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**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Global Mercury Partnership
Partnership Advisory Group
Second meeting
Geneva, 21-22 September 2010

**Reporting of the mercury in waste management partnership area
(January 2009 – May 2010)**

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Note by the Secretariat

Individual partnership area evaluations have been prepared by the partnership areas in response to Annex I Section 3.f.iv of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Overarching Framework. The mercury waste management partnership area has a drafted partnership area evaluation. It is available in the annex to this document for information.

Annex: Evaluation of the waste management partnership area

TIMEFRAME: January 2009 – May 2010

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	
1.1 Individual partnership area:	Mercury Waste Management Partnership Area
1.2 Individual partnership area lead:	Lead country: Japan (Ministry of the Environment) Lead: Prof. Dr. Masaru TANAKA, chair of committee on waste management, Central Environment Council of Japanese Government.
1.3 Reporting year/period:	April 2009 to March 2010
1.4 How many meetings were held over the reporting period?	Number of face to face meetings: 1 Number of teleconferences: 0 Other:
1.5 How many partners are parts of this partnership area?	39
1.6 How much funding was raised through this partnership area? What about in-kind assistance?	New funding was raised by Ministry of the Environment, Japan, about 200,000 US\$, to cover the cost of activities for the present reporting period, i.e. the BAT/BEP guidance development and the 2 nd face-to-face meeting. *Information about other partners will be added.
1.7 What is the objective of the individual partnership area?	
Minimize and, where feasible, eliminate unintentional mercury releases to air, water, and land from mercury waste by following a lifecycle management approach.	
2. MONITORING PERFORMANCE (tracking partnership activities and partner contributions)	
2.1 Please provide a short overview of key partnership area efforts completed since the previous Governing Council (brief description, outcomes, costs, timeframe).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Face-to-face Waste Management Partnership Area meeting</u>: Two meetings were held to exchange information and experiences of Partners' activities (in March 2009 and March 2010). • <u>BAT/BEP Guidance</u>: An outline of the draft BAT/BEP guidance for the reduction of mercury releases from waste management was presented at the first face-to-face meeting in March 2009 and the first draft BAT/BEP guidance at the second meeting in March 2010. <p>*Both were funded by Japan.</p>	
2.2 Please provide a short overview of the key current partnership area efforts (brief description, expected outcomes, budget, timeframe).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>BAT/BEP Guidance</u>: The second draft BAT/BEP guidance is being prepared based on the comments provided by the participants of the second face-to-face Waste Management Partnership Area meeting and to be finalized before INC2. Preparation of the BAT/BEP guidance is funded by Japan. • <u>Basel Convention Draft Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Waste (hereinafter referred to as "Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines")</u>: The fifth Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines was prepared and uploaded on the SBC's website in January 2010 for comments by the Parties. The fifth draft will be presented for consideration at the OEWS7 in May 2010. Preparation of the fifth draft was funded by Japan. • <u>UNEP Mercury Waste Management Project</u>: To increase the technical capacity to manage mercury waste in 	

an environmentally sound manner and provide inputs to the Basel Convention Draft Technical Guidelines, this project is implemented in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Pakistan, and the Philippines. All countries have held their national workshops and some draft mercury waste management plans are available. The project commenced from 2009 and is funded by Norway.

- **Basel Convention Capacity Building Programme in the Latin America and Caribbean Region:** To implement the Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines, this programme is carried out in Costa Rica, Uruguay, and Argentina. The programme includes development of inventories of mercury containing wastes at the national level in the health sector and plans for the sound management of mercury wastes, and building of a temporary storage facility in at least one country (Costa Rica) and institutional capacity to manage mercury containing wastes in a sound manner. This programme commenced in December 2009 and is funded by USA.

2.3 Please provide a short overview of any key upcoming, planned partnership area efforts (brief description, expected outcomes, budget, timeframe).

- To create a list of resource persons that 1) Partners can consult with when they wish to start/implement a project on mercury waste management, and 2) can provide expertise for activities under the Partnership Area (e.g. meetings, BAT/BEP Guidance).
- To explore the possibilities for further collaboration with other Partnership Areas, in particular with Mercury-Containing Products Partnership, and Mercury Supply and Storage Partnership, e.g. in elaborating and/or implementing the BAT/BEP Guidance Document.

2.4 Identify the priority actions for the forthcoming reporting cycle (2 years).

To promote environmentally sound collection, disposal and treatment techniques for mercury waste following a lifecycle management approach through the development, dissemination and implementation of the BAT/BEP Guidance document, including possible further collaboration with other Partnership Areas. (We have found that many countries are having difficulties in handling waste products containing mercury after they are collected.)

3. TRACKING PERFORMANCE RELATED TO UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL PRIORITIES

3.1 In response to Governing Council Decision 25/5, paragraph 34/c:

Please summarize the key results achieved to date by the partnership area in terms of the following areas (as applicable).

i) Providing information on best available techniques and best environmental practices and on the conversion of mercury-based processes to non-mercury based processes;

- Preparation of BAT/BEP Guidance for the reduction of mercury releases from waste management

ii) Enhancing development of national inventories on mercury;

- Development and/or review of national inventories: see 4.2 below.
- Providing information about names of products containing mercury and average amount of mercury in the products through the BAT/BEP Guidance

iii) Raising public awareness and supporting risk communication;

- National workshops and regional workshops conducted under the UNEP Mercury Waste Management Project and the Basel Convention Capacity Building Programme have contributed to raising awareness of relevant sectors in the targeted countries.
- Holding face-to-face meetings to exchange information about activities and experiences of various countries in the field of reduction of mercury releases from waste management. All the presentation materials at the fact-to-face meeting have been uploaded on the UNEP Chemicals Partnership website to share the information with those who could not have a chance to participate in the meeting.
- Partners reported a variety of awareness raising activities: see 4.2 below.

iv) Providing information on sound management of mercury;

- Preparation of the “Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines”
- Preparation of BAT/BEP Guidance for the reduction of mercury releases from waste management
- Partners reported a number of relevant activities such as publication of information on safe management and disposal of mercury-containing products and how to package, transport, and dispose mercury, and how to address dental amalgam waste.

3.2 (a) Please specify whether the promotion of non-mercury technologies (where suitable economically feasible

alternatives do not exist) is relevant to the partnership area. Yes

(b) If it is relevant, how is the partnership area specifically addressing the promotion of non-mercury technologies?

- Basic principles for the reduction of mercury releases from waste management include promoting the development and use of mercury-free equipment, supplies, products and processes, and thus minimizing inclusion of mercury into waste stream. The draft BAT/BEP Guidance document being prepared under the Waste Management Partnership Area illustrates these principles by specific BAT/BEP cases.

4. ASSESSING EFFECTIVENESS

(measuring the impact of partnership activities on target beneficiaries)

4.1 What are the partnership area indicators of progress? If no indicators, please specify why.

- Estimated amount of mercury diverted from waste stream by the implementation of the projects under the Partnership
- Number of partners
- Available information on identification and characterization of mercury contained in waste streams
- Number of national projects on ESM of mercury waste implemented
- Number of countries that prepared national inventory of mercury waste
- Number of projects to promote awareness and education

4.2 Please report on progress in terms of each of the partnership area indicators outlined within the partnership area business plan.

- Estimated amount of mercury diverted from waste stream by the implementation of the projects under the Partnership: USA (635,000 mercury switches from vehicles), Grupo Prques Nacionales Panama (GPNP) (3 tonnes of batteries collected), Costa Rica Hospital Assessment Project (5kg), Chile Hospital Assessment Project (54kg), China Hospitals Project (22kg)
- Number of partners: increased to 33 in March 2010 from 14 in December 2008
- Available information on identification and characterization of mercury contained in waste streams: UNIDO identified that mercury-containing tailings easily become methylated and bio-accumulable and thus stresses that action at production level is essential in this area.
- Number of national projects on ESM of mercury waste implemented: 11 including Basel Convention Capacity Building Programme in the Latin America and Caribbean Region (Uruguay, Costa Rica, Argentina), UNEP Mercury Waste Management Project (Cambodia, Philippines, Burkina Faso, Chile, Pakistan), UNIDO Project on end-of-life Compact Fluorescent Lamps (Uruguay), Japan's research on long-term storage of collected mercury, Panama's battery collection project
- Number of countries that prepared national inventory of mercury waste: 8+ including Cambodia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Syria through Asia Mercury Inventory Toolkit Pilot Project; Germany; Japan; USA; Panama; various countries through USEPA funded projects
- Number of projects to promote awareness and education: UNEP's development of brochures, guidelines, assessments, and other information materials (accessible from Web Page), GPNP's awareness and educational campaign through newspapers, magazines and Art & Info mercury workshops in Panama, USA's activities (publishes information on safe management and disposal of mercury-containing products and how to package, transport, and dispose mercury; encourages schools to prevent mercury spills through efforts such as provision of "Mercury: An Educator's Toolkit"; makes public information on how to address dental amalgam waste through websites), and others as one component of the projects listed in the business plan

4.3 What are the strengths of the partnership area?

- Contribution to the discussions at INC to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury: To address mercury-containing waste and remediation of contaminated sites is placed as one of the elements of the comprehensive and suitable approach to mercury to be developed by the INC as specified in the UNEP GC Decision 25/5. Therefore, the work through this partnership, in particular preparations of Draft Basel Technical Guidelines and the BAT/BEP Guidance Document for sound management of mercury waste, will contribute and support the discussions at INC.
- Contribution to show the variety of measures: Partners conduct various activities including national efforts and bilateral/multilateral cooperation. Exchanging information about the results of these activities through

<p>this partnership would be summarized as “show case” of measures, which is useful considering the variety of current waste management style in countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross cutting: The activities under this partnership area will be conducted in close relationship with Mercury-Containing Partnership and Supply and Storage Partnership Areas. That enables partners to consider lifecycle approach to reduce mercury emission to the environment.
<p>4.4 What are the weaknesses and/or major challenges for this partnership area?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major challenges include: ensuring environmentally sound management of collected waste products and treated residues for the countries that have established waste collection systems; enhancing capacities of managing municipal waste, of which banning and stopping open burning is the highest priority for mercury waste management followed by changing open dumping to sanitary landfills with periodical surface coverage); and raising awareness of the public and political leaders. • Weakness of this partnership has been a limited interaction among the Partners (major interaction has been an annual face-to-face meeting).
<p>4.5 Can the weaknesses or major challenges be addressed through the partnership? If yes, what is the best strategy to address such weaknesses / major challenges in moving forward?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BAT/BEP Guidance will provide information about feasible solutions to deal with collected waste products and treated residues containing mercury. • The lead of this partnership will try to set up a communication framework such as a mailing-list which would promote increased interactions among partners.
<p>4.6 In view of above, how should the partnership area be modifying its approach in the coming two year cycle? Should the objective and indicators of the partnership area be revised in moving forward?</p>
<p>Partners will discuss revision of the business plan based on the discussion at the second face-to-face meeting held in March 2010.</p>
<p>5. FUTURE COLLABORATION</p>
<p>5.1 Please identify whether there are potential areas of effort for the partnership that would benefit from enhanced collaboration within the overall UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Mercury-Containing Product Partnership: Coordination of activities such as input to and utilization of Draft Basel Technical Guidelines and BAT/BEP Guidance and identification and design of joint projects to meet objectives of the two Partnerships • With Supply and Storage Partnership: Coordination activities such as input to and usage of Draft Basel Convention Technical Guidelines and BAT/BEP Guidance
<p>6. OTHER</p>
<p>6.1 Please outline how this report was drafted and who was consulted with in doing so.</p>
<p>This report was drafted solely by the lead of the Partnership Area and the Ministry of the Environment Japan for the purpose of submitting to UNEP Chemicals. This report will be circulated and consulted with the Waste Management Partners.</p>
<p>6.2 This section is intended for other relevant comments.</p>