

MERCURY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES FOR JAMAICA'S ACCESSION TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Inception Workshop on Mercury Storage and Disposal Project in the Caribbean

**Presenters: Jody Ann Marston & Fayona Lewis
National Environment and Planning Agency
Jamaica**

**12- 13 August 2015
PORT-OF- SPAIN, TRINIDAD**

Background

- Jamaica is a signatory to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- Jamaica has expressed its intention to ratify the Convention.
- A Road Map has been developed to prepare the country for accession to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Background Cont'd

- Stakeholder participation in development of Road Map:
 - ✓ Ministry of Health
 - ✓ Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining
 - ✓ Ministry of Local Government and Community Development
 - ✓ Ministry of Finance and Planning
 - ✓ Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce
 - ✓ Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change
 - ✓ Sugar Industry Research Institute

Main Sources of Mercury in Jamaica

- Health Care Sector
 - Thermometers
 - Blood pressure machines
 - Dental amalgams
- Energy Sector
 - Fluorescent lamps
 - Batteries
- Cosmetics

Four Key Elements Of Road Map

- Assessment of the National Situation
- Public Education and Awareness
- Project Development
- Accession to the Minamata Convention

Assessment of the National Situation

- Expected Outcomes:
 - Development of an inventory of Mercury and Mercury Products
 - Recommendations for alternatives to Mercury
 - Recommendations to fill gaps identified to enable Jamaica's accession to the Mercury Convention
 - Knowledge sharing on the ESM of Mercury & Mercury Products

Public Education and Awareness

- Expected outcomes
 - Highlight the management (handling and disposal) of mercury containing products
 - Encourage reduction in use or promotion of alternatives as feasible
 - Awareness of mercury containing products which are used by the public with emphasis on
 - ✓ Health impacts/effects
 - ✓ Bioaccumulation
 - ✓ Labelling
 - ✓ Information on waste streams inter alia

Project Development

Projects will enable the country to actively pursue the first two elements of the plan and thereby provide the enabling framework to accede to the Convention

Accession to the Minamata Convention

- Development of National Legislation
- Deposit Instrument for Accession

Current Legislative Framework

The Natural Resources Conservation Authority (Air Quality) Regulations, 2006, places a limit on mercury emissions. Under these regulations mercury is classified as a Toxic Air Pollutant.

The Road Map will enable Jamaica to determine whether current regulations will allow the country to satisfy its obligations under the convention.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Managing and protecting Jamaica's land, wood and water



National Environment
and Planning Agency

Projects

- Preliminary inventory of mercury waste in health care sector – MoH 2011
- Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) – ongoing
 - mercury waste from industry

Project Name

- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management – Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (SAICHM QSPTF)

- Implementation – October 2015

Project Components

- Promulgation of chemicals legislation
- Updating of the National Chemicals Management Profile
- Conducting inventories for select priority chemicals
- National Programme for the ESM of e-wastes, and
- Hazardous Wastes Operations Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and assistance in the development of the National Chemical Emergency Risk Management Plan (NCERP)

Priority Chemical - Mercury

- Project activities related to mercury
 - development of a national inventory of mercury products and industrial processes using the UNEP Mercury Toolkit
 - identification and quantification of key sources of mercury releases to the Jamaican environment
 - identification and cost-benefit analyses for alternatives to key mercury-based products, particularly in the health care sector

Priority Chemical - Mercury

- Project activities related to mercury (cont'd)
 - assessment of mercury loading in fish and other biota (*capacity building for public sector laboratories to undertake mercury assessments*)
 - development of national policy, and if necessary promulgation of legislation, to govern sale and/or trade of mercury-based products
 - development of a national public education and awareness raising programme on mercury

Project Objectives

- Development of a National Emissions Inventory to track air quality within identified air sheds and emissions;
- Make such inventory available to the public.

Methodology

- Identification of sectors which potentially emit/discharge mercury and/or mercury compounds to the Jamaican environment
- Air, soil and fish samples will be analysed for mercury by atomic absorption spectroscopy
- Utilization of an Environmental Chemist

Methodology

- Environmental Chemist
 - to train laboratory staff undertake the necessary sample collection and analyses.
Trainees : National Public Health Laboratory and The National Environment and Planning Agency
 - to identify and quantify the various mercury-based products in the country

Expected Outcome of the Project

- The provision of information in support of the development of the National Emissions Inventory.
- The facilitation of the provision of data on loading of mercury and mercury compounds in other environmental media, including soil and fish.
- Completion of the Mercury Inventory

Challenges

- No storage capacity for the permanent storage of mercury waste
- Funding needed to export to countries with this capacity

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

jody-ann.minott@nepa.gov.jm
fayona.lewis@nepa.gov.jm

Managing and protecting Jamaica's land, wood and water



**National Environment
and Planning Agency**