

Overview of questionnaire survey on the needs on mercury waste management

Background

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) aims to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land. With close to 200 partners to date from governments, Inter-governmental organizations, NGOs, industry and academia, the GMP focuses on supporting timely ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention, providing state of the art knowledge and science and raising awareness towards global action on mercury. The GMP currently has eight identified priorities for action- partnership areas-, amongst which one dedicated to the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes, the Mercury Waste Management Area (WMA)¹.

Since its establishment in 2008, the WMA has undertaken various activities to address challenges related to mercury waste management, mainly through information sharing on technologies and practices.

According to Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) reports, many developing countries recognize that the management of mercury waste is one of the most prominent challenges to be prioritized for action². Although challenges or needs related to mercury waste management have been widely acknowledged at both national and regional levels, further information will be useful on where the needs are, including specific types or treatment operations and processes of mercury waste (e.g., separation at source / collection / labelling / segregation / storage / transportation / treatment /final disposal) and relevant measures to achieve the environmentally sound management.

The WMA is generally of the view that, among others, a better understanding of the needs on mercury waste management in developing countries is important in order to provide corresponding solutions for challenges faced. Therefore, this questionnaire survey aims to collect information on some of the major challenges on mercury waste management to explore future activities that could be undertaken in the context of the WMA.

¹ More information can be found at : <https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/>

² Analysis of national priorities from Minamata Initial Assessments
http://mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/News/ICMGP_presentation_on_MIA.pdf

Objectives

The objectives of this questionnaire are :

- I. to identify stakeholders, regions and countries that have challenges in the management of mercury waste;
- II. to identify specific types of treatment operations and processes of mercury waste and relevant measures which require enhanced actions for the environmentally sound management; and
- III. to identify needs for information and services that the WMA may provide.

Disclaimer and contact

Information provided to WMA through this questionnaire will be used **only** for the purpose of exploring future activities within the context of the WMA and will not be disclosed to any third party without individual consent. Should you have any inquiries about this questionnaire survey, please feel free to contact the Secretariat of WMA (wastemanagement@exri.co.jp).