Project for
Promoting
Minamata
Convention
on Mercury

UN environment programme

by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences

Networking Webinar #10

Enhancing collaboration and communication among mercury analytical laboratories

20 February 2025
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. There has been a growing need for capacity building concerning appropriate mercury monitoring skills in developing countries to ensure the implementation of the required efforts to monitor the levels 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 experiences[1]" to support its member states for the implementation of the Convention. The Project has implemented laboratory proficiency testing (PT) for evaluating the performance of mercury analyses conducted by the laboratories in collaboration with National Institute for Minamata Disease (NIMD). PT is a part of continual improvement of quality data collection and analysis.

2021-22 season (1st round PT) and 2022-23 season (2nd round PT) have been successfully completed, and 2023-24 season (3rd round PT) and 2024-25 season (4th round PT) are currently ongoing. These laboratories participating in the PT work in isolation without much interaction each other. This webinar series aims to enhance networking of the mercury laboratories to learn each other and work together. It also introduces basic mercury science to deepen the understanding of global mercury issues.

[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 early 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: Thursday 20 February 2025

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

https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/0905dbd3-a669-4f81-930e-9acd1c13e563@0f9e35db-544f-4f60-bdcc-5ea416e6dc70

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

Webinar title: Enhancing collaboration and communication among mercury analytical laboratories.

Participants: Laboratories in ministry/agency, university, research institute or consulting company which undertake mercury monitoring and analysis.

Arrangement: A series of short webinars will be provided on a regular interval. The programme is to enhance the communications among participating laboratories on their skill up and collaboration. A session is focused on one topic and info sharing for about 45 minutes including Q&As. Pre- and post-questionnaire surveys using the online form will be requested to the participants.

Language: English only (no interpretation provided)

Contact: japanmercuryproject@un.org

Project web: https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/pollution-and-health/heavy-metals/mercury/promoting-minamata

Draft Programme Agenda

Time (UTC+7)		
17:00-17:05	**Introduction** Expected outcomes of the webinar series.	Dr. Kyaw Maung, UNEP
17:05-17:25	**(Lecture) Mercury and hydroquinone analysis for skin lightening cosmetics.** Methodologies and operating procedures.	Dr. Chacriya Malasuk, AIT
17:25-17:35	**(Info sharing) Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University.** History, mission, and major activities/achievements.	Dr. Rio Doya, Hokkaido Univ.
17:35-17:40	**Q&A**	
17:40-17:45	**Closing**	Dr. Kyaw Maung, UNEP

Time zone table

Location	Without DST	With DST
Suva (UTC+12)	10pm – 10:45pm	
Canberra (UTC+10)*	8pm – 8:45pm	9pm – 9:45pm
Tokyo, Seoul (UTC+9)	7pm – 7:45pm	
Manila, Beijing, Ulaanbaatar (UTC+8)	6pm – 6:45pm	
Bangkok, Jakarta, Hanoi (UTC+7)	5pm – 5:45pm	
Yangon (UTC+6:30)	4:30pm – 5:15pm	
Kathmandu (UTC+5:45)	3:45pm – 4:30pm	
New Delhi, Colombo (UTC+530)	3:30pm – 4:15pm	
Male (UTC+5)	3pm – 3:45pm	
Nairobi (UTC+3)	1pm – 1:45pm	
Cape Town (UTC+2)	Noon – 12:45pm	
Vienna, Geneva (UTC+1)*	11am – 11:45am	Noon – 12:45pm
Sao Paulo (UTC-3)	7am – 7:45am	
Washington DC (UTC-5)*	5am – 5:45am	6am – 6:45am
Chicago (UTC-6)*	4am – 4:45am	5am – 5:45am
Los Angeles (UTC-8)*	2am – 2:45am	3am – 3:45am
Honolulu (UTC-10)	0am – 0:45am	

*: Regions adopting daylight saving time