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Dear Dr. Younes,

In response to your letter dated 1st July, 2006, regarding Governing Council Decision 23/9 IV on the mercury programme: Status report on implementation of mercury partnerships. We are pleased to inform you of the following information.

According to UNEP Governing Council decision 23/9 IV, which was adopted in 2005, UNEP requested countries to identify priority areas. In response, Pollution Control Department, Thailand provided you with the information regarding mercury in manufacturing activities, coastal water, atmospheric transport and fate research. Concerning implementation of mercury partnership, the following progress has been made:

Partnership for Mercury Monitoring and Research

Goals and Objective of the Partnership

This partnership is designed to enhance country data of mercury distributions and emissions. Such data is used to identify an appropriate level of mercury releases from manufactures. Moreover, this partnership is intended to supply techniques for assessing mercury contamination in both atmosphere and in coastal sea water and to encourage information & expertise exchange, as well as to raise public awareness.

Progress of the Partnership

A number of Informal consultations were held. They were attended by participants from universities, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders with the main purpose to accomplish mercury contamination assessment.

Financial resources needed to execute the partnership

The partnership receives financial support from government, universities and industrial partners.

Constraints encountered in implementation of the partnership

The partnership is subject to challenges including insufficient financial support and the lack of public awareness to support related activities.

Partnership for Mercury Zero Discharge from Petroleum Production

Goals and Objective of the Partnership

This partnership is aimed at decreasing environmental impacts associated with the discharge of produce water that is contaminated with mercury from petroleum production in the Gulf of Thailand. This mercury-polluted water is among the largest anthropogenic sea-based source of mercury

emitted to the South China Sea. With rapidly growing economy and increasing energy demands, mercury released from this source is likely to increase.

Progress of the Partnership is demonstrated in the following project implementation:

(1) Joint monitoring project

The major activity of this partnership is to monitor mercury distribution in sea water and sediment as well as its contamination in fish.

(2) Pilot project for mercury contaminated produce water zero discharge

Financial resources required to carry out the partnership

Petroleum production companies provided financial contribution to support efforts related to the partnership. Moreover, to ensure the effectiveness of its implementation, additional support was given by the government in terms of the expertise in related fields.

Constraints encountered in implementation of the partnership

Awareness of mercury emission from petroleum and its harmful threat should be raised. Further, UNEP should put more effort in encouraging the partnership in this matter.

Partnership for Atmospheric Mercury Fate Monitoring and Research

Goals and Objective of the Partnership

This partnership concentrates on monitoring atmospheric mercury. Work under this partnership includes the development of data sets and tools to for atmospheric mercury monitoring.

Progress of the Partnership

An informal consultation was held in 2005 with participants from governmental and university stakeholders. This consultation was considered as an opportunity to exchange and discuss the ideas of atmospheric mercury monitoring.

Financial resources required to carry out the partnership

The government served as a major financial contributor for this partnership.

Constraints encountered in implementation of the partnership

The implementation of activities under this partnership is subject to financial limitation. The sufficient financial support would facilitate the implementation of this partnership.