paragraph 34.
  - Zero Mercury Working Group agreed to serve as interim chair with understanding that government lead or co-lead would be identified.

- Proposed business plan (updated version of earlier UNEP draft) drafted in consultation with stakeholders.
  - Anticipates limited life of partnership in deference to anticipated treaty obligations and governance structure.
  - Therefore, focus on near term priority activities.
Draft business plan

Partnership goal:

• reduce mercury supply to 50% by 2013 (from 2005 baseline)
• need 600 ton mercury reduction beyond EU/USA export bans.

Reduction opportunities include:

• additional mercury export restrictions
• storage of chlor-alkali mercury, and
• less primary mercury mining.

Source: Center for Science and the Environment, New Dehli, “Down to Earth”

An Open Mercury Cell Chlor Alkali Plant
Regional, country initiatives

- A number of countries/regions have adopted legislation or enacted regulatory measures to reduce mercury supply from being traded.
  - EU Hg export ban by 2011, phase out mining.
  - U.S. Hg export ban by 2013.
  - Hg export bans in Scandinavian countries.
- The EU and US are taking steps to store Hg.
- Not all countries need permanent Hg storage. Hg storage is most important for those countries/regions that have much excess mercury supply.
Regional mercury storage projects

- Storage projects in the Asia-Pacific (AP) and the Latin America and Caribbean regions (LAC) aimed at reducing excess mercury supply.
- Meetings co-sponsored by UNEP & ZMWG, supported by Japan, Norway.
- Assessment/trade flow reports
- Project executive committees
- Storage option preferable to re-entry of elemental mercury into the global marketplace.
- Options analysis studies
Next steps on supply and storage

• Encourage further progress on the two regional storage projects and Kyrgyzstan primary mining project already underway.
• Collaborate on funding opportunities as they arise.
• Revise draft business plan based on input received.
• Invite potential partners to join the new partnership area and identify a government lead or co-lead.
Global Hg supply reductions & storage

- Investing in supply, trade and storage initiatives is more efficient and effective than trying to control mercury release.
- Storage options for large mercury quantities should be accessible globally.
  - Must be accompanied by regional and/or national legal and regulatory measures.
  - The US and EU have adopted policies to phase out exports, store surplus mercury.
  - There is a need for assistance in developing storage capacity in certain regions.
- Not all countries need permanent mercury storage. Storage is most important for those countries/regions that have excess mercury supply.
Global Hg supply reductions & storage

• INC to develop provisions to reduce the supply of mercury and enhance the capacity for its environmentally sound storage in its overall approach to mercury (paragraph 27.b of Decision 25/5).

• INC deliberations expected to:
  – Address trade related issues.
  – Develop effective universal global coordination, action, and enforcement mechanisms.
  – Assist in developing storage capacity in certain regions.
  – Global treaty embodying storage will ensure consistent & sustained national government policies.