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Latest news from the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership – October 2023

Our October issue provides an overview of recent, current and forthcoming activities, especially in the context of the upcoming Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

As the fourteenth Meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group is also around the corner, find out more about annual meetings of your Partnership Areas, as well as planned activities under the cross-cutting work of the Partnership.

Finally, discover our new members, as well as recent publications.

With our greetings,

The Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership

HIGHLIGHTS



The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-5) will take place from **30 October to 3 November 2023** in Geneva, Switzerland. [Here is what to expect.](#)

In the margins of the upcoming international meeting, **online side events** were

resources, including of events the Global Mercury Partnership took part in, respectively on [Mercury and Vulnerable Peoples: Pathways to Protection](#), [Reinforcing the health sector's commitment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury: The showcase of GEF-UNEP-WHO projects on mercury-added products](#), and [Addressing Hg Pollution and Biodiversity: from Science to Action](#).

As part of the meeting week in Geneva, dissemination of information will continue through the [knowledge lab sessions and COP-5 exhibition](#).

MINAMATA COP-5 IN-PERSON EVENTS



Sunday, **29 October at 18:15** the screening of the [Minamata movie showcasing effects of mercury poisoning in coastal communities in the 1970s](#), is a special event to the fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The film is open to all public upon [registration](#).



[Minamata Convention: A Decade of Global Commitment to Make Mercury History](#) will be held on **30 October at 13:45 CET** in person for COP-5 participants and streamed live. Through an interactive roundtable, this event will share the views of relevant stakeholders who will provide insights into the Convention's progress over ten years, aiming to bring both remembrance and hope, with a focus on the human aspect.



[Mercury in cosmetics – more than what meets the eye](#) session, co-organized by the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Environment Programme in an in-person setting on **31 October 2023**, will question the promotion and normalization of skin lightening to prevent the perpetuation of harmful cultural norms and [#makemercuryhistory](#). Further information is available on the [event page](#).



Booth! We're teaming up with UNDP, UNIDO, Conservation International and others to shed light on what each agency is doing at every stage of the mercury lifecycle, from artisanal and small-scale gold mining to mercury-added products and more. [Discover our projects and innovative solutions](#) and connect directly with the experts behind each initiative.

UPCOMING PARTNERSHIP EVENTS



The **Partnership Advisory Group** will hold its fourteenth meeting on **19 December 2023** in an online setting. The meeting will provide the opportunity to take stock of recent and ongoing activities and exchange on cross-cutting priority topics for future work. Further information will be made available on the [event page](#) as it becomes available.



Managing Mercury from the Non-Ferrous Metals Mining and Smelting: sharing of experience and best practices information session to be organized during the **first quarter of 2024**, in an online setting, will be the occasion to exchange on existing best practices and countries' experiences. We will keep you informed in due course.

RECENT EVENTS



The Area of work on **Mercury Supply and Storage** held its annual meeting on **13 October 2023**, in an online setting. The meeting welcomed Lilian Corra as the new co-lead of the Partnership Area, but also provided the opportunity to discuss possible topics for future work. Check the [meeting page](#) for further details.



Management Area organised its partnership area meeting in an online setting. The meeting among others provided an update on ongoing work of the working groups, as well as key highlights towards the COP-5. Meeting resources are available on the dedicated [meeting page](#).



The Partnership Area on **Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research** organized its annual meeting on **6 October 2023** in an online setting. The gathering allowed to update partners on ongoing activities, including upcoming special issues on mercury. Check the [meeting page](#) for further details.

LATEST RESOURCES

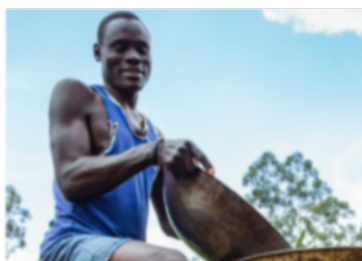
Get ready for COP-5

Get further insights on recent, ongoing and envisaged **initiatives of the Partnership and its areas of work** through its [Report on activities undertaken within the Global Mercury Partnership of the United Nations Environment Programme](#).



Have a look at the Information Document [Taking stock of national action plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining: data, lessons learned and implementation](#) to get an overview of **NAPs submitted to the Secretariat**.

Consult the Information document [Lessons learned from technology transfer activities in planetGOLD phase 1 projects](#) to learn more about **technology transfer experiences** in the planetGOLD programme.



On the occasion of the **10th anniversary of the adoption** of the Minamata Convention, read this story by UN Environment Programme on the journey that made the treaty what it is today: [How the Minamata Convention is aiming to end mercury's millennia-long toxic run](#).



international community took a key step forward by signing the Minamata Convention on Mercury. **Watch the video [Minamata Convention: A Decade of Global Commitment to Make Mercury History](#)** to know more about the Convention and its crucial role in helping countries control, reduce and eliminate mercury across all its life-stages.



The **IOMC Mercury Group** continues to support ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention and involves close cooperation and coordination among the participating organizations on a broad range of activities. The most recent technical session shared experiences and exchanged information on emissions and releases of mercury. Group members will attend the upcoming COP-5.



The National Institute for Minamata Disease, in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, via Japan-funded regional project in Asia and the Pacific, is **opening the third round of the laboratory proficiency testing** to assess the analytical capacity for mercury. The results of the second round that tested 55 laboratories are now **also available**.



Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products Knowledge hub

Check out our knowledge hub to learn more about existing trends of skin whitening or bleaching, and the project currently being implemented in Gabon, Jamaica and Sri Lanka. Spread the word and contribute to **[#mercuryfreecosmetics](#)**.



Knowledge hub

Phasing down the use of dental amalgam is essential as we work towards the reduction of mercury impacts on human health and the environment. Visit our knowledge hub and get insights about the project in Senegal, Thailand and Uruguay to [#phasedowndentalamalgam](#).

[VIEW ALL RESOURCES >>](#)

WELCOME OUR NEW PARTNERS

[Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America](#)

[GEOMAR](#)

[Say No To Mercury](#)

[United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#)

[INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER >>](#)

READ MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP AREAS

**Artisanal and small-scale
gold mining**

**Mercury releases from
coal combustion**

**Mercury air transport
and fate research**

Mercury waste management

**Mercury cell chlor-alkali
production**

Mercury supply and storage

Mercury in products

**Mercury releases from
the cement industry**

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For more information visit [our website](#) or contact us [by email](#)

Our mailing address is:
Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix
Geneva 1211
Switzerland

[Add us to your address book](#)