

**REGIONAL AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP ON MERCURY POLLUTION –  
A Global Problem That Needs To Be Addressed**

**Bangkok, Thailand, 26-29 April 2004**

**FINAL PROGRAMME AND TIMETABLE**

**MONDAY 26 April 2004**

08:00 – 09:30	Registration of participants	<i>All participants</i>
<b>1st session:</b>	<b>Opening of the Workshop</b>	
09:30 – 9:50	Opening statements by hosts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Kingdom of Thailand</li><li>• United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li></ul>	<i>Apichai Chvajarernpun, Director –General, Pollution Control Department, MONRE</i> <i>Jim Willis, Director, UNEP Chemicals</i>
9:50 – 10:10	Overview of agenda and organization of the workshop	<i>Aase. Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
10:10 – 10:30	Introduction of participants, resource persons and workshop secretariat	<i>All participants</i>
10:30 – 10:50	BREAK	
<b>2nd session</b>	<b>Perspectives on the mercury problem: Policy context and ongoing activities of global/regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to address mercury pollution</b>	<i>Moderator: Andy Gilman, expert</i>
10:50 – 11:10	Overview of the UNEP Governing Council decisions relevant to mercury and UNEP's mercury programme	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
11:10 – 11:25	Summary of the technical, financial and other assistance that may be available to support countries' efforts to deal with mercury pollution	<i>Jim Willis, UNEP Chemicals</i>
11:25 – 12:00	Presentations by other international/regional organizations with relevant activities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• United Nations Industrial Development Organization – Activities</li><li>• Activities of Basel Convention Regional Centre in China – Electrical and Electronic Wastes</li><li>• World Bank – Portfolio and Sector and Policy Work</li></ul>	<i>Pablo Huidobro, UNIDO</i> <i>Shun'ichi Honda, BCRC, China</i> <i>Ellen Tynan, World Bank</i>
12:00 – 12:25	Presentations by relevant industry and public interest groups	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activities of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)</li><li>• Perspective from the Ban Mercury Working Group</li></ul>	<i>Leonard Levin, EPRI</i> <i>David Lennett, NRDC</i>
12:25 – 12:45	Questions and plenary discussion	
12:45 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK (including DSA payments to funded participants)	

**MONDAY 26 April 2004 - continued**

<b>3rd session</b>	<b>The global nature of the mercury problem: Current knowledge with regard to global/regional/national releases of mercury to the environment</b>	<i>Moderator: Charles French, UNEP Chemicals</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Primary uses of mercury and sources of releases, global and regional perspectives	<i>Alexis Cain, expert</i>
15:00 – 15:25	Overview of the fate, transport, and cycling of mercury in the environment	<i>Leonard Levin, EPRI</i>
15:25 – 15:50	Presentations by participants on the mercury pollution situation, experience, and main mercury issues within their countries	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury problem and national policies in Indonesia</li> </ul>	<i>Ms. Rosliana, Indonesia</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury situation in Cambodia</li> </ul>	<i>Phin Rady, Cambodia</i>
15:50 – 16:10	BREAK	
16:10 – 18:30	Presentations by participants on mercury pollution situation, experience, and main mercury issues within their countries – continued	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury situation in India</li> </ul>	<i>Debabrata Bandyopadhyay, India</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury situation in Pakistan</li> </ul>	<i>Uzaira Rafique, Pakistan</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury Controls in Singapore – Legislation/regulations to control and reduce mercury pollution in air, water, consumer products, wastes</li> </ul>	<i>Quek Hui Leng, Singapore</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury situation in Thailand</li> </ul>	<i>Pornsook Chongprasith, Thailand</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury situation in the Philippines</li> </ul>	<i>Teresita Tagorda, Philippines</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury situation in Sri Lanka</li> </ul>	<i>Asitha Seneviratne, Sri Lanka</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present status of mercury pollution in China</li> </ul>	<i>Chengang Lu, PDR China</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury pollution in Vietnam State and policies</li> </ul>	<i>Ho Kien Trung, Vietnam</i>
19.00	Cocktail reception hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Kingdom of Thailand	

**TUESDAY 27 April 2004**

<b>4th session:</b>	<b>The global nature of the mercury problem: Current knowledge with regard to the risks mercury poses to human health and environment</b>	<i>Moderator: Alexis Cain, expert</i>
09:30 – 10:05	Impacts to humans and wildlife due to mercury pollution – overview of exposures and health effects	<i>Charles French, UNEP Chemicals</i>
10:05 – 10:20	Current mercury levels and the estimated daily methylmercury intake in general Japanese population	<i>Mineshi Sakamoto, Japan</i>
10:20 – 10:35	Methylmercury exposure through the placenta and changes in methylmercury levels in infants during breast-feeding	<i>Mineshi Sakamoto, Japan</i>
10:35 – 10:50	Questions and panel discussion	
10:50 – 11:10	BREAK	
<b>5th session:</b>	<b>The national/regional nature of the mercury problem: Assessing national and regional risks</b>	<i>Moderator: Leonard Levin, EPRI</i>
11:10 – 11:40	Overview of approaches that can be used to assess exposures and risks for a population, including: bio-monitoring (hair, blood, urine); dietary survey data; measuring mercury levels in fish; various modeling techniques, etc.	<i>Andy Gilman, expert</i>
11:40 – 11:55	Measuring and monitoring mercury levels in various media (such as air, water, soils) - Overview	<i>Charles French, UNEP Chemicals</i>
11:55 – 12:20	Guidance for developing an inventory of mercury uses and releases	<i>Luke Trip, expert</i>
12:20 – 12:45	Trade of mercury, including imports, exports, and flows through society– global and regional perspectives	<i>David Lennett, NRDC</i>
12:45 – 13:00	Questions and plenary discussion	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
<b>6th session</b>	<b>The national/regional nature of the mercury problem: Is it a problem relevant to this region/sub-region?</b>	<i>Moderator: Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
14:00 – 17:00	Presentations by participants with regard to mercury issues in their country (especially on uses, releases, exposures, trade and/or hot spots)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury situation in Maldives</li> <li>• Mercury situation in Mongolia, including uses, trade, human exposures, and levels in environmental media</li> <li>• Mercury pollution on rivers around illegal gold mining in Indonesia</li> <li>• Results of case study on environment and health surveys in 2 artisanal gold mining areas in Kalimantan and Sulawesi/Indonesia</li> <li>• Mercury situation in Nepal</li> </ul>	<i>Ahmed Saleem, Maldives</i> <i>Sharav Dagva, Mongolia</i> <i>Halimah Syafrul, BCRC Indonesia</i> <i>Saulo Rodrigues, UNIDO</i> <i>Narendra Pokhrel, Nepal</i>
(15:30 – 16:00)	BREAK	

**TUESDAY 27 April 2004 - continued**

- Mercury status and studying for the preservation of Korea's environment *Jung-hyun Kim, Republic of Korea*
  - Free gold extraction by amalgamation process in small and large scale gold mining in Myanmar *U Myint Kyi, Myanmar*
- 17:00 – 18:30 **WORKING GROUP 1:**  
**IS MERCURY POLLUTION A PROBLEM RELEVANT TO THIS REGION/SUB-REGION? –**  
 Identification of major issues, problems, challenges and priority information gaps at regional and national levels *All participants*

**WEDNESDAY 28 April 2004**

- 7th session: Strategies to reduce exposures, uses and releases of mercury: Potential pollution prevention measures, control technologies and outreach strategies** *Moderator: Teresita Tagorda, Philippines*
- 09:00 – 09:25 Products containing mercury - Promoting responsible use of mercury and increasing awareness and promotion of mercury-free products, with focus on products important in region (such as batteries, thermometers). *David Lennett, NRDC*
- 09:25 – 09:50 Small-scale (and artisanal) gold mining *Saulo Rodrigues, UNIDO*
- 09:50 – 10:20 Chlor-alkali production and other processes that involve mercury that are a potential issue in the region *Alexis Cain, expert*
- 10:20 – 10:40 Questions and plenary discussion on products containing mercury and processes involving mercury, especially as relevant to region
- 10:40 – 11:00 BREAK
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coal combustion and other types of incineration sources that are of importance in the region *Chun W. Lee, expert*
- 11:30 – 11:55 Waste treatment (other than incineration), including collection programs, recycling, landfilling, and storage *Alexis Cain, expert*
- 11:55 – 12:15 Clean-up/management of waste sites (such as abandoned chlor-alkali plants, closed mining operations and other hazardous waste sites) *Luke Trip, expert*
- 12:15 – 12:30 Questions and plenary discussion on combustion, waste treatment, waste sites, and other release sources, especially as relevant to region
- 12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH BREAK
- 8th session Strategies to reduce exposures, uses and releases of mercury: Potential pollution prevention and outreach strategies**
- 13:30 – 14:00 Fish consumption advisories as a means of protecting susceptible populations *Andy Gilman, expert*
- 14:00 - 14:20 Questions and plenary discussion

**WEDNESDAY 28 April 2004 - continued**

<b>9th session:</b>	<b>Sound mercury management – What national/regional actions, policy approaches and regional cooperation may be needed to reduce the risks posed by mercury in the region/sub-region?</b>	<i>Moderator: Javed Iqbal, Pakistan</i>
14:20 – 14:40	The Global Mercury Assessment – information on policy actions and approaches, and options for addressing the significant global adverse impacts of mercury	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
14:40 – 15:05	Presentation of relevant initiatives at regional and international levels for controlling releases and limiting exposures and examples of regional cooperation and agreements to address mercury pollution	<i>Luke Trip, expert</i>
15:05 – 15:30	Overview of Action Plans (what are they and how can they be developed) and some examples of action plans and other national approaches to address mercury pollution	<i>David Lennett, NRDC</i>
15:30 – 15:50	BREAK	
15:50 – 16:15	UNIDO/GEF Global Mercury Project - Removal of barriers to introduction of cleaner artisanal gold mining and extraction technologies	<i>Pablo Huidobro, UNIDO</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Questions and plenary discussion	
16:30 – 17:00	Presentation by Working Group chair of results of Working Group 1 in plenary Questions and plenary discussion	<i>Working Group chairs</i>
17:00 – 18:30	<b>WORKING GROUP 2: HOW CAN THE REGION ADDRESS ANY MERCURY RELATED PROBLEMS?</b> Discussion of possible national/regional actions, policy approaches and regional cooperation might be needed to reduce the risks posed by mercury in the region/sub-region.	<i>All participants</i>

**THURSDAY 29 April 2004**

09:30 – 10:30	Presentation by Working Group chair of results of Working Group 2 in plenary Questions and plenary discussion	<i>Working Group chairs</i>
<b>10th session:</b>	<b>Sound mercury management – Technical, financial, and other support needed at national/regional and international levels to enhance countries' capacity to manage mercury safely</b>	<i>Moderator: Luke Trip, expert</i>
10:30 – 10:50	Possibilities for technical, financial and other assistance to support countries' efforts to deal with mercury pollution (presentations by multilateral and bilateral donors, international organizations, others)	<i>Jim Willis, UNEP Chemicals</i>
10:50 – 11:10	BREAK	
11:10 – 11:30	Presentations by participants with regards to examples of assistance provided or received, etc. National actions taken (planned) to address mercury pollution, and technical, financial support needed at national level	<i>Participants</i> <i>Sharav Dagva, Mongolia</i>
	US EPA's international collaborative efforts on reducing mercury emissions in Asia	<i>Chun W. Lee, expert</i>
11:30 – 11:40	Questions and plenary discussion	

**THURSDAY 29 April 2004 - continued**

<b>11th session:</b>	<b>Sound mercury management – What are the challenges for the future?</b>	<i>Moderator: Charles French, UNEP Chemicals</i>
11:40 – 12:00	UNEP Governing Council – mercury and other heavy metals – preparations for the 23rd session in February 2005	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Other relevant developments at international and regional levels	
12:15 – 12:30	Questions and plenary discussion	
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK	
13:30 – 15:00	<b>WORKING GROUP 3:</b> <b>WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE?</b> Discussion of any further measures may be needed at the regional or international level, how countries can be effectively supported in their efforts to address mercury pollution and the needs of the region for technical, financial and other types of assistance at national, regional and international levels.	<i>All participants</i>
15:00 – 15:30	BREAK	
15:30 – 16:30	Presentation by Working Group chairs of results of Working Group 3 in plenary  Questions and plenary discussion	<i>Working Group chairs</i>
<b>12th session:</b>	<b>Wrapping up the workshop – Questions and feedback</b>	
16:30 – 17:00	The report and proceedings of the workshop – finalization and publication  Workshop review – what went well – what might be improved – General discussion.	<i>Jim Willis, UNEP Chemicals</i>  <i>All participants</i>
17.00	<b>CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP</b>	