

Concept note for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership  
Waste Management Area Meeting 2020

## 1. Background

Waste Management Area (WMA) under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP), established in 2008, has implemented various activities and promoted capacity-building and technical assistance for the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes. At present, WMA has the largest number of Partners among GMP and has been led by Associate Prof. Misuzu Asari (Kyoto University) and Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ). Previous WMA meetings were held in Vienna, Austria (2018) and Bilbao, Spain (2019) to review the completed and ongoing activities carried out by WMA and exchange views and information on the future direction of WMA. The meeting also discussed possible collaboration with other Partnership Areas. With the aim of exploring further actions toward the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes, the WMA Meeting 2020 will be organized as follows.

## 2. Overview of the WMA Meeting 2020

Timing	Twice until the end of March 2021 (2.5 hours each)
Venue	Online (Webex) considering the COVID-19 pandemic
Participants	WMA Partners and other stakeholders
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ To review ongoing WMA activities and consider activities to be further developed</li> <li>◇ To identify (1) technologies and services for mercury waste management that Partners can provide (Seeds) and (2) challenges on mercury waste management that countries have faced with (Needs), and consider ways for matchmaking</li> <li>◇ To develop a WMA activity plan</li> </ul>
Tentative Agenda	<p><b>【1st Meeting, 12:00-14:30 (CET) on 27th November 2020】</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction (overview of the 2020 Meeting)</li> <li>2. Updates by the Partnership Secretariat on the overall UNEP-GMP activities</li> <li>3. Overview of the questionnaire survey to identify the needs for technologies and services on mercury waste management</li> <li>4. Update of information dissemination tool</li> <li>5. Possible collaboration with other Partnership Areas and contribution to the ongoing consultations under UNEP-GMP</li> <li>6. Development of the WMA activity plan</li> </ol> <p><b>【2nd Meeting, tbd】</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Result of the questionnaire survey</li> <li>2. Potential for seeds-needs matchmaking</li> <li>3. Development of the WMA activity plan (presentation on the draft plan, comments received, and finalization)</li> <li>4. Activities undertaken after the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and others</li> </ol>

## 3. Discussion Points

### (1) Identification of the needs for mercury waste management technologies and services

According to the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)<sup>1</sup>, several countries have identified mercury waste management as their top priority in implementing the Minamata Convention. Technical needs on the ground especially in developing countries, however, have not yet been fully understood, particularly regarding

<sup>1</sup> Analysis of national priorities from Minamata Initial Assessments  
[http://mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/News/ICMGP\\_presentation\\_on\\_MIA.pdf](http://mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/News/ICMGP_presentation_on_MIA.pdf)

challenges for developing countries on specific techniques and practices for different type of mercury waste at different phase of waste management (e.g., segregation, collection, storage, treatment and disposal).

It was also pointed out at previous WMA meetings<sup>2</sup> that information on technologies and services on mercury waste management which Partners provide could be collectively compiled into “Catalogue of Technologies and Services on Mercury Waste Management<sup>3</sup>,” yet it is also pointed out that careful examination will be required for understanding the needs of countries which actually face with challenges on mercury waste management.

In this regard, a questionnaire survey will be conducted in order to have clear understandings of the needs on mercury waste management. The format of survey will be elaborated in consultation with Partners at the first meeting and results will be shared at the second meeting for further consideration of the potential future activities.

## **(2) Needs and seeds matchmaking**

WMA Partners will be invited to discuss possible opportunities for WMA to support the matchmaking of “Seeds” (technologies and services that could be provided by partners) and “Needs” (challenges that countries face on mercury waste management). The idea will be exchanged among Partners and will be incorporated into “WMA Activity Plan” as appropriate. The followings are possible activities that WMA could contribute (but not limited to).

➤ Updates and improvement of the information sharing tools for technologies:

WMA has developed an information catalogue on mercury waste management technologies and services since 2018. This catalogue has been updated annually in order to reflect the latest information on a regular basis, and made it available at the Partnership website. At the WMA meeting 2019, participants pointed out that current version of catalogue contains information on technologies and services mainly provided by the private sector but the needs of countries are not limited to such information, thus information and knowledge of non-industry Partners, such as NGOs, research institutes and/or inter-governmental organizations, could also be included. Furthermore, some partners suggested that some information in the Resource Person List (RPL)<sup>4</sup> could be merged with the Catalogue so that users can access all the necessary information with a single tool. Partners will be invited to give technical and practical inputs to make WMA’s tool more beneficial and user-friendly, taking into account the results of the questionnaire survey.

➤ Facilitating information sharing among Partners:

WMA has discussed the way to promote communication among partners. Participants at the meeting 2020 will be invited to further consider an effective way of using communication tools, such as WMA mailing list or SNS.

➤ Organizing technical sessions through webinar:

WMA may wish to consider awareness raising and training activities for the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes through the online system (e.g., UNEP’s webinar system). The webinar could also serve as a platform to discuss possible actions to promote “seeds” and “needs” matchmaking. It could be organized in cooperation with other UNEP-GMP partnership. The possible collaboration may include, but not limited to;

- ✓ Joint webinar with the Chlor-alkali Partnership Area: Webinar provides technical options for the conversion from mercury method and the environmentally sound management of surplus mercury

---

<sup>2</sup> [https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/events?title=&field\\_gmp\\_partnership\\_area\\_value=waste](https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/events?title=&field_gmp_partnership_area_value=waste)

<sup>3</sup> Catalogue of Technologies and Services on Mercury Waste Management - 2020 version

<https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/catalogue-technologies-and-services-mercury-waste-management-2020-version>

<sup>4</sup> Resource Persons List

[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/20287/3.RPLlist\\_April2017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/20287/3.RPLlist_April2017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

and waste contaminated with mercury to be generated after the decommissioning of facilities; and

- ✓ Joint webinar with Products Partnership Area: Webinar provides technical options for phase-out and alternative to mercury-added products.

➤ Organizing a training/workshop for capacity building:

WMA Partners will be invited to consider a possibility of organizing a training and/or workshop on mercury waste management mainly for developing countries. Such trainings or workshops could be organized back to back with related conferences such as the COP4 (November 2021 in Indonesia) and the ICMGP15 (July 2022 in South Africa).

### **(3) Development of the WMA Activity Plan**

Taking into the objective and strategy of the WMA<sup>5</sup> and the discussion above, the participants will discuss its mid-long-term activity plan in the following manner.

- At the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting: exchange views on WMA's activity in coming few years.
- Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting: Leads will draft WMA activity plan and invite for comments
- At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting: discuss further and revise the draft plan as appropriate
- March 2021: Leads will finalize the WMA activity plan considering the discussion at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/our-work/mercury-waste-management>

**Time Schedule of the first Mercury Waste Management Area Meeting 2020**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Facilitators: WMA Leads (Associate Prof. Misuzu Asari, Kyoto University & Ms. Yuri Kato, Ministry of the Environment, Japan)

Time (CET)	Topic	Speaker
11:45-12:00	Webex open	
<b>Opening</b>		
12:00-12:05	Opening remarks	WMA Leads
12:05-12:05	Adaption of the agenda	WMA Leads
12:05-12:15	Overview of the 2020 Meeting	WMA Secretariat
12:15-12:25	Updates by UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) Secretariat - Overview of the Global Mercury Partnership - Recent developments under the Global Mercury Partnership	GMP Secretariat (UNEP)
<b>Session1: Identification of the needs for mercury waste management technologies and services</b>		
12:25-12:35	Introduction	WMA Secretariat
12:35-13:00	Discussion - Outline of the questionnaire (e.g., question items) - Strategy to collect useful information	Facilitated by WMA Leads
<b>Session 2: Needs and seeds matchmaking</b>		
13:00-13:10	Introduction	WMA Secretariat
13:10-13:40	Discussion - Update of existing WMA tools - Ideas for matchmaking	Facilitated by WMA Leads
<b>Session 3: Possible collaboration with other Partnership Areas and contribution to the ongoing consultations under UNEP-GMP</b>		
13:40-13:50	Introduction	WMA Secretariat GMP Secretariat
13:50-14:20	Discussion - Possible collaboration with other Partnership Areas - Update on contribution to the ongoing consultations under GMP	Facilitated by WMA Leads
<b>Closing</b>		
14:20-14:30	Wrap up and closing remarks	WMA Leads