



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES MONA CAMPUS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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OUR REFERENCE

November 9, 2021

Head, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division
United Nations Environment Programme
Palais des Nations
8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Re: Application for partnership areas

Dear Sr/Madam

This letter is to express my interest in becoming a partner in the UN Global Mercury Partnership. I would like to be representative of my organization - the department of physics. I intend to contribute to the following partnership areas – (1) Mercury in products and (2) Mercury air transport and fate research.

I am presently a lecturer/researcher at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus. I completed my PhD work on “the assessment of prenatal mercury exposure using the placenta: implications for maternal fish consumption in the Caribbean”. Since then, my research focus is primarily on the comprehensive assessment of mercury exposure in the Caribbean. I have published articles on mercury exposure from fish consumption, industrial activities and the use of skin lightening products[†]. I was also an academic coordinator for the PAHO virtual course on mercury effects on human health, 2019 edition.

After presenting my research at the UNEP webinar on "Mercury in skin-lightening products: Towards the 2020 deadline", I was encouraged by the positive support from other participants. Therefore, I believe that becoming a partner with this group will benefit my country and institution. I think that my research output can provide critical resources from the Caribbean perspective towards the Minamata Convention on the elimination and reduction of mercury in the environment. I intend to contribute

methodology and results from my research towards this partnership areas. I also expect to build collaboration with different partners investigating the possible increase in mercury in fish and climate change in the Caribbean.

I hope to receive a favourable response.

Regards

Phylicia Ricketts, PhD

Lecturer

The University of the West Indies, Mona campus

†Publications

1. **Ricketts, P.**, Voutchkov, M., Chan, L. (2020) Risk benefit assessment for total mercury, arsenic, selenium and omega 3 fatty acids exposure from fish consumption in Jamaica. *Biological Trace Element Research*. 197 (11) DOI: 10.1007/s12011-019-01965-3. Impact factor 2.63, citation 6
2. **Ricketts, P.**, Boischio, A., Voutchkov, M., Gordon, A., Knight, C., (2020). Mercury exposure associated with the use of skin lightening products in Jamaica. *Journal of Health and Pollution*. 10(26):200601 DOI: 10.5696/2156-9614-10.26.200601. citation 2
3. **Ricketts, P.** Fletcher, H., Voutchkov, M. (2017). Factors associated with mercury levels in human placenta and the relationship to neonatal anthropometry in Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. *Reproductive Toxicology*.71. DOI: 10.1016/j.reprotox.2017.04.008. Impact factor 3.12, citation 1
4. **Ricketts, P.**, Basu, N., Fletcher, H., Voutchkov, M., Bassaw, B., (2016) Assessment of fish consumption and mercury exposure among pregnant women in Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. *Chemosphere* 164:462-468. DOI: 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2016.08.054 Impact factor 5.77, citation 14
5. **Ricketts, P.**, Fletcher, H., Voutchkov, M., (2015) Impacts of maternal fish consumption and natural environment on placental mercury levels in Jamaica. *West Indian Medical Journal*



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet provides an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at:

web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership

GOAL OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is 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.

PARTNERSHIP AREAS

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve its goal.

Initiated in 2005¹, the Partnership today focuses its work on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; on providing state of the art knowledge and science on mercury; and on delivering outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.

¹ UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9

The Partnership is structured around eight areas:

- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- Mercury cell chlor-alkali production
- Mercury air transport and fate research
- Mercury in products
- Mercury releases from coal combustion
- Mercury waste management
- Mercury supply and storage
- Mercury releases from the cement industry

OUR PARTNERS

Over 200 partners from governments, IGOs, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions:

- Support the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of Partnership activities.
- Network with other organizations, agencies, entities and individuals addressing mercury issues.

BECOMING A PARTNER

To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal. The letter should also specify how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the Partnership.

Together with this letter, UNEP requests interested entities or individuals to also complete and submit the registration form (see reverse). Participation in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP. Partners' letters of support will be made public through the UNEP's website.

SUPPORT LETTER AND REGISTRATION FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:

**Head, Chemicals and Health Branch
Economy Division
United Nations Environment Programme**
Palais des Nations
8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
E-mail: metals@un.org

