

3 August 2015
English only



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
Meeting of the Partnership area Leads**
Jeju, Korea, 16 June 2015

**Report of the Meeting of the Partnership area Leads of the
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting of the Partnership area Leads of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) took place at the International Conference Center in Jeju, Korea on 16 June 2015 in the sidelines of the 12th International Conference of Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP). The meeting was opened at 5pm, by Mr. Jacob Duer, representative of the secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

2. Mr. Duer welcomed the participants on behalf of UNEP, and thanked the partnership area leads for taking the opportunity to attend the meeting while mainly participating at the 12th ICMGP.

3. Mr. Atle Fretheim, Chair of the PAG gave opening remarks that were delivered on his behalf by the UNEP secretariat. Mr. Fretheim underscored the meeting as a concrete example of improving communication which was one recommendation at the PAG 6. He urged the partnership area leads to take advantage of the meeting to discuss partnership area updates, UNEP secretariat updates, progress of the Partnership, and on the issues and approaches that are important to prepare and discuss at PAG7. The Chair commended the leads for their participation at the scientific conference on mercury and urged that the work of the Partnership builds on the science-policy link as affirmed by the INC 6 bureau. He said the link could be mutually beneficial : the Partnership could benefit from scientific findings and results while the scientific community will be informed of the work of the Partnership and in technical or scientific areas where policy makers would need support and advice. He reminded the leads to think about creative ways to mobilize resources and to continue the open and transparent discussions on the possible re-structuring of the partnership areas. He challenged the leads to find effective models where the Partnership could cooperate with the INC and the COP of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Mr. Fretheim wished the partnership leads a productive meeting in the lead up to PAG 7 and INC 7.

4. The meeting was participated by the following partnership area leads representing the respective partnership areas: Ms. Susan Keane (Natural Resources Defense

Council) and Mr. Riccardo Savigliano (representing UNIDO) for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM); Mr. Nicola Pirrone (National Research Council of Italy – Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research) and Mr. David Evers (Biodiversity Research Institute) for Fate and Transport; Ms. Ana Garcia (Spain) for Supply and Storage; Prof. Masaru Tanaka (Research Institute of Solid Waste Management Engineering, Japan) and Mr. Mitsugu Saito (MOE, Japan) for Waste Management; Mr. Rodges Ankrah (USEPA) for Chlor-Alkali; and Ms. Lesley Sloss (International Energy Agency, Clean Coal Centre) for Coal Combustion. Other participants were Mr. Eisaku Toda (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies/ IGES), Mr. Shunichi Honda (UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre/ IETC), Ms. Kaoru Oka (EX Research Institute Ltd./ EXRI), Mr. Osamu Sakamoto (EXRI) and Ms. Mari Kowaka (EXRI). The UNEP secretariat was represented in person by Mr. Jacob Duer and Ms. Desiree Narvaez; Mr. Gunnar Futsaeter and Mr. Kenneth Davis participated via skype.

Brief Updates of the Partnership Areas

5. The partnership area leads present at the meeting gave brief updates about their respective partnership areas.

6. Ms. Lesley Sloss, IEA Clean Coal Centre, lead of the partnership on coal combustion informed that the coal partnership continues to disseminate free information on clean and efficient use of coal and is doing well with new projects in Vietnam on emissions monitoring- coal analysis and development of emission inventory for the coal-fired power sector- using funding from the US Department of State. The partnership plans to have similar projects in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines. The coal partnership together with UNEP Chemicals Branch is also working on a proposal for a full-sized GEF funded project to demonstrate mercury reduction at 2 power plants in Vietnam. Some experts from the coal partnership are also participating as experts on the guidance document for the BAT/BEP of mercury emissions mandated by the INC.

7. Ms. Susan Keane, Natural Resources and Defense Council, co-lead of the ASGM partnership area reported on the active role of the ASGM partnership in the development, coordination and finalization of the National Action Plan (NAP) guidance document for adoption at INC 7. As part of this process, regional consultations were conducted in 4 South American countries (Peru, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador) and was followed by a workshop in Tanzania participated by 9 East and Southern African countries. She reported on several ASGM demonstration projects on mercury reduction and elimination. The partnership continues to promote an enabling policy framework of ASGM such as participation in certification schemes and financing models for ASGM. Ms. Keane mentioned that the partnership is working with UNEP Chemicals Branch to identify new sources of funding to create materials that would encourage ASGM countries to develop NAPs.

8. Prof. Masaru Tanaka, Research Institute of Solid Waste Management Engineering, Japan, lead of the waste management partnership area reported that the partnership has an increasing number of Partners totaling now 69 from various sectors, and hopes to maintain active Partners by holding regular face-to-face meetings. An expert meeting on Solid Waste Management in Asia and Pacific Islands (SWAPI) was held last February in Tokyo, where participants from China, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam reported on mercury waste management in their countries and discussed UNEP's "Practical Sourcebook on Mercury Waste Storage and Disposal". The partnership is currently updating the "Guidance Practice Document" aimed to be a reference for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury waste. The partnership is in close collaboration with the implementation of ESM activities that are funded by the Ministry of Environment Japan.

9. Ms. Ana Garcia, Government of Spain, co-lead of the mercury supply and storage partnership area reported on the slight delay of the mercury stabilization pilot project in

a chlor alkali plant in Uruguay but is proceeding well with results to be available before INC 7. Spain drawing from its own funding, is about to start a small global study on mercury supply from primary mining and on storage and disposal options in various countries, with results to be available later part of 2015.

10. Mr. Nicola Pirrone, CNR Italy, co-lead of the Fate and Transport (F&T) partnership area reported on the various partnership area activities that will potentially contribute to the future Minamata Convention. He mentioned progress made on the Mercury Global Monitoring Project, funded through grant 4E59 of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to UNEP and with co-finance of WHO Europe, GMOS and UNEP. The Global Mercury Observation System project (GMOS www.gmos.eu), coordinated by the National Research Council of Italy - Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration. Mr. Pirrone said the partnership plans to revise its Business Plan to expand its goals covering mercury transport in biota as well as collecting information among contaminated sites. He added that the partnership will continue to disseminate information generated from the partnership in related events and forum. Mr. David Evers, Biodiversity Research Institute, co-lead F&T, informed that the F&T partnership is planning activities on developing strategies for bio-monitoring of mercury and is proposing a project with UNEP-STAP (the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility - GEF) to further develop the Global Biotic Mercury Synthesis (GBMS) efforts, among others.

11. Mr. Rodges Ankrah, USEPA, representing the chlor-alkali partnership area reported on the recent conference call of the partnership among its partners. He reported on continuing activities such as annual inventory of chlor alkali plants by the World Chlorine Council (WCC) and plans to provide technical assistance on decommissioning non-WCC member chlor alkali facilities such as those in Russia, Mexico and Uruguay. Only 75 chlor alkali plants are remaining in 2014 compared to about 140 facilities in 2005. Progress is expected to be accelerated with the EU chlor alkali sector's voluntary closure of its mercury-cell plants by 2020 and the ESM of surplus mercury.

UNEP updates on Partnership and Mercury Programme

12. The UNEP secretariat presented updates of activities during the interim period of ratification for the Minamata Convention on Mercury. As of 16 June, 12 countries have ratified and 128 countries have signed the Convention. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided 141 million USD for mercury related activities during GEF 6. GEF funding is supporting a large number of developing and transition countries in their Minamata Initial Assessments and National Action Plans on ASGM. From March 2014 to April 2015, 12 subregional and 4 regional workshops were organized in support for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention. Support is also being provided to pilot projects and the development of awareness raising materials. A number of Interorganization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and civil society organizations are supporting activities towards early ratification. A special high level event to promote the ratification of the Convention took place in the margins of the 2014 UN General Assembly in New York and a similar event is planned for 2015.

13. Good progress has been made towards preparation for the Convention's entry into force. In preparation for INC 7, Governments have been requested to provide technical information that includes:

- a) Factors for identifying stocks and sources of mercury
- b) Whether additional guidance is necessary in accordance with Article 3.12
- c) The availability of monitoring data
- d) Sound mercury interim storage practices adopted and successfully implemented
- e) Their use of mercury waste thresholds and the levels established
- f) The UNEP GMP guidance on the development of ASGM national action plans
- g) The draft guidance on BAT/BEP for emissions

14. INC 7 is scheduled to take place in Jordan from 7-11 March 2016. Issues for consideration at INC 7 include:

- a) Guidance in relation to Article 3
- b) UNEP GMP guidance on ASGM
- c) Draft guidance on BAT/BEP developed by the expert group
- d) Compilation of submissions on storage and on the use of Mercury waste thresholds
- e) Contaminated sites
- f) Reporting requirements
- g) Effectiveness evaluation – acquiring monitoring data
- h) Decisions with regard to Article 13, including with regard to the specific international Programme
- i) MoU between the COP and the GEF Council
- j) Rules of procedure and draft Financial Rules for the COP
- k) Permanent secretariat for the Convention

15. Updates on the contribution of UNEP Chemicals Branch to the Global Mercury Partnership was presented. On ASGM, Chemicals Branch is providing technical assistance to an ASGM project in Indonesia that will be coordinated with other ASGM projects in the country such as one with the Artisanal Gold Council. UNEP is preparing a proposal for a GEF project using 2016 Olympic gold medals to raise awareness about ASGM. This Olympic gold medals project is a sister project to UNIDO-implemented effort, dependent on buy-in from Brazil Olympic authorities. UNEP together with the ASGM Partnership area are finalizing a guidance document on ASGM National Action Plans for consideration at INC 7.

16. As its contribution to the mercury in products partnership area, Chemicals Branch is implementing a Norway ODA funded mercury products and waste project in Burkina Faso and Madagascar; and a phase II East Africa Dental amalgam phase down project (EADAP) in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. A GEF medium-sized proposal is being drafted that will expand the countries to include Ethiopia and Zambia. A brochure on “Case studies of dental amalgam phase down in developed countries” in collaboration with WHO and the Zero Mercury Working Group will soon be released. As a contribution to the waste management partnership area, UNEP Chemicals Branch is finalizing the “Sourcebook on Mercury Waste and Disposal” and is planned to be launched at the ICCM 4 side event in September 2015 in Geneva. A new Norway ODA project is also being planned to be implemented in the Caribbean- Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago- on mercury waste storage and disposal.

17. Chemicals Branch is an active Partner in the coal combustion as well as in the partnership areas on fate and transport, and is co- implementing most projects reported by the coal combustion partnership area. Most notably, the project on mercury emissions from coal fired power plants in Southeast Asia as well as the proposed GEF funded project to demonstrate reduction of mercury emissions in Vietnam power plants are underway.

18. In the ensuing discussion, Ms. Ana Garcia, supported by Ms. Lesley Sloss and Ms. Susan Keane expressed views about UNEP secretariat’s process of selecting projects such as the proposed trade report update as well as the waste storage and disposal project. Ms. Garcia suggested that partnership area leads will be informed and consulted about the potential projects early on, to include project justification, activities, partners involved, proposed budget and timelines. If experts are involved, she requested for the procedure in identifying experts. The secretariat replied that the proposed update of the trade report is still at an early stage and leads could be engaged in the process. On the country selection for UNEP implemented projects, the secretariat replied that the countries were based on the recommendation by the donor government and UNEP regional office. The Partnership may wish to clarify and set a process of consultation about Partnership project planning and implementation using funds earmarked by donor Governments. This links to PAG 6 recommendation to consult Partners before allocating funds for projects.

19. As part of improving Partnership communication and outreach, UNEP secretariat is working to improve and upgrade the website in close consultation with the partnership leads. A mock-up of the Partnership website as well as the ASGM webpage were presented. In addition to a new format, the contents of the partnership area pages are planned to be refreshed. The following elements will be included: key resources, UNEP activities, further reading and meetings. The new business plan cover sheets will be incorporated. Leads are encouraged to provide ideas for customizing their pages. On the Partnership visual identity, UNEP secretariat plans to work with a design/ marketing firm that will include the partnership logo, icons for each partnership area, color palette and templates. Subject to availability of funds, other web ideas include an on-line Partner portal where leads and Partners can post content and interact, as well as a document repository and project clearinghouse.

Presentation by UNEP on possibilities for reorganizing Partnership areas

20. The Partnership survey presented at PAG 6 revealed Partnership key challenges in the areas of communication and outreach, financing, low representation from governments, a number of inactive Partners, on overlapping roles and lack of partnership area collaboration. To address these challenges, the survey recommended improving communications and outreach, financing to be more inclusive and transparent, engaging more government Partners, and revising the structure to be more efficient in its function and delivery of services. UNEP secretariat presented a thought starter diagram projecting ideas on the possibility of merging the following partnership areas: products and waste, supply/storage and chlor alkali, coal combustion and cement production plus the proposed non-ferrous sector to be under an “emissions” partnership. ASGM and the fate and transport partnership areas are proposed to remain as stand-alone partnership areas. Except for the proposed emissions partnership where 3 co-leads are proposed, the rest of the “merged” partnership areas will have 2 co-leads with one coming from a Government or IGO and the other from civil society or NGO.

21. Ms. Sloss, coal combustion partnership expressed concern about the creation of a new partnership area which covers emissions from coal, cement and non-ferrous, given that a request was earlier made to have a co-lead for the coal partnership alone. She said the 3 sources of emission would each need distinct expertise and would be best to have a separate lead/co-leads per emission source.

22. Ms. Keane, ASGM partnership supported the principle of streamlining the partnership but added that careful consideration be given to expertise, resources and focus of work. She said activities could be proposed where there is deliberate cross pollination of partnership areas.

23. Mr. Pirrone, fate and transport partnership agreed to the suggested merging of the relevant partnership areas but also underlined the need to have leads and co-leads with the appropriate expertise without bias nor conflict of interest. He said that given the broad range of activities that calls for specific expertise in the fate and transport partnership, the current co-leads are planning to engage 2 more co-leads. Mr. David Evers, co-lead said that the idea of merging into the partnership areas is good as this will enhance the strength and ability of each. He supported the idea of having co-leads on rotation basis where one is chair and the other is vice chair, maintaining continuity and institutional knowledge.

24. Prof. Tanaka, waste management partnership reported on the close collaboration among the waste management, supply and storage as well as the products partnership areas. Dr. Saito, MOEJ, though not objecting to the benefits of merging the waste and products partnership areas said that a flexible structure of the partnership areas is preferred. He said that new issues may arise and that the relevant partnership areas may

wish to address the issues that are relevant to its core activities. The life cycle management of mercury encourages close collaboration of the waste management partnership with the products and the supply/storage partnership areas.

25. Ms. Garcia, supply and storage partnership, said that the merging of the supply/storage and chlor alkali partnership areas needs careful study and more discussion. She said that the work of supply and storage interfaces not only with chlor alkali but also with the ASGM partnership areas. Ms. Garcia suggests instead to identify common activities where partnership areas could collaborate such as the supply and storage partnership with the chlor alkali, ASGM, waste management and products partnership areas. She said there may be no added value in reducing the number of partnership areas unless a comprehensive analysis of the different programs of work will be undertaken.

26. Mr. Ankrah, chlor alkali partnership proposed a clearer idea of linkages between and among partnership areas as basis for the discussion on merging or re-structuring. While he understood that combining partnership areas may reduce the burden of partnership leads since this implies sharing of resources, he said that merging partnership areas may be challenging in terms of magnitude of activities. To cite, he said the chlor alkali partnership has a defined set of targets, activities and timetables with industry participation while the supply and storage partnership has a broader range of activities, timetables, and participants. He suggests to find common issues and joint activities between the partnership areas which could be referenced for fund raising and leveraging to support partnership priority areas and potential projects.

27. Partnership area leads were requested to send additional comments on the idea of merging and re-structuring, including the rotation of chair/co-chair, to the UNEP secretariat which will be compiled and discussed further at PAG 7.

28. Mr. Riccardo Savigliano, UNIDO, ASGM partnership, asked about the role of the Partnership when the Minamata Convention comes into force, since some issues may be taken up by the COP itself and thus the role of the partnerships may need to be redefined. The PAG may wish to take this up as an agenda item for PAG 7.

29. Partnership area leads continue to provide voluntary expertise and time to partnership activities. Ms. Sloss reminded UNEP secretariat on the seed funding to support partnership area activities such as development of relevant materials and printing. Mr. Evers and Mr. Ankrah agreed to the idea of a baseline funding to support partnership area leads. Mr. Pirrone proposed that a basic funding mechanism for the Partnership be a key agenda item for PAG 7.

Closure of the meeting

30. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday 16 June.