

CEC-Americas Workshop to Reduce Mercury Use in Products
February 21-23, 2006
Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

Overview: The Governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) are hosting a workshop, *Reducing Mercury Use in Products in the Americas*, February 21-23, 2006, in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. This workshop is a capacity-building initiative under the *Global Partnership for Mercury Reduction in Products*, established under the auspices of the UNEP Mercury Programme.

The UNEP Governing Council, in Decision 23/9, Chemicals Management, Part IV, urged governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to develop and implement partnerships as one approach to reducing the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds to the environment.

Information on the global mercury partnerships can be found at:

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/partnerships/default.htm>

Workshop Audience: The workshop is designed to inform and engage governmental environment and health officials, non-governmental organizations, and product manufacturers in the Americas, to build capacity towards establishing and implementing programs and procedures to: 1) reduce and eliminate the use of mercury, where there are effective substitutes; and 2) better control existing uses of mercury in products and processes to minimize environmental impacts.

Key Workshop Objectives:

- Exchanging information on successful mercury reduction programs in various product sectors; and
- Identifying participating country needs, priorities, and next steps for reducing mercury use in products in the Americas.

Registration: The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), having experience in developing the North American Regional Action Plan on Mercury, will be coordinating the workshop activities with Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Representatives from Central and South America will be invited to participate in the workshop.

All invitees to the workshop will be required to register with the CEC, regardless of funding requirements. This will ensure that all invitees receive documentation for the workshop as well as facilitate hotel reservations.

Because the workshop will have a regional focus and attendance will be limited, priority will be given to government officials from the Americas. Government participants will be sent a questionnaire regarding their country programs, needs and priorities for reducing mercury use before the workshop. This information will be compiled and used for discussion during the workshop.

Provisional Workshop Agenda: The provisional workshop agenda is provided below for information and will be updated in the near future.

DAY ONE	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006: MERCURY OVERVIEW
Time	Topic
8:00-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks
9:30-10:15	Overview of UNEP Mercury Program and Global Partnership for Mercury Reduction in Products
10:15-11:00	Overview of CEC and North American Regional Action Plan on Mercury
11:00-11:15	BREAK
11:15-12:00	Identifying Mercury Products & How Products Contribute to Releases (e.g., elemental mercury in switches, pressure & temperature devices, mercury compounds in paints & pesticides, & mercury in cosmetics)
12:00-12:30	Domestic & International Sources of Mercury Used in Products & Processes
12:30-1:30	Mercury Export/Import: Reports, Data Issues, Customs Reporting Protocols & Discussion
1:30-2:30	LUNCH (provided)
2:30-3:45	Developing Mercury Product/Use Inventories; Mercury Free Products/Alternatives & Databases
3:45-4:00	BREAK
4:00-4:45	Overview of Tools & Successful Programs to Reduce/Eliminate Mercury Use & Country Questionnaire Results
4:45-5:30	U.S. Mercury Reduction Programs
6:00-7:30	RECEPTION

DAY TWO	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2006: MERCURY REDUCTION PROGRAMS
Time	Topic
9:00- 10:00	Assessing & Reducing Mercury Use in Health Care Facilities (e.g., U.S. Hospitals for a Healthy Environment program & other country programs)
10:00-10:30	Global Environment Facility Hospitals Project
10:30 – 10:45	BREAK
10:45 – 11:30	Canadian Mercury Reduction Programs
11:30 – 12:15	Mexican Mercury Reduction Programs
12:15 – 1:30	Other Participating Country Mercury Reduction Programs & Discussion
1:30 – 2:30	LUNCH
2:30 – 3:30	Other Participating Country Mercury Reduction Programs & Discussion (continued)
3:30-4:00	Industry Mercury Reduction Programs
4:00-4:15	BREAK
4:15- 5:30	Industry Mercury Reduction Programs (continued)

DAY 3	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2006: MERCURY PROGRAMS; COUNTRY NEEDS & NEXT STEPS
Time	Topic
9:00- 10:30	Mercury Product Collection, Storage, Recycling & Disposal Programs & Challenges
10:30-10:45	BREAK
10:45-11:30	Questionnaire Results on Country Needs & Priorities for Reducing Mercury Use & Releases
11:30-1:00	Discussion Groups on Country Needs & Priorities for Reducing Mercury Use & Releases
1:00 – 2:00	LUNCH (Provided)
2:00 – 3:00	International Funding Mechanisms & Resources
3:00-4:00	Discussion Groups on Next Steps
4:00-4:15	BREAK
4:15-5:15	Summary of Next Steps & Closing Remarks

For Further Information: Please contact the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC):

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