



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos.: 925-47-93 to 97
Email : emb@emb.gov.ph
Visit us at <http://www.emb.gov.ph>

JUL 13 2006

MS. MAGED YOUNES

Head Chemicals Branch, DTIE

International Environment House

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

11-13 Chemin de Anemones

CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva

Switzerland

Fax No.: +41 22 797 34 60

ATTENTION: Mercury Programme
UNEP Chemicals

Dear Ms. **Younes**:

This has reference to your letter requesting information and inputs regarding the Governing Council Decision 23/29 IV on mercury programme specifically on the report summarizing supply, trade and demand information for mercury.

Please be informed that the Philippine Government through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) passed the DENR Administrative Order No. 97-38 otherwise known as "Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Mercury and Mercury Compounds" under the Republic Act 6969 otherwise known as "Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act". This CCO mandated the DENR-EMB to control mercury use and dispersion of mercury into the environment to avoid risk, reduce hazards to health and the environment from the use, handling, management and transport even in the disposal and subsequent release and exposure of mercury. Identification of Priority Chemical List is under Section 19, Chapter IV of DAO 29 and promulgated in the DENR Administrative Order 98-58, wherein mercury and mercury compounds are listed as one of the highly toxic chemicals which are subject to the general requirements of the CCO.

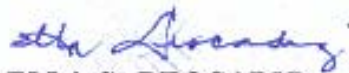
Under this law, this Office was able to control and monitor the entry of mercury and mercury compounds in the country. However, the only data we have are the name of importers, distributors and users of mercury and mercury compounds. This Office has limited information as far as the disposition of mercury is concerned particularly on the required data specific for certain applications. Based on our records, the volume of importation/consumption of mercury and mercury

compounds is estimated at only 465 metric tons in 2005. Out of the fifty two (52) importers/distributors, twenty six (26) are end-users engaged in mining, electrical apparatus (bulbs/lamps, battery cells) manufacturing, industrial and control instruments, pharmaceutical/laboratory analysis, pulp and paper manufacturing, dental amalgam, and industrial catalyst.

To come up with a complete baseline data which can be used as a guidance document to assist the Government of the Philippines to strengthen the institutional framework for directing and overseeing the eventual phase-out of mercury use and importation, we are planning to develop a national inventory of mercury and mercury compounds. We will be requesting for the assistance of UNEP Chemicals to support the Philippines in achieving this goal that will ensure sustainability of Mercury phase-out through policy measures instituted for this purpose.

We hope that this information would satisfy your needs.

Very truly yours,



ELLA S. DEOCADIZ
OIC-Director