

From: eyad ibrahim [eyadib72@hotmail.com]
Sent: 30 August 2005 23:02
To: Mercury
Cc: Aase Tuxen; Juan Caicedo
Subject: Draft Proposal

To: Mr. John Buccini

Dear Mr. Buccini,

With reference to UNEP Mercury Programme and the Governing Council decision 22/4 V at its twenty-two session, that national, regional and global actions, both immediate and long term, should be initiated as soon as possible to reduce the risks to human health and environment from the release of mercury and its compounds to the environment.

We would like to inform you that we have made a primary inventory of mercury and its compounds in accordance with our available potentials in cooperation with some governmental bodies.

As a result of that primary inventory, we found that it is necessary to be developed in order to include the whole bodies which deal with mercury and its compounds.

We will appreciate if you can provide us with financial and technical support in order to implement the following:

1. Developing the primary inventory of mercury and its compounds.
2. Training and public awareness programme.
3. National guideline to implement a sound management of mercury and its compounds.

Please find the attached file to this letter (draft project proposal).

We are looking for to hearing from you as soon as possible.

With best regards

Eng. Eyad Ibrahim
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Partnership.txt

From: eyad ibrahim [eyadib72@hotmail.com]
Sent: 30 August 2005 22:56
To: Aase Tuxen
Cc: Juan Caicedo
Subject: Partnership

Dear Mr. Buccini,

With reference to your letter dated on 20 May 2005, concerning the Governing Council decision 23/9 IV on mercury programme: Establishment of partnership as one approach to reducing the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury to the environment.

We would like to inform you that we made an environmental survey on chloralkali factory in our country. We defined the obtained adverse impacts to the human health and the environment by using the mercurial cells technique in this factory.

We will appreciate if you can provide us with further information about that partnership, and dose this survey could be considered as partnership subject? And with who should we share with this information?

Please accept my highest appreciation and looking forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

With best regards

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Introduction:

Syria is located at the eastern cost of the Mediterranean. The area is (185,170 Km²), its population about 16,720,000 (mid 2001). Arabic is the official language, and the ruling system is republican.

Syria has four major geographical regions: coastal, mountain, in-land and steppe. Syria has fourteen administrative governorates, including cities and suburban areas.

Regarding of Syrian production sectors, the Industrial Sector includes Private and Public Sectors in addition to the Common Sector.

According to the Foreign Trade statistics in 2003 for the Private and Public sectors, the imported chemicals which are used in chemical industries amounted to (1,271,020 tons) in 2003, and exported chemicals amounted to (55,203 tons) in 2003, Such chemicals include all kinds of chemical materials used in foodstuff, detergents, paints, fertilizers,...etc.

Working in this project will contribute in implementing the Syrian commitments towards the UNEP Mercury Program and Conventions, which were ratified by the Syrian Arab Republic as follows: the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention.

Lead Agency:

Chemical Safety Department – General Commission of Environmental Affairs - Ministry of Local Administration and Environment.

The Commission deals with chemicals in the laboratory level. Its main role is to coordinate among the various concerned bodies to create an integrated and harmonic chemicals management system . Also, it has a monitorial role.

As a coordinating body and charged to implement the duties assigned to in the field of business management, General Commission of Environmental Affairs established a national Committee for Chemical Safety, which includes all bodies concerned with chemical safety in Syria.

Beneficiaries:

1. Ministry of Health – Center of Poisons.
2. Ministry of Industry – General establishment of Chemical Industries.

3. Ministry of Defense – Civil Defense.
4. Ministry of Petroleum and mineral resource..
5. General Directorate of Customs.
6. Dentists Association.
7. Chambers of Industry.
8. Chambers of Commerce.

On the one hand, we have made a primary inventory of mercury uses in some bodies of the Public Sector. On the other hand, we could not make survey and researches on the other bodies in both of the Public and Private Sectors, which use and deal with mercury and its compounds, due to the lack of technical and financial potentials and experiences. In addition to the high need for raising the environmental awareness on mercury pollution.

The Primary-Inventoried Bodies:

- Ministry of Industry – General establishment of Chemical Industries.
- Dentists Association.
- Atomic Energy Commission.

☒ Ministry of Industry:

General establishment of Chemical Industries uses mercury and its compounds within the following companies:

1. General establishment of glass-making in Aleppo:
Mercury was used in producing the fluorescent lamps, but it dose not now because the factory was closed. There are an unsafe-abandoned amount of mercury about (729 kg)
2. Arabic Medical Company:
It uses a mercury nitrates and other compounds include mercury.
There is no treatment to its wastes which are thrown to the public sewerage.
3. General Company of Paper:
It uses mercury in the electrical analysis which made up of the mercurial cells, which are considered an old dangerous technique.
Description:
 - These cells are used in the Electrical Analysis Section and numbered to (10 cells). Most of them are in a bad-technical condition and noted that there is a leakage from them and that causes a big amounts of mercury to be lost.
 - The precipitation tanks are small and have an old technique; therefore, mercury could be leaked directly to the sewerage of this factory then to

the Fourat River, so that will make people and organisms exposed directly and indirectly to the danger of mercury pollution.

- Working environment is very bad, in which the workers deal with this material manually without using a protective instruments, and that will expose the workers to the danger of poisoning by inhaling the steams of mercury.
- That old technique of this process causes problems (the products of factory will contain an amount of mercury). The most materials of these products which contain mercury by this process are as follows: (Na OH) which contains mercury about (500-1400g/ton) and used in many industries, (chlorine and NaOCL) which are used in purifying water.
- The media around the factory (air, water, soil) need more researches and analyses.
- The lost amount of mercury annually is about (3000 kg).

4. General Company of Tobacco:

It uses $\text{Hg}(\text{SCN})_2$ in average about (0.5 liter/day) and its concentration is (0.3 g /liter).

The company collects the wastes in a plastic containers and stores them in its storage.

☒ **Dentists Association:**

Mercury is used as pure element in making the dental amalgam fillings only.

In fact, the problem is that there are unneeded further wastes of these fillings, which are thrown to the waste basket, or to the sewerage.

☒ **Atomic Energy Commission:**

Mercury compounds which are used in its Chemical Section are as follows:

Hg NO_3 - Hg CL – Hg

The obtained mercury compounds from the analyses are stored as a waste in specific containers.

Results of the primary inventory:

According to the available abilities the primary inventory was made for some public bodies only, so we are in need to make survey and researches for the other public and private bodies.

There are some industries use mercury such as: paints, tanneries, some of pharmaceutical compounds, pigments and dyes, glass coloring.

In addition to Researches and analysis Labs, landfills and waste incineration (factory of wastes – unlicensed factories), coal production sites and medical wastes.

We need to provide us with technical and financial support in order to execute the following:

1. Develop the primary inventory of mercury and its compounds.
2. Training and public awareness programme.
3. National guideline for the sound management of mercury and its compounds.

Project duration: 6 months

Project cost: (19200 US\$) which is distributed as follows:

UNEP Contribution:

Category	Cost (US\$)
Personnel (Secretary)	1500
Work team (35 persons)	3000
Local consultant	1500
Travel & residence within Syria	1500
National workshop (one day)	3500
Equipments (one computer)	1500
Preparing the report	1500
Unseen expenses	1000
Total	15000

Syrian Contribution:

Category	Cost (US\$)
Project Steering Committee (10 persons)	1800
Meetings hall (6 meetings)	600
National Project Coordinator	1800
Total	4200
Total UNEP and Syrian Contribution	19200