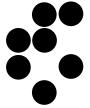


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Ljubljana, 5.08.2010

Subject: Expression of interest to become partners in the UNEP partnership programmes:

1. Mercury air transport and fate research
2. Mercury control from coal combustion

The "Jožef Stefan" Institute (<http://www.ijs.si>) is a research organization for pure and applied research in the natural sciences and technology. Emphasis in basic research is given to the growth and education of young scientists, while applied research and development serve for the transfer of advanced knowledge, contributing to the development of the national economy and society in general. The activities include research and education in the natural sciences, technology, and related fields including: Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Electronics and Information Technology, Reactor Techniques and Energetics, Reactor Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Protection and Ecology. A significant part of the work of the Jožef Stefan Institute reflects its concern for the environment.

Department of Environmental Sciences (www.environment.si) covers a wide range of activities including environmental measurements and modelling and impact assessments, radioecology, biogeochemical cycling of trace elements and their metabolism in biological systems, biomonitoring, and evaluation of nutritional values of foods and feedstuff. The Department has over 30 years of experience in mercury analysis and speciation in environmental and biological samples and was involved in numerous national and international projects related to mercury research. Some recent activities on mercury research are listed in the Annex. In summary, the activities involve the following mercury research topics:

- Development of methods for mercury analysis and speciation, including monitoring strategies, standardization, quality control materials, intercomparisons
- Biogeochemical cycling of mercury in contaminated sites, marine environment, terrestrial systems
- Exposure assessment and health effects on humans in contaminated sites and general population exposed to mercury through fish consumption
- Emission reduction technologies (flue gases, bioremediation)
- Modeling (aquatic systems) and GIS modeling at the catchment scale

In the framework of the UNEP Global Mercury Action Plan, researchers have been involved in the preparation of UNEP's Global Mercury Assessment Report and EU Position Paper on mercury. Prof. Milena Horvat, who coordinates the activities related to mercury research attended OEWG meetings in Bangkok and Nairobi. She has already been active in activities implemented by the Partnership Programme Fate and Transport and Mercury control from coal combustion. In addition, activities

currently implemented by GESAMP on mercury assessment in the marine environment, are also planned to become a part of the Fate and Transport Partnership activities.

In particular, we intend to support the partnership programme by activities as follows:

1. Partnership on Reducing Mercury Emissions from Coal Combustion in the Energy Sector

- optimizing multi-pollutant control techniques in coal combustion using low cost wet flue gas desulphurisation technologies (FGDs);
- analysis and speciation of mercury concentrations and other compounds in coals as a support to design clean technologies used by power plants and measurements of mercury and other compounds in stack flue gases and wet FGDs and solid wastes;
- implementing pilot studies in coal burning power plants in Slovenia and other countries in the Balkan peninsula.
- Implementing studies in cement production facilities and gas and oil sector.
- transferring information and lessons learnt to facilities and governments in the Balkans.

2. Mercury air transport and fate research

- Monitoring mercury in precipitation, TGM, mercury speciation (RGM, TPM) in EMEP station in Slovenia
- Improving quality of measurements through an integrated system implemented by the European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) in collaboration with national metrology institutes and international organization. This will lead to production of traceable data with stated uncertainties, that is of fundamental importance to compare time and spatial trends.
- Measurement of mercury speciation and fluxes in ocean cruise as part of the Global mercury observing system (GMOS) funded through EU Framework programmes.
- Improving databases for the assessment of the contribution of mercury to the global atmospheric Hg budget from contaminated sites.
- Sharing information obtained from national and international projects related to the overall goal of F&T partnership programme (Annex).
- Development of novel isotopic techniques for source apportionments of mercury in the global atmosphere.
- Sharing experience and knowledge developed in the framework of GESAMP Working Group 37: Mercury in the marine environment.

We would like to officially become partners in the both partnership programme and contribute to activities by sharing our experience and develop future plan of actions in respective priority areas.

I hope that the information provided is suitable and we are looking forward to successful partnership activities,

Prof. dr. Milena Horvat



Head, Department of Environmental Sciences

Attachments:

1. Annex – projects, collaborations, publications
2. UNEP Registration form

Annex
Department of Environmental Sciences, Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia
R&D PROJECTS related to MERCURY

European projects

- **BIOMERCURY** – Worldwide remediation of mercury hazards through biotechnology 6.OP EU, 2004-2006
- **EMECAP**, *European Mercury Emission from Chlor-Alkali Plants*, 5OP, Quality of Life and Living Resources, Coordinator for Slovenian participation; Italija, 2000--2004
- **EUROCAT** – European Catchments: Catchments changes and their impact on the coast, EVK1-CT-2000-2004.
- **METROPOLIS** – Metrology in support to precautionary sciences and sustainable development policies, GTC-2001-53008
- **MERCYMS** – An integrated approach to assess the mercury cycling in the Mediterranean region (2002-2005) 5 FP.
- **QUA-NAS** – Improving the infrastructure for metrology in chemistry in the candidate New Member States, GTC1-2002-73003
- **VIRM** – The European Virtual Institute for Reference materials, 5.OP EU, Growth, G7RT-CT-2002-05104 (vodja projekta na IJS)
- **PHIME** – Public health impact of long-term, low-level mixed element exposure in susceptible population strata, 6.OP. IP
- **HydroNet**, 7.FP - Floating Sensorised Networked Robots for Water Monitoring, GA 212790 (2008 -)
- **ArcRisk**: 7 FP. Arctic Health Risks: Impacts on health in the Arctic and Europe owing to climate-induced changes in contaminant cycling, GA 226534 (2009)
- **Hg-197 MeHg assess**: Evaluation of Methyl-mercury production and decomposition by using Hg-197 radiotracer produced out of mercury enriched in Hg-196 isotope, Marie Curie IIF
- **GMOS**: 7 FP – Mercury Global Observing System , 2010 -
- **COPHES** - **C**onsortium to **P**erform **H**uman biomonitoring on a **E**uropean Scale (CA, Environment
- **DEMOCOPHES** – Pilot human biomonitoring in EU (Life +)

IAEA projects:

- Comparing Health and Environmental Impacts of the Coal Fired Power Plant, Šoštanj and Nuclear Power Plant, Krško, IAEA technical cooperation project, SLO/0/002).
- Biogeochemistry of mercury in the contaminated environments, IAEA, 10879/R1 (2000-2005)

- Potential human exposure to Pb, Cd, Zn, As, and Hg through consumption of foodstuffs grown or bred near mining areas in Slovenia, B5-SLO-30567, IAEA (sodelavka na projektu)
- Organizational, Reporting and Certification Aspects of Proficiency Testing, INT/1/054, IAEA – TC
- Nutritional Status and Exposure to mercury and its compounds in pregnant women and women of childbearing age in former mining site using nuclear and other techniques, IAEA, CRP (2007-2009)
- Stable Isotope Techniques to Assess Human Milk Intake in Infants Living in Areas Contaminated with Mercury, Lead and Cadmium, 15825/R0, 2009-2010

Other international projects:

- Quality in Chemical Measurements and Chemical Metrology, European Training Foundation, The PHARE Multi-Country Programme in Distance Education, Course Module Development Project, ETF/97/VET/0076
- Epidemiological Study of Mother-to-Child Transmission of Mercury in the Population of Coastal Area of the Gulf of Trieste, Friuli - Venezia Giulia Region, 1999 – 2000, v sodelovanju z University of Udine
- Feasibility Study on Exposure of Pregnant Women to Methyl Mercury via Ingestion of Fish and Potential Neurological Effects on their Offspring in the Island of the Eastern Aegean Sea, Greece , Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, ZDA
- Contaminated sites - Hg, UNEP (2008)
- Mercury measurements in ambient air and deposition, CEN/TC 264/WG25, Standardisation project funded by the DG ENV.
- Certification of trace elements in rice flour, JRC, IRMM- International Measurement Evaluation Programme; Geel, Belgija
- Biomonitoring of mercury, INA Naftaplin, Zagreb, Croatia, (three projects in the period 1997-2002)

Bilateral cooperation

China:

- The Impact Assessment of Mercury on Man and his Environment in Areas Polluted with Mercury Due to Mining Activities, Coal Burning and Industrial Emissions, 03-3-01, 1999 – 2000
- Speciation of Trace Elements, 03-3-07, 1999 – 2000, China Academy of Science, IHEP-Institut of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China,
- Integration of Hg Removal (RHg) in the Process of Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) in Thermal Power Plants. (2005 – 2007)
- Biomarkers of Exposure and Effects in Sensitive Population Groups Living in Contaminated Sites, 2009-2011, BI-CN/09-11-025, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing
- Modelling of Mercury and its Compounds in Polluted Freshwater Systems: Comparison Between Reservoirs in the Guizhou Province and the Idrijca River System, 2009-2011, BI-CN/09-11-009, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guiyang

Japan

- Mercury in the Environment and Its Impact on Human Health, University of Fukuoka, National Institute for Minamata disease, 1998 – 1999, 2000-2001, 2001-2003,
- Modelling of mercury in contaminated coastal environments, Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Nagasaki
- The Estimation of the Impact of Mercury Released in Environmental by a Human Activity - The Behavior of Mercury Released from the Mining Area. 2003-2009, JSPS Grant no. 15404003, Kagoshima University, Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Faculty of Science, Kagoshima)
- Cycling of Mercury in Contaminated Environments, 2008-2010, Kagoshima University, Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Faculty of Science, Kagoshima 890-0065

France

- Biogeochemistry of mercury and tin in contaminated coastal environment, 1999-2000, Universite de Pau et de Pays de l'Adour, PROTEUS.

Germany

- Biogeochemistry of mercury and tin in contaminated coastal environment in Idrija and the Gulf of Trieste, University of Mainz, 2000 - 2003.

Portugal

- Developemnt of analztical methods, Nuclear Institute Sacavem, Lizbona, Portugalska (2003-2005)

Brazil

- Remediation of mercury contaminated sites, CETEM/MCT, Brazilija Rio de Janeiro, 2003-2005)
- Biogeochemical cycling of trace elements in contaminated coastal environments - Patos Lagoon and the Gulf of Trieste, University of Rio Grande do Sul

Italy

- Mercury in the Grado and Marano Lagoons, University of Trieste, 2009-2010

Croatia

- Biochemistry of Mercury in a Contaminated Coastal Environment, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split, 1998 - 2004

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Integrated approach to assess the impact of former chlor alkali plant, Tuzla. University of Sarajevo 2003 – 2005

USA

- Mercury in a Semi-Arid Aquatic Ecosystems: Processes Controlling Methylation and Demethylation, National Science Foundation – NSF, USA, University of Anchorage, Alaska, 1997 – 2000
- Biogeochemistry of Mercury in the Idrija River System: processes Controlling Methylation of Hg and Demethylation of MeHg, NSF USA, 2005-2008
- Exchange of Toxic Metals between Eater and Sediment in Polluted Freshwater Systems. The Idrijca River System (Slovenia) and Lake Coeur d'Alene (USA), 2008-2010, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of California, Davis, CA

Argentina

- Production and use of mercury radioisotopes in environmetal studies. Nuclear Atomic Center Bariloche (2005-2008)

- IAEA, Technical cooperation on capacity upgrade to study mercury in aquatic systems, Nuclear Atomic Center Bariloche, Argentina, 2010 -

National research projects

Programme

- P1 – 0143 Cycling of contaminants, mass balances, modeling of environmental processes and risk assessment. (2004 – 2008) (2009 – 2014)
- P0 - 0531 Biological and geochemical cycling (2001-2004)

Projects funded by Slovenian Research Agency:

- J1-8905 Biogeochemical cycling of mercury in the <gulf of Trieste, 1997 - 1999
- Z1-6536 Bioremediation of mercury in contaminated sites in Idrija 2004 - 2006
- V1-0233 Pollution assessment of mercury in Idrija and preparation of actions according to 84/156/EEC, 1999 - 2000
- L1-0367 Integrated methodology for remediation of mercury contaminated sites 2008-2011
- L2-9023 Reduction of mercury emission from stack gases 2007 - 2009
- J3-3076-0312-01: Effect of elemental mercury on peroxidation of lipids and function of target organs
- Z2-3530-0104: Development of metrology concepts in chemistry
- J1-3186-0487-01: Synergistic effects of Cd, Zn and Hg on animals and plants
- Z1-6536-0106-04 Bioremediation of mercury (2004-2006)
- J1-6717-0105-04 Stress and response in Porcellio scaber due to exposure to mercury
- L1-7407 Biological methods for monitoring hot spots contaminated by mercury
- J1-7369 Microbial processes responsible for biomagnification of mercury in the aquatic environment.

Other national Ministries

- Mercury and cadmium pollution in Slovenia, Ministry of the Environment MOPE (2004)
- Human biomonitoring, Ministry of Health (2007 -)
- Advisors during the Slovenian EU presidency (Mercury issues) Ministry of Health (2008)
- Emission factor, Environmental Agency (ARSO), 2006 – 2010)
- Monitoring of precipitation and air Hg measurements, Environmental Agency(2008 -)
- MED POL monitoring (1998 -2006)
- Health and environmental impacts related to the construction of NLG in the Gulf of Trieste – Mercury, Ministry of the Environment (2009-2010)
- Holder of national standard for the amount of substance, Metrology in Chemistry, MIRS (2004-)

Project for the industry

- Monitoring in Idrija, since 2000
- Mercury in cement production in Salonit, Anhovo (2005 -2008)
- Contamination of the Sava river, several short term projects (2001 – 2005)

Organization of thematic workshops and conferences related to mercury:

- Mercury in the Idrija Region and the Northern Adriatic, Portorož, May 2001

- CERMM-3, Third Central European Conference on Reference Materials and Measurements, Rogaška Slatina, maj 2002.
- 7th International Conference on Mercury as global Pollutant, Ljubljana, junij 2004,
- European Coastal Zone Research: an ELOISE Approach, 15-18 November 2004, Portorož, Slovenia. 2004. (M. Horvat, J. Pacyna)
- Mercury Health Impacts in Idrija Region, 17.12.2004 Idrija. 2004. (HORVAT, Milena, Alfred Kobal):
- Evolution and implications of new analytical techniques : chairperson of the round table of the ICH Net, XIII International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment, June 05-09, 2005, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 2005. (about 200 participants).
- Epidemiology of toxic elements – problems and solutions, Portorož, 25-27. april, 2007. (106 udeležencev)
- Mercury emissions from coal« MEC-6, 24-27. April, 2009, Ljubljana (L. Sloss)
- Mercury in Contaminated Sites: Characterisation, impact and remediation, Piran, 10.-14. October, 2010
- Members of Steering Committee for the organization of International meetings on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (1999 Rio de Janeiro, 2001, Minamata Japonska, 2004 Ljubljana, 2006 Madison, USA, 2009, Guiyang Kitajska) in International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment (2005 Rio de Janeiro, 2010 Gdansk).

Publications in SCI journals (since 1973):

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2. STEGNAR, Peter, KOSTA, Lado, BYRNE, Anthony Robert, RAVNIK, Vlado. The accumulation of mercury by, and the occurrence of methyl mercury in some fungi. *Chemosphere (Oxford)*. [Print ed.], 1973, vol. 2, str. 57-63. [COBISS.SI-ID [6832935](#)]
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