



Annual Project Webinar 2024

Enhancing the generation and use of mercury information for science-based policy development

25 November 2024
Concept Note and Programme Agenda

Background and Objectives

Minamata Convention on Mercury (the Convention) is one of the newest multilateral environmental agreements aiming at protecting human health and environment from anthropogenic emissions and release of mercury and mercury compounds. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is implementing a Japan-funded project called “Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences¹” to support its member states for the implementation of the Convention.

There has been a growing need for capacity building to generate and apply technical information that will enable science-based policy development and implementation. The project has implemented since 2019 and accumulated the project results to the partner countries. The current capacities of the partner countries as well as the national priorities in mercury management are diverse, thus, the needs for mercury management are also different. The project has provided country-specific customized plan to address their needs.

This webinar entitled ‘Enhancing the generation and use of mercury information for science-based policy development’ aims to provide the information on the project and disseminate the achievements for wider audiences. The topics are selected from the project activities based on the meaningful progress to be anticipated by the time of the webinar. It will provide replicative information to non-partners countries especially peers in other regions.

¹ Project makes special focus in the area of information exchange (Article 17), awareness and education (Article 18), and research, development and monitoring (Article 19) to contribute the implementation of the Convention. A comprehensive programme is designed to strengthening enabling capacity, building on the resources in and around Minamata, and employing technologies held by institutions in Japan. Project will establish a region-wide network of analytical institutions with mercury monitoring capabilities around Asia and the Pacific to bring their capacities to international standards.

Participation Details

Date: Monday 25 November 2024

Venue: Virtual (Webex). Pre-registration required from the link below:

<https://unep.webex.com/weblink/register/r6e8799271093de6b40a63d01b78e25f1>

Project title: Project for Promoting Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences.

Webinar title: Enhancing the generation and use of mercury information for science-based policy development.

Participants: Ministries/agencies responsible for mercury, National Focal Points of the Minamata Convention, universities, research institutes, and other interested stakeholders and individuals

Arrangement: Four (4) topics are selected from the project activities based on the meaningful progress to be anticipated by the time of the webinar. Short questionnaires are asked at the registration and end of the webinar.

Language: English only (no interpretation provided)

Contact: japanmercuryproject@un.org

Project web: <https://www.unep.org/regions/asia-and-pacific/our-projects/promoting-minamata-convention-mercury>

Draft Programme Agenda

Time (UTC+7)		
17:00 - 17:10	Opening remarks.	Mr. Ludovic Bernaudat, <u>UNEP</u> Ms. Itsuki Kuroda, <u>MOE</u> , Japan Mr. Eisaku Toda, <u>Minamata Secretariat</u>
17:10 - 17:25	Project profile and progress. Outlines, objective, and progress to date Q&A	Mr. Mick Saito, <u>UNEP</u>
17:25 - 17:50	(Key result 1) Assessment of mercury exposure level for citizens due to high-level fish consumption in daily diet. - Findings of the mercury exposure assessment of Maldivians attributed to high-level fish	Ms. Nafha Abbas, <u>MCCET</u> , Maldives

	<p>consumption in daily diet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open laboratory concept at Asian Institute of Technology: Analysis and training service for publics. <p>Q&A</p>	Ms. Chacriya Malasuk, AIT , Thailand
17:50 - 18:15	<p>(Key result 2) Traditional amalgam gold plating for small-scale handicraft industry in Nepal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mercury issue and national priority in Nepal. - Environmental survey at gold plating workshops. <p>Q&A</p>	<p>Mr. Shivajee Sharma, MOFE, Nepal</p> <p>Mr. Pyae Sone Soe, PUK, Japan</p>
18:15 - 18:40	<p>(Key result 3) Control of mercury trade in compliance with the Minamata Convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technologies for estimating and tracking illegal mercury trade. - Developing country capacity of customs offices. <p>Q&A</p>	<p>Mr. Kyaw Nyunt Maung, UNEP</p> <p>Ms. Anna Ewa Kobylecka, WCO</p>
18:40 - 18:55	<p>(Key result 4) Laboratory proficiency testing on mercury analysis for generating comparable data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Results of past proficiency testing and future plan. <p>Q&A</p>	Mr. Koichi Haraguchi, NIMD , Japan
18:55 - 19:00	Way forwards and closing.	Mr. Mick Saito, UNEP
19:00	End of webinar.	

Time zone table

Location	Without DST	With DST
Suva (UTC+12)	10pm – 0am	
Canberra (UTC+10)*	8pm – 10pm	9pm – 11pm
Tokyo, Seoul (UTC+9)	7pm – 9pm	
Manila, Beijing, Ulaanbaatar (UTC+8)	6pm – 8pm	
Bangkok, Jakarta, Hanoi (UTC+7)	5pm – 7pm	
Yangon (UTC+6:30)	4:30pm – 6:30pm	
Kathmandu (UTC+5:45)	3:45pm – 5:45pm	
New Delhi, Colombo (UTC+5:30)	3:30pm – 5:30pm	
Male (UTC+5)	3pm – 5pm	
Nairobi (UTC+3)	1pm – 3pm	
Cape Town (UTC+2)	Noon – 2pm	
Vienna, Geneva (UTC+1)*	11am – 1pm	Noon – 2pm
Sao Paulo (UTC-3)	7am – 9am	
Washington DC (UTC-5)*	5am – 7am	6am – 8am
Chicago (UTC-6)*	4am – 6am	5am – 7am
Los Angeles (UTC-8)*	2am – 4am	3am – 5am
Honolulu (UTC-10)	0am – 2am	

*: Regions adopting daylight saving time