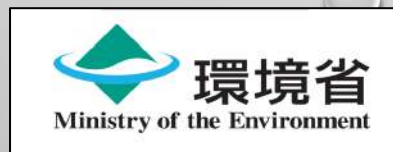


GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

WASTE MANAGEMENT AREA MEETING


10 October 2023, 13:00 – 14:30 (CET)





OPENING

Opening remarks by the Area Lead

- Dr. Asari Misuzu Asari
 - Mr. Motoharu Yatani (MOEJ)
- 

Program

13:00 – 13:05	Opening remarks	Dr. Misuzu Asari and Mr. Motoharu Yatani (MOEJ)
13:05 – 13:15	Update of WMA activities	Takashi Nishida (EXRI)
13:15 – 13:20	Introduction of new members	Dr. Misuzu Asari
13:20 – 13:35	Update of GMP activities	Imelda Dossou Etui (GMP Secretariat)
13:35 – 13:55	Update of work on mercury waste fact sheet	Nicolas Humez (ISWA)
13:55 – 14:10	Insights and challenges from the implementation of SIP Project in Jordan	Reema Mustafa (Ministry of Environment, Jordan)
14:10 – 14:20	Key issues and developments towards COP 5	Eisaku Toda (Minamata Convention Secretariat)
14:20 – 14:25	Any other business	
14:25 – 14:30	Closing remarks	Dr. Misuzu Asari

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UPDATE OF WMA ACTIVITIES

(TAKASHI NISHIDA (EXRI))

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Update of Waste Management Area activities

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
2nd Mercury Waste Management Area Meeting 2023
10 October 2023

Overview of the Global Mercury Partnership and the Waste Management Area

- The Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) is a voluntary partnership established in 2005 in response to the decision at the governing council of UNEP, aiming at protecting human and environment from mercury.
- The Partnership is structured around eight priorities for action (Partnership Areas*). The area dedicated to the environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury is the **Waste Management Area (WMA)**.

Partnership area

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

Objective of the WMA

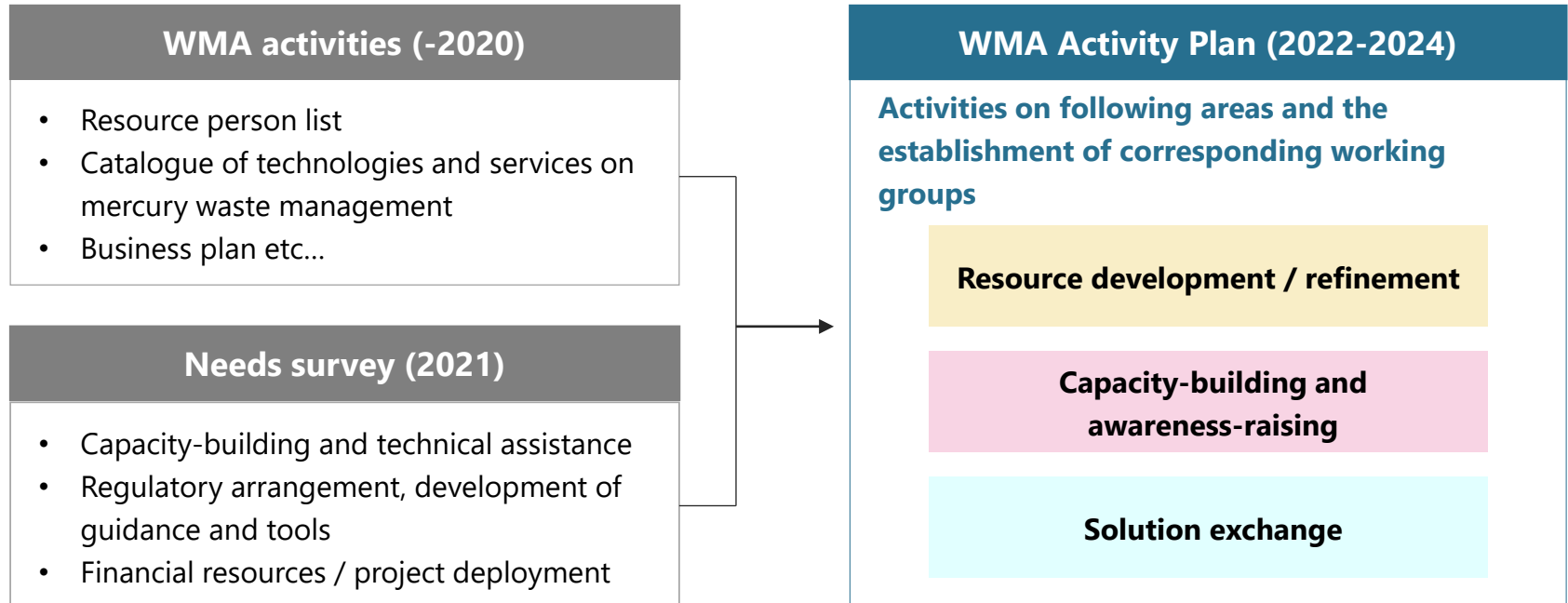
"To promote the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes by developing and disseminating relevant materials, enhancing capacities and awareness and providing specific solutions at the global, regional, national, and local levels."

Structure and characteristics of the WMA

- Lead by Dr. Misuzu Asari and Ministry of the Environment Japan, supported by EX Research Institute (WMA Sec.).
- Largest areas among eight partnership areas
- Consists of various stakeholders (governments, IGOs, NGOs, Industries, Academia) from all regions.

Overview of the Global Mercury Partnership and the Waste Management Area

- Activities of the WMA are guided by “the WMA Activity Plan (2022-2024)”, which was developed in consultation with partners of the WMA, taking into account its activities before 2020 and needs survey on mercury waste management conducted in 2021.



Activity of the WMA-Working Groups

- Members of the working groups (consisting of WMA partners; self-nominated) undertakes relevant activities in line with the workplan developed by WGs considering the WMA Activity Plan (2022-2024).

Working Group 1

Resource development / refinement

- List of facilities on mercury wastes treatment
- Factsheet on the management of certain types of mercury wastes
- Review Resource Person List with expertise on mercury wastes management
- Training materials

Working Group 2

Capacity-building and awareness-raising

- Webinar in cooperation with other Partnership areas
- Compilation of good practices on mercury wastes management
- Workshop for specific sectors and stakeholders

Working Group 3

Solution exchange

- Platform for matchmaking between stakeholders in needs and solution-providers

Activity of the WMA-Working Groups

- WG1 has mainly been working on the development of factsheet which provides practical guidance to practitioners on how to handle specific types of mercury wastes. WG1 has (almost) finalized a factsheet for non-electronic measuring devices containing mercury.

Working Group 1

Resource development / refinement

- List of facilities on mercury wastes treatment
- Factsheet on the management of certain types of mercury wastes
- Review Resource Person List with expertise on mercury wastes management
- Training materials

Achievement so far

- Developed a template and identified priority mercury wastes for factsheets.
- Developed a factsheet for non-electronic measuring devices containing mercury.
- Considered a way to digitalize the catalogues on mercury waste management and other information including the mapping of mercury waste treatment facilities and others



Potential future actions

- Develop another set of factsheets.
- Consider ways and take actions to digitalize the catalogue and other information.

Activity of the WMA-Working Groups

- WG1 has mainly been working on the development of factsheet which provides practical guidance to practitioners on how to handle specific types of mercury wastes. WG1 has (almost) finalized a factsheet for non-electronic measuring devices containing mercury.

Factsheet for non-electronic measuring devices

- Introduction
- Impact on Health and the Environment
- Classification
- Temporary storage and storage pending treatment
- Environmentally sound treatment
- Traceability

Classification

Waste codes

Waste classification at the national level

Based on access to the Basel Convention, codes of HMAs necessary for identification under the following table

Code of HMAs	Code of HMAs
19 08 01 01	19 08 01 02
19 08 01 03	19 08 01 04
19 08 01 05	19 08 01 06
19 08 01 07	19 08 01 08
19 08 01 09	19 08 01 10
19 08 01 11	19 08 01 12
19 08 01 13	19 08 01 14
19 08 01 15	19 08 01 16
19 08 01 17	19 08 01 18
19 08 01 19	19 08 01 20
19 08 01 21	19 08 01 22
19 08 01 23	19 08 01 24
19 08 01 25	19 08 01 26
19 08 01 27	19 08 01 28
19 08 01 29	19 08 01 30
19 08 01 31	19 08 01 32
19 08 01 33	19 08 01 34
19 08 01 35	19 08 01 36
19 08 01 37	19 08 01 38
19 08 01 39	19 08 01 40
19 08 01 41	19 08 01 42
19 08 01 43	19 08 01 44
19 08 01 45	19 08 01 46
19 08 01 47	19 08 01 48
19 08 01 49	19 08 01 50
19 08 01 51	19 08 01 52
19 08 01 53	19 08 01 54
19 08 01 55	19 08 01 56
19 08 01 57	19 08 01 58
19 08 01 59	19 08 01 60
19 08 01 61	19 08 01 62
19 08 01 63	19 08 01 64
19 08 01 65	19 08 01 66
19 08 01 67	19 08 01 68
19 08 01 69	19 08 01 70
19 08 01 71	19 08 01 72
19 08 01 73	19 08 01 74
19 08 01 75	19 08 01 76
19 08 01 77	19 08 01 78
19 08 01 79	19 08 01 80
19 08 01 81	19 08 01 82
19 08 01 83	19 08 01 84
19 08 01 85	19 08 01 86
19 08 01 87	19 08 01 88
19 08 01 89	19 08 01 90
19 08 01 91	19 08 01 92
19 08 01 93	19 08 01 94
19 08 01 95	19 08 01 96
19 08 01 97	19 08 01 98
19 08 01 99	19 08 01 00

Historical codes

Waste of HMAs are classified as hazardous waste due to their mercury content and their hazardous characteristics.

Health, Safety and Environment

Mercury is a highly toxic metal. It is a neurotoxin and can cause damage to the brain, kidneys, and other organs. It is also a reproductive toxin and can cause developmental delays in children. Mercury is also a carcinogen and can cause lung cancer. Mercury is also a pollutant and can cause environmental damage. Mercury is also a bioaccumulative toxin and can build up in the food chain.

Temporary storage & Storage pending treatment

Temporary storage and storage pending treatment are the most common ways to manage mercury waste. Temporary storage is the storage of mercury waste for a short period of time, usually less than 90 days. Storage pending treatment is the storage of mercury waste for a longer period of time, usually more than 90 days. Both temporary storage and storage pending treatment require the use of appropriate containers and labeling. Containers must be leak-proof and made of a material that is compatible with mercury. Labels must include the following information: the name of the waste, the quantity of the waste, the date of receipt, and the name of the generator. Containers must also be stored in a secure location, away from public access and away from water sources.

Environmentally sound treatment

Environmentally sound treatment of mercury waste involves the use of technologies that destroy the mercury or convert it into a less toxic form. Some of the most common technologies used for the treatment of mercury waste include: incineration, smelting, and chemical treatment. Incineration involves the combustion of mercury waste at high temperatures, which destroys the mercury and releases it as a gas. Smelting involves the heating of mercury waste in a furnace, which converts the mercury into a metal that can be recycled. Chemical treatment involves the reaction of mercury waste with a chemical that converts the mercury into a less toxic form.

Traceability

Traceability is the ability to track the movement of mercury waste from the point of generation to the point of treatment. This is done by using a system of labels and manifests. Labels must include the following information: the name of the waste, the quantity of the waste, the date of receipt, and the name of the generator. Manifests must include the following information: the name of the waste, the quantity of the waste, the date of receipt, the name of the generator, the name of the transporter, and the name of the treatment facility. Labels and manifests must be kept for a period of time specified in the Basel Convention, which is currently 5 years.

Activity of the WMA-Working Groups

- WG2 has mainly been working on organizing or contributing to webinars / events related to mercury wastes management in close cooperation with other partnership areas (product, supply and storage, chlor-alkali), secretariat of the Minamata Convention and others.

Working Group 2

Capacity-building and awareness-raising

- Webinar in cooperation with other Partnership areas
- Compilation of good practices on mercury wastes management
- Workshop for specific sectors and stakeholders

Achievement so far

- Organized or contributed to various webinars and events in cooperation with other partnership area and secretariat of the Minamata and BRS Conventions with support of the GMP secretariat in following areas.
 - ESM of lights containing mercury
 - Excess mercury from Chlor-alkali industries
 - Oil and gas etc...



Potential future actions

- Continue contributing to relevant events.

Activity of the WMA-Working Groups

- WG2 has mainly been working on organizing or contributing to webinars / events related to mercury wastes management in close cooperation with other partnership areas (product, supply and storage, chlor-alkali), secretariat of the Minamata Convention and others.

Side event at the BRS COP in June 2023

Title	Mercury waste management
Date	5 May 2023
Organized	Minamata Sec, Burkina Faso, Switzerland, BRS Sec, UNEP-GMP
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mercury waste thresholds• Technical guidelines on mercury wastes under the Basel Convention• Factsheet on mercury wastes• Mercury wastes in developing countries• Panel discussion

Virtual event on mercury from oil and gas sector

Title	Managing mercury along the oil and gas value chains: sharing of experience and best practices
Date	8 July 2023
Organized	UNEP-GMP (supply and storage/waste)
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global mercury hotspots• Mercury management in petroleum refining• Managing mercury waste from the oil and gas sector• ESM of mercury waste from the oil and gas

Activity of the WMA-Working Groups

- WG3 has successfully developed an operational manual and a leaflet for outreach.
- Further cooperation from partners are needed to transition to the pilot phase.

Working Group 3

Solution exchange

- Platform for matchmaking between stakeholders in needs and solution-providers

Achievement so far

- Developed a concept and operational manual on solution exchange
- Developed a leaflet for outreach



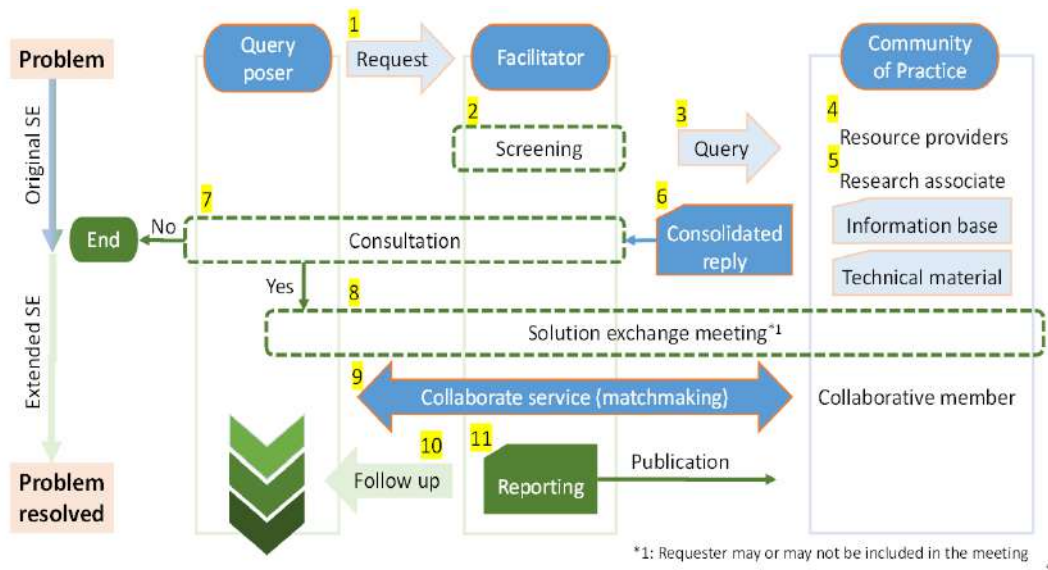
Potential future actions

- Find stakeholder who can contribute to the solution exchange platform for pilot phase

Activity of the WMA-Working Groups

- WG3 has successfully developed an operational manual and a leaflet for outreach.
- Further cooperation from partners are needed to transition to the pilot phase.

Concept of the solution-exchange platform



1. Query poser asks Solution Exchange (SE) for solutions.
2. Facilitator checks the request and sorts it into 3 streams.
3. Facilitator formulate a 'Query' and post it to the CoP.
4. Community members provides relevant information.
5. A survey undertaken to collect supplementary information.
6. Facilitator compiles information and prepares a Consolidated reply (CR).
7. Facilitator holds a consultation with requestor and presents CR.
8. Facilitator hold a Solution Exchange Meeting.
9. Matchmaking is offered to the query poser.
10. Facilitator periodically follows the progress and update the implementation status.
11. Pprocesses and results of the case are summarized for publication.

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INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Waste Management Area New Partners

Partner	Type	City/Country	Approval date
CLASP	NGO	Washington DC, USA	27.12.2022
Say No To Mercury	NGO	South Yarra, Australia	23.08.2023
Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America (CRBAS)	Intergovernmental Organisation	Argentina	21.09.2023
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Intergovernmental Organisation	Austria	21.09.2023
Development Indian Ocean Network (DION)	NGO	Vacoas, Mauritius	28.06.2023
The Impact Facility	NGO	Gloucestershire, UK	28.06.2023
Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Forestières, Togo	Government	Lome, Togo	23.03.2023
Asociación COLNODO	NGO	Bogota, Colombia	19.07.2022
BlackForest Solutions GmbH	Other (Consultancy)	Berlin, Germany	03.06.2022
Alchemy Mining Group, Inc.	Industry / private sector	Vancouver, Canada	12.05.2022
Qa3	Industry / private sector	Winchester, UK	12.05.2022



UPDATE OF GMP ACTIVITIES

**IMELDA DOSSOU ETUI
(GMP SECRETARIAT)**



© Juha Rönkänen

**UNEP
GLOBAL
MERCURY
PARTNERSHIP**

UN
environment
programme

**GLOBAL
MERCURY
PARTNERSHIP**

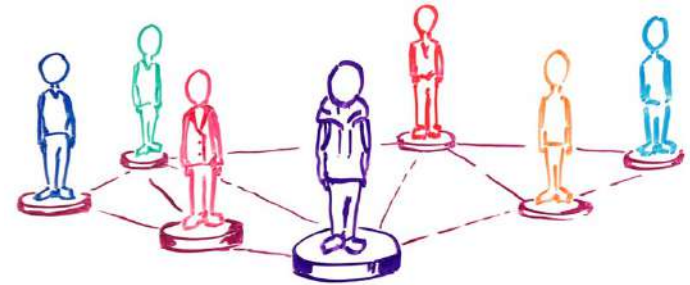
Yellowfin Tuna, Courtesy NOAA Fisheries, © Photo by Jeff Muir

Annual meeting of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Area on Hg Waste Management

Update from the Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership

The Global Mercury Partnership in 2023

- **Overall Goal:** to protect human health and the environment from the releases of mercury.
- **Priorities:**
 - Support timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention
 - Provide knowledge and science on mercury
 - Deliver outreach and awareness raising towards global action
- **New members since PAG-13:** Alchemy Mining Group Inc., Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America (CRBAS), BlackForest Solutions GmbH, CLASP, COLNODO, Development Indian Ocean Network (DION), Dialogos, EAM Environmental Inc., GEOMAR, Melanin Foundation, Qa3, Say no to Mercury, Tellus Holdings Limited, The Impact Facility, TAUW bv, Togo, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- **To date: 255 partners** from
 - Governments
 - Intergovernmental organizations
 - Non-governmental organizations
 - Industry, private sector
 - Academia, scientific community and
 - Others



Recent Events

- [Meeting of the Partnership Area on Hg in Products – 25 April 2023](#)
- [Phasing-down the use of Dental Amalgam Global kick-off meeting – 28 April 2023](#)
- [BRS COPs Side event: Mercury Waste Management – 9 May 2023](#)
- [Transitioning to Mercury-Free Lighting in Asia-Pacific Countries – 19 to 20 June 2023](#)
- [U.S Department of State Mercury Grants on Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining – 26 June 2023](#)
- [Mercury releases from Coal Combustion Area Meeting & 15th Multi-pollution Emissions from Coal workshop \(MEC15\) – 11 July 2023](#)
- [Meeting of the Partnership Area on Mercury air transport and fate research – 6 October 2023](#)
- [Mercury and Vulnerable People: Pathways to Protection – COP5 virtual side event – 9 October 2023](#)



Managing mercury along the oil and gas value chains: sharing of experience and best practices – Virtual event – 18 July 2023

Objectives



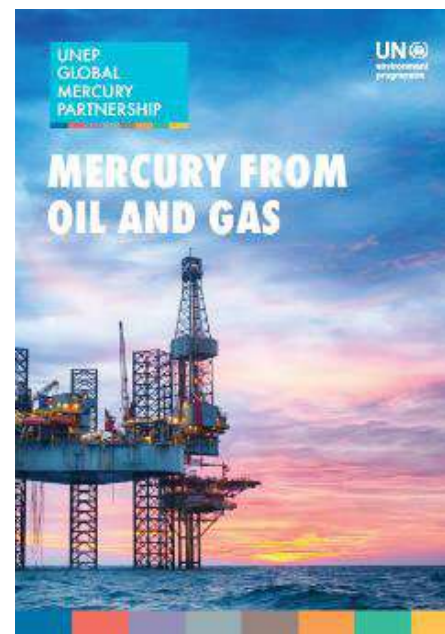
Exchange on existing best practices in managing Hg emissions, releases and waste along the oil and gas value chains.



Share experiences from countries and relevant stakeholders.



Identify possible next steps for effective implementation of best practices.



<https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/events/unep-event/managing-mercury-along-oil-and-gas-value-chains-sharing-experience-and-best>



Upcoming Events and Meetings

Addressing mercury pollution and biodiversity: from science to action – COP5 virtual side event – *12 October 2023*

Meeting of the Partnership Area on Mercury supply and storage – *13 October 2023*

Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention – *30 October to 3 November 2023*

Fourteenth meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group (PAG-14) – *December 2023 (TBC)*

Others – *(TBC)*

Mercury from the non-ferrous metals mining and smelting – Q1 2024

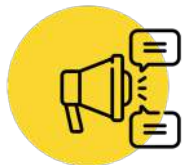
(TBC)



Managing Mercury from Non-ferrous Metals Mining and Smelting: existing best practices and tools



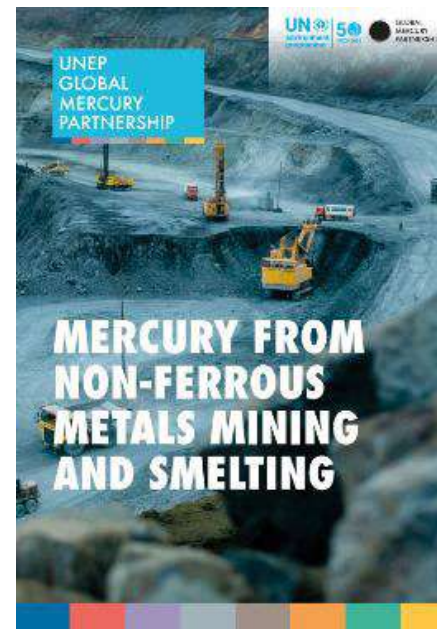
Knowledge sharing on best practices in the management of Hg emissions, releases and wastes



Global communication about countries and stakeholders' experiences



Discussion on next steps



In this new edition, learn more about recent and upcoming events, latest mercury-related publications and initiatives including interactive tools and meet our new members. Good reading!

The Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

HIGHLIGHTS



The 12th meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group on 11 and 12 March 2022 saw attendance of close to 100 participants to exchange on recent activities by Partnership Areas, key findings and next steps of the work on mercury from oil and gas and non-ferrous metals, as well as future priorities, including with respect to mercury flows and its impacts on biodiversity. [More info here](#).



Minamata COP-4 (Bali) (21-25 March 2022) closed with good commitment on effectiveness evaluation, new products for phase-out and gender mainstreaming. COP-4.2 also adopted updated guidance on ASGM national action plans and now also covering tailings management, see meeting report and call for information to follow up to COP-4.2 decisions.



Beal Convention COP-15 (Geneva) (June 2022) adopted updated Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds. Read more about COP outcomes. The updated guidelines



UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Latest Highlights

- WISNMAP - Myanmar Initial Assessment** (Geneva) (26-27 September 2022)
- Mercury waste management Partnership Area - September 2022 Meeting**
- Study report on Mercury from Non-Ferrous Metals Mining and Smelting**

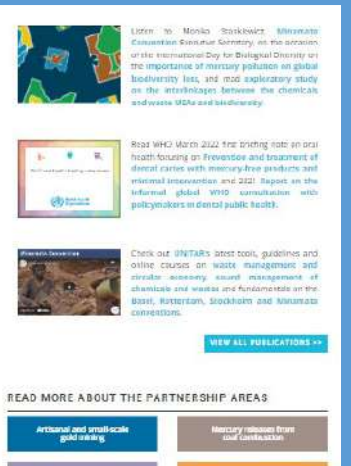


The Mercury air transport and fate research team will meet on **29 June 2022, from 9:00 - 11:00 AM (EST)** in an online setting. More information available on the event page.

A virtual strengthening mercury research capacity in developing countries for science-based policy making organized by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention will be held on **30 June from 2:00 to 2:00 pm CEST**. The event will introduce ongoing activities implemented by UNEP to assist countries, researchers and policy makers.

The 1st International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP) "Reducing Mercury Emissions to Achieve a Better World" will be held virtually from **25 to 29 July 2022**. View programme for the Conference and preceding workshops (**18 to 22 July**).

BECT Global Forum on Environment dedicated to Mercury on **7 and 8 November 2022** will focus on "Working towards the elimination of mercury while reducing its harmful impacts on human health and the environment". Event will be hybrid, web both in person and online attendance options. Further details on the event page.



Listen to Monika Storkowicz, Minamata Convention Executive Secretary, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity on the importance of mercury pollution on global biodiversity loss, and read exploratory study on the interlinkage between the chemicals and waste SDGs and biodiversity.

Read WHO World JIJI first briefing note on oral health focusing on fluoride and treatment of dental caries with mercury-free products and informed intervention and 2021 Report on the Informal global WHO consultation with policymakers in dental public health.

Check out UNEP's latest tool, guidelines and online course on waste management and circular economy sound management of chemicals and wastes are fundamental to the waste, water, climate and Minamata Conventions.

[VIEW ALL PUBLICATIONS >>>](#)

READ MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP AREAS

- [Artisanal and small-scale gold mining](#)
- [Mercury releases from coal combustion](#)
- [Mercury in transport](#)
- [Mercury releases from landfills](#)

Reminder – Newsletter - E-mailings

Opportunity to raise awareness and feature highlights by Partnership areas and partners, events, resources, etc.

New website: [Home | Global Mercury Partnership \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/global-mercury-partnership)

Currently updating PAs webpages, Business Plans and Factsheets



Any question?

For further information and assistance:

- Stephanie.laruelle@un.org
- Imelda.dossouetui@un.org

Thank you very much!



UPDATE OF WORK ON MERCURY WASTE FACT SHEET

NICOLAS HUMEZ (ISWA)



GLOBAL
MERCURY
PARTNERSHIP

GMP-WMA

10/10/2023 - Online
WG 1

Fact Sheets on ESM for selected mercury waste streams

The structure is a compendium of Fact Sheets with

A common section

- Introduction
 - Context in which the fact sheets have been developed, their purpose,
 - Overview of mercury's impacts on human health and the environment,
 - Minamata & Basel Conventions and technical guidelines
 - Generic Fact & Figures
- Key steps in the environmentally sound management of mercury waste and common features
 - Pretreatment
 - Distillation
 - Stabilisation & Final disposal
- Glossary of key terms
- Useful references

A serie of Fact Sheets (see selection in the [draft document](#))

Digitalisation of the Catalog

An [example](#) of what we can do...

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

INSIGHTS AND CHALLENGES FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SIP PROJECT IN JORDAN

**REEMA MUSTAFA
(MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, JORDAN)**

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KEY ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS TOWARDS COP5

**EISAKU TODA
(MINAMATA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT)**



5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Global Mercury Partnership Waste Management Area Meeting, 10 Oct 2023

Secretariat of the Minamata convention

Minamata Convention COP-5, 30 Oct – 3 Nov 2023




<input type="checkbox"/>	UNEP/MC/COP.5/1 - Provisional agenda	Working Document	16.04.2023	341.22 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>	UNEP/MC/COP.5/1/Add.1 - Annotated provisional agenda - ADVANCE	Working Document	16.04.2023	618.80 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>	UNEP/MC/COP.5/1/Add.2 - Election of officers	Working Document	22.05.2023	104.00 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>	UNEP/MC/COP.5/2 - Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury: consideration of rule 45	Working Document	22.05.2023	362.87 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>	UNEP/MC/COP.5/3 - Mercury supply sources and trade	Working Document	02.06.2023	405.84 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>	UNEP/MC/COP.5/4 - Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-4/3	Working Document	03.06.2023	368.55 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>	UNEP/MC/COP.5/5 - Proposals for amendments to annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting			

Starting in early September 2023, COP-5 documents are available on the website.

<https://www.minamataconvention.org/en/meetings/cop5>

Agenda, Annotated Agenda, List of documents



Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work;
 - (c) Election of officers for the intersessional period and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (d) Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties: consideration of rule 45.
4. Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) Mercury supply sources and trade;
 - (b) Mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used: amendment to Annexes A and B, and consideration of the feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for manufacturing processes listed in Annex B;
 - (c) Artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
 - (d) Emissions of mercury;
 - (e) Releases of mercury;
 - (f) Mercury waste: consideration of the relevant thresholds;
 - (g) Financial resources and mechanism:
 - (i) Global Environment Facility;
 - (ii) Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance;
 - (iii) Review of the financial mechanism;
 - (h) Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer;
 - (i) Implementation and Compliance Committee;
 - (j) National reporting;

- (k) Effectiveness evaluation;
 - (l) Financial rules;
 - (m) Gender;
 - (n) Knowledge management;
 - (o) Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
5. International cooperation and coordination.
 6. Programme of work and budget.
 7. Venue and dates of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
 10. Closure of the meeting.

Available in languages on the Convention's website.

UNEP/MC/COP.5/1 - Provisional agenda

Working Document | 06.04.2023

Language

AR CH EN FR RU SP

Files

DOCX UNEP-MC-COP5-01-Provisional-agenda_English.docx (148.76 KB)

PDF UNEP-MC-COP5-01-Provisional-agenda_English.pdf (100.46 KB)

Item 4(d): Mercury waste thresholds



- ❖ **5/7:** Establishment of mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ **INF/12:** Technical information for the work of the expert group on mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ **INF/13:** Guidance document on test methods to be used for the tier-2 thresholds for tailings from mining other than primary mercury mining

Article 11:

Paragraph 2 defines mercury wastes as

- (a) Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds;
- (b) Containing mercury or mercury compounds; or
- (c) Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, in a quantity above the relevant **thresholds** defined by COP, that are disposed of, intended or required to be disposed of.

This definition excludes overburden, waste rock and tailings from mining, except from primary mercury mining, unless they contain mercury or mercury compounds above **thresholds** defined by COP.

Paragraph 3 requires Parties to take appropriate measures so that mercury waste is:

- (a) Managed in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account the guidelines developed under the Basel Convention
- (b) Only recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed under this Convention or for environmentally sound disposal
- (c) For Parties to the Basel Convention, not transported across international boundaries except for environmentally sound disposal

COP-2 in November 2018, in its decision MC-2/2, established a group of technical experts to proceed with the discussion on mercury waste thresholds.

COP-3 in November 2019 reviewed the report of the expert group and in its decision MC-3/5:

- Defined waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds (**Category A waste**)
- Defined on waste containing mercury or mercury compounds (**Category B waste**)
- Requested the group to work further on thresholds for waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds (Category C waste)

The expert group's report to COP-4 presented two options for Category C waste thresholds.

COP-4.2 in March 2022, in its decision MC-4/6:

- Decided that tailings from ASGM using mercury should be managed in an environmentally sound manner under Article 7.
- Established 2-tier thresholds for mine tailings.
- Requested the group to work further on thresholds for Category C waste .

COP-5 in October/November will consider Category C waste thresholds.

Recap: COP-5 consideration of mercury waste thresholds

Minamata Convention Article 11

2. For the purposes of this Convention, mercury wastes means substances or objects:

- (a) **Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds;**
 - (b) **Containing mercury or mercury compounds;** or
 - (c) **Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds,**
- in a quantity above **the relevant thresholds** defined by the COP, in collaboration with the relevant bodies of the Basel Convention in a harmonized manner, that are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law or this Convention.

COP Decision MC-3/5

No threshold needs to be established for waste consisting of mercury, and waste listed in Table 1 of the annex to the decision shall be regarded as such mercury waste.

No threshold needs to be established for waste containing mercury, and mercury-added products that are disposed of, are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of, including those listed in table 2 of the annex to the decision, will be regarded as such mercury waste;

COP requested the group of technical experts to work further on thresholds for waste contaminated with mercury.

Table 1: List of mercury waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds

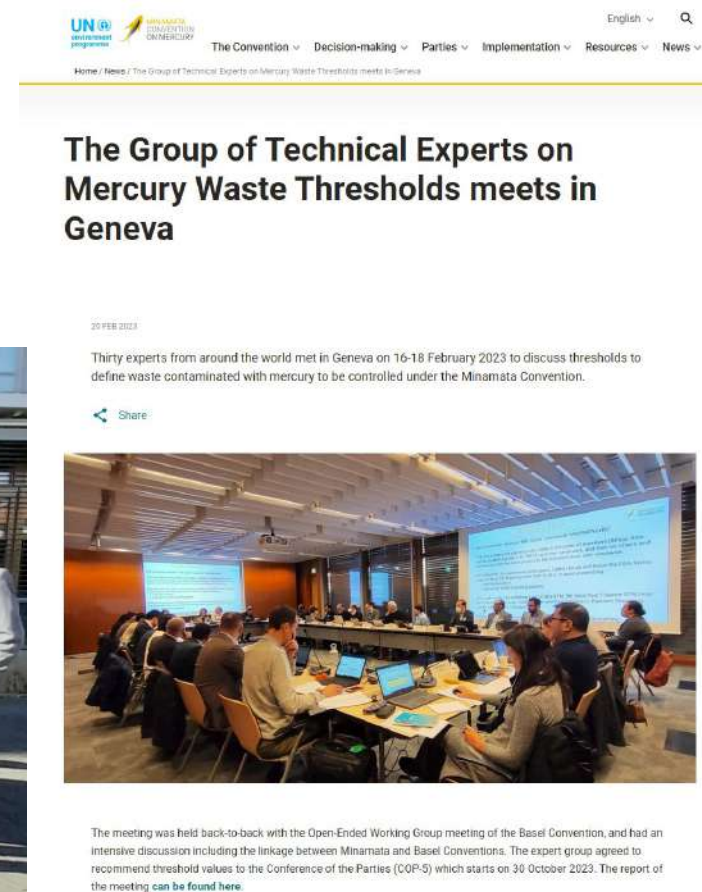
- Recovered elemental mercury
- Elemental mercury
- Mercury (I) chloride and mercury (II) chloride
- Mercury (II) oxide (mercuric oxide)
- Mercury (II) sulfate (mercuric sulfate)
- Mercury (II) nitrate (mercuric nitrate)
- Cinnabar concentrate
- Mercury sulfide

Table 2: Non-exhaustive list of waste containing mercury or mercury compounds

- Non-electronic measuring devices containing mercury (barometers, hygrometers, manometers, thermometers, sphygmomanometers)
- Electrical and electronic switches, contacts, relays and rotating electrical connectors with mercury
- Fluorescent bulbs, high intensity discharge (HID) bulbs (mercury vapour bulbs, metal halide and high-pressure sodium bulbs), neon/argon lamps
- Batteries/accumulators containing mercury
- Biocides and pesticides containing mercury and their formulations and products
- Paints and varnishes containing mercury
- Pharmaceuticals containing mercury for human and veterinary uses, including vaccines
- Cosmetics and related products containing mercury
- Dental amalgam
- Scientific instrument used for the calibration of medical or scientific devices containing mercury

Meeting of the Expert Group, Geneva, 16-18 Feb 2023

- The group of technical experts met in person in Geneva from 16 to 18 February 2023, back-to-back with the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, with the financial support from Japan.
- The [report](#) of the Group was presented at [Minamata Online](#) on 05/07/2023.



The screenshot shows a news article from the Minamata Convention website. The article title is "The Group of Technical Experts on Mercury Waste Thresholds meets in Geneva". The date is 20 FEB 2023. The text states: "Thirty experts from around the world met in Geneva on 16-18 February 2023 to discuss thresholds to define waste contaminated with mercury to be controlled under the Minamata Convention." There is a "Share" button and a "Home / News / The Group of Technical Experts on Mercury Waste Thresholds meets in Geneva" breadcrumb. Below the text is a photograph of the meeting in progress, showing people seated at long tables in a conference room, with a large screen displaying a presentation. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a short summary: "The meeting was held back-to-back with the Open-Ended Working Group meeting of the Basel Convention, and had an intensive discussion including the linkage between Minamata and Basel Conventions. The expert group agreed to recommend threshold values to the Conference of the Parties (COP-5) which starts on 30 October 2023. The report of the meeting can be found here."

Item 4(d): Mercury waste thresholds



- ❖ 5/7: Establishment of mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ INF/12: Technical information for the work of the expert group on mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ INF/13: Guidance document on test methods to be used for the tier-2 thresholds for tailings from mining other than primary mercury mining

5/7: Establishment of mercury waste thresholds

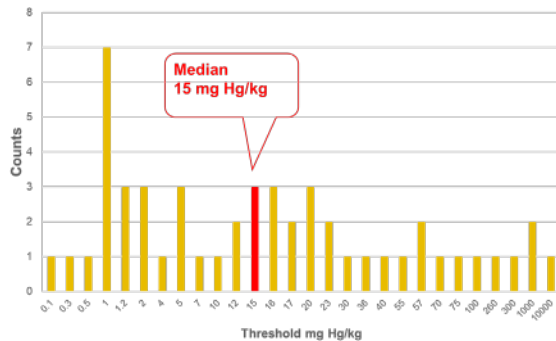
The expert group recommends to COP:

- **to establish a threshold of [25] [15] [10] mg/kg total concentration of mercury** for waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds
- that parties may choose not to use this threshold, as long as they have targeted waste management measures in place to protect the human health and the environment, in which case such parties shall notify the secretariat, and those notifications are made available to the public.
- that consideration should be made for capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer.
- to invite the Basel Convention COP to consider reviewing the technical guidelines on environmentally sound management, with additional guidance for waste contaminated with mercury.
- that work needs to be carried out, in collaboration with the Basel Convention, to provide legal clarity with respect to the mercury waste status during transboundary movement of waste.
- to assess the established threshold and consider renewing the mandate of the group of technical experts.
- to review the threshold after 4 years according to the results of such assessment.

Item 4(d): Mercury waste thresholds



- ❖ **5/7:** Establishment of mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ **INF/12:** Technical information for the work of the expert group on mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ **INF/13:** Guidance document on test methods to be used for the tier-2 thresholds for tailings from mining other than primary mercury mining



INF/12: Technical information for the work of the expert group on mercury waste thresholds

Annex I: Proposals submitted during the previous intersessional period
EU – 25 mg/kg total mercury concentration
IPEN – 1 mg/kg total mercury concentration

Annex II: Overview of submissions from Parties on approaches other than the total concentration approach

In response to the Executive Secretary’s letter on 28 October 2022, Brazil, Burkina Faso and Botswana on behalf of the African Region, Canada, Dominican Republic, EU and Japan submitted information.

Annex III: List of existing waste thresholds related to mercury waste used by Parties

Tabulates the information submitted from Brazil, Canada, EU, Japan, Uganda and USA, as well as information collected during the previous and current intersessional periods.

Annex IV: Compilation of information and data on mercury waste submitted by Parties

Item 4(d): Mercury waste thresholds



- ❖ **5/7:** Establishment of mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ **INF/12:** Technical information for the work of the expert group on mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ **INF/13:** Guidance document on test methods to be used for the tier-2 thresholds for tailings from mining other than primary mercury mining

INF/13: Guidance document on test methods to be used for the tier-2 threshold for tailings from mining other than primary mercury

Key considerations in selecting or defining tier-2 test methods

Liquid/Solid ratio

As the L/S ratio affects liquid-solid equilibrium over the residence time of eluent in a leach test, the L/S ratio of the chosen test should not differ $\pm 20\%$ from a ratio of 10:1.

Test pH

As no in-situ pH control exists at sites where tailings are deposited, it is recommended to use an eluant at neutral pH (such as deionized water) without pH control (buffering).

Test duration

As oxidation, dissolution and interaction of “fresh” minerals in tailings are known to be slow enough to approximate initial near-equilibrium conditions, and weathering processes control release from tailings over the longer term, the duration of the chosen test is not to exceed 24-hours.

Suggested action for the COP

- ❑ The COP may wish to agree on a threshold value for waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, noting the presented three possible values.
- ❑ The COP may wish to take a decision:
 - Establishing [25] [15] [10] mg/kg total concentration of mercury as the threshold for wastes contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds.
 - Providing for parties not using this threshold value.
 - Deciding to review the threshold at COP-7.
 - Extending the mandate of the group of technical experts.
 - Inviting parties to use the guidance document on the test methods for the tier-2 threshold for mine tailings.
 - Calling on parties in a position to do so to provide support to developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition.
 - Inviting the Basel Convention COP to update the technical guidelines as appropriate.

Organizational matters: COP-5 Events



➤ Schedule COP-5 Online Events

Time	Monday 9 October	Tuesday 10 October	Wednesday 11 October	Thursday 12 October	Friday 13 October
11:00 – 12.00 CET		Sharing the results of the Specific International Programme: Strengthening the legal framework and institutional capacities of ECOWAS countries (Senegal, Burkina Faso & Togo)		Addressing Hg pollution and biodiversity: from science to action (UNEP & BRI)	
13:00 – 14.00 CET	Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention: Building the Linkages from Science to Action (GEN)	Separating the need for a phase-out of mercury-added products (MAPs) from the challenges of collecting, storing, management and disposal of MAPs in an environmentally sound manner (Botswana & Burkina Faso)	Information session on programme of work and budget (Parties only)	Restricting the international mercury trade: A critical measure for protection of indigenous peoples' human rights (IPEN)	Mercury usage in small scale jewellery manufacturing sector and introducing non-mercury environmentally friendly alternatives in Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka)
14:45 – 15.45 CET	Phasing out dental amalgam: An emerging need to eliminate mercury in products (The World Alliance & EHF, Zambia)	Catalyzing project impact and visibility through knowledge-driven capacity-building (Minamata Convention Secretariat)	Specific International Programme: Achievements and Impacts of Second Round Projects from Around the World (Minamata Convention Secretariat)	Addressing the Global Mercury Crisis in Skin Lightening Products (Uganda & ZMWG)	Mercury-Free Lighting - Multiple pathways to compliance (CLASP & SDPI, Pakistan)
16:30 – 17.30 CET	Mercury and Vulnerable Peoples: Pathways to Protection (UNEP)	Reinforcing the health sector's commitment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury: The showcase of GEF-UNEP-WHO projects on mercury-added products (WHO)	Advancing a Rights-based Approach to Addressing Mercury Contamination (OHCHR)	AMAP 2021 Assessment of Mercury in the Arctic: Findings relevant to the Minamata Convention & Norway's Mercury Assessment (Norway & AMAP)	Turkish National Integrated Marine Pollution Monitoring Program (DEN-IZ) and PRTR Experience of Türkiye (Türkiye)
17:45 – 18.45 CET	Mercury Management: First temporary mercury storage unit and protocol of implementation in Colombia (Pure Earth)	Navigating uncharted waters towards Mercury-Free SIDS (BRI)	Intercultural Dialogues: the role of Amazonian indigenous governments towards effective implementation of the Minamata Convention (Gala Amazonas Foundation, Colombia)	Accelerating the Phase Down of Dental Amalgam: Progress Continues (IADR)	Identification of mining sites: processing and tailings, through the use of drones (Costa Rica)

NOTE: Online Events seek to take account of global time zones. Organizers are expected to strictly keep to the schedule.

➤ **Knowledge Labs** during lunch hours (14:00-14:45) schedule of events available on website.

➤ Exhibition and Special COP-5 Events:

- Minamata Convention: A Decade of Global Commitment to Make Mercury History Monday, 30 October, CIGC and streamed.
- GEF/UNEP Mercury in cosmetics – more than what meets the eye, at CIGC.

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the slide.

Any Other Business

Any other business

Schedule of upcoming events

30 Oct. – 4 Nov. 2023	Minamata Convention COP5
Nov. - (tbc)	14 th Partnership Advisory Group meeting
Feb. – March (tbc)	1 st WMA meeting in 2024

Comments or inputs on

- Factsheet on the ESM of mercury wastes
- Activities of the WG2 including potential topics of webinars/events and stakeholders to cooperate with
- Interests in engaging with the WG3
- Potential activities of or contribution from the WMA related to mercury from oil and gas sector
- Issues to be addressed/discussed at the 1st WMA meeting in 2024
- Any other issues related to activities of the WMA

To wastemanagement@exri.co.jp no later than 20 Oct. 2023



CLOSING REMARKS

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Contact to the GMP Waste Management Area

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