



Terms of Reference

Technical Advisory Group

Background

The Minamata Convention on Mercury, which entered into force on 16 August 2017, aims to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds, and requires its parties to implement and report various aspects of the Convention. The project titled “Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences” is financially supported by the Ministry of the Environment, the Government of Japan and implemented by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The project especially addresses information exchange, awareness and education, research development and monitoring, which will contribute UNEP member states to improve their national mercury-related information and its platform to implement mercury management relevant to the Convention. Additionally, it will establish a region-wide network of analytical institutions with mercury monitoring capabilities around Asia and the Pacific to bring their capacities to international standards.

The project's governance will comprise a project management unit (PMU) within the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific which is overseen by a Project Steering Committee (PSC). For the project implementation, local partners in Minamata or surrounding area are identified. A Technical advisory group is formed which is an ad hoc group with flexible membership to fit to the needs and requests from partner countries.

Roles and responsibilities

The Technical Advisory Group is a pool of individual experts in the region who are individually and/or collaboratively contributing technical inputs to the project or partner countries as needed. The members are selected based on the technical competency

relevant to the scope of the project. When specific expertise is required, supplementary experts can be invited based on the specific knowledge to the subjected item.

The advisory body works collaboratively and individually to respond request from the Project Management Unit (PMU) of this project or partner countries via the PMU. It will:

- Provides advice in reviewing the scientific information that the project has accumulated and evaluates the reliability of data and analysis.
- Interacts with academic communities such as International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP) to provide the newest trends on research and development findings.
- Facilitates identifying resource persons of specific subjects who can provide inputs/lectures under the project activities.
- Advises research topics and/or survey plans that the project undertakes for strengthening scientific base data in the region.
- Addresses the queries from participating countries to PMU that require specific expertise and/or scientific knowledge.

List of Technical Advisors

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	Name	Email	Title	Major	Institution	Expertise	Organization/Institution	Job title
1	Bhupendra Devkota	bhupendra.devkota@gmail.com	Dr.	Zoology & Entomology	University of Hannover	Ecotoxicology	College of Applied Sciences, Nepal	Founder Principal
2	Koichi Haraguchi	KOICHI_HARAGUCHI@env.go.jp	Dr.	Agriculture	Tohoku University	Analytical chemistry	National Institute for Minamata Disease	Senior Researcher
3	Kyaw Nyunt Maung	kyawnyunt.maung@gmail.com	Dr.	Environmental Engineering	Ritsumeikan University	Environmental science	Environmental Compliance Consultancy Co., Ltd.	Environmental Impact Assessment Expert
4	Yasuhiro Ishibashi	yisibasi@pu-kumamoto.ac.jp	Dr.	Science and Marine Technology	Nagasaki University	Environmental science	Prefectural University of Kumamoto	Professor
5	Minoru Koga	mkoga@peace.ocn.ne.jp	Dr.	Analytical Chemistry	Kyushu University	Analytical chemistry	Minamata Environmental Academia	Director General
6	Osamu Sakamoto	sakamoto@exri.co.jp	Mr.	Agricultural Economics	Michigan State University	International relations	EX Research Institute Ltd.	Senior Consultant