

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

Beirut, Lebanon, 11-14 October 2004

PROGRAMME AND TIMETABLE

MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2004

1st session:	Opening of the Workshop	
09:30 – 10:00	Opening statements	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Environment (MOE) of Lebanon• United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)• UNEP Chemicals	<i>Dr. Berj Hatjian, Director-General</i> <i>Dr. Habib N. El-Habr, Acting Regional Director and Representative</i> <i>Aase Tuxen, Scientific Affairs Officer</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Reception	<i>All</i>
10:45 – 11:10	Introduction of participants, resource persons and workshop secretariat	<i>All</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Overview of agenda and organization of the workshop	<i>Juan Caicedo, UNEP Chemicals</i>
2nd session	Perspectives on the mercury problem: Policy context and ongoing activities of global/regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to address mercury pollution	<i>Moderator: John Munthe, resource person</i>
11:30 – 11:50	Why is mercury a problem of global concern – key findings of the Global Mercury Assessment report	<i>Juan Caicedo, UNEP Chemicals</i>
11:50 – 12:10	Overview of the UNEP Governing Council decisions relevant to mercury and UNEP's mercury programme	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
12:10 – 12:30	Presentations by other international/regional and non-governmental organizations with relevant activities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pertinent role and activities of UNEP-ROWA in the region	<i>Basel Al-Yousfi, UNEP ROWA</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Questions and plenary discussion	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
3rd session	The global nature of the mercury problem: Current knowledge with regard to global/regional/national releases of mercury to the environment	<i>Moderator: Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
14:00 – 14:25	Primary uses of mercury and sources of releases, global and regional perspectives	<i>John Munthe, resource person</i>

14:25 – 14:50	Overview of the fate, transport, and cycling of mercury in the environment	<i>Magnus Nyström, resource person</i>
14:50 – 15:30	Presentations by participants on the mercury pollution situation, experience, and main mercury issues within their countries	<i>Moderator: Suleiman bin Mohammed Alzebn, Saudi Arabia</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The global mercury assessment and national actions taken in Morocco 	<i>Salma Karrakchou and Hecham El Hamri, Morocco</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of mercury levels in fish and media in Egypt 	<i>Ahmed A. Elseoud and Wafaa Shalaby, Egypt</i>
15:30 – 15:50	BREAK	
15:50 – 18:00	Presentations by participants on the mercury pollution situation, experience, and main mercury issues within their countries – continued	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Algeria 	<i>Radia Boussoumah, Algeria</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Jordan 	<i>Abdullah Heyasat, Jordan</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Kuwait 	<i>Enaam Abdulrasool Behbehani</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Afghanistan 	<i>Suleiman Shah Salary, Afghanistan</i>

TUESDAY 12 October 2004

4th session:	The global nature of the mercury problem: Current knowledge with regard to the risks mercury poses to human health and the environment	<i>Moderator: Magnus Nyström, resource person</i>
09:00 – 09:30	Overview of exposures and health effects of mercury for humans and wildlife	<i>Jesper Bo Nielsen, resource person</i>
09:30 – 10:00	Presentations on mercury exposure issues in countries of the region, including case studies and examples, if available	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury in human hair and relation to fish consumption in Moroccan north coast 	<i>Hecham El Hamri, Morocco</i>
	Questions and panel discussion	
5th session:	The national/regional nature of the mercury problem: Assessing national and regional risks	<i>Moderator: Juan Caicedo UNEP Chemicals</i>
10:00 – 10:30	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 and various modeling techniques	<i>Jesper Bo Nielsen, resource person</i>
10:30 – 11:00	BREAK	

11:00 – 11:25	Measuring and monitoring mercury levels in various media and biota (such as air, water, soils, fish) – Overview	<i>Jesper Bo Nielsen, resource person</i>
11:25 - 11:50	Sampling techniques and analytical methods – Overview/Summary	<i>Khaled Nakhlé, NCSR Lebanon</i>
11:50 – 12.15	New data regarding mercury cycle in the Mediterranean.	<i>Daniel Cossa, IFREMER</i>
12.15 – 12.40	Guidance for developing an inventory of mercury uses and releases	<i>Magnus Nystrom, resource person</i>
12.40 – 13:00	Trade of mercury, including imports, exports and flows through society – global and regional perspectives	<i>John Munthe, resource person</i>
	Questions and plenary discussion	
13.00 – 14.00	LUNCH BREAK	
6th session	The national/regional nature of the mercury problem: Is it a problem relevant to this region/sub-region?	<i>Moderator: Salah Hassini, Tunisia</i>
14:00 – 15:40	Presentations by participants with regard to mercury issues in their country (especially with regard to uses, releases, exposures, trade and/or hot spots)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury pollution in Iran 	<i>Zhara Jabbari Barjasteh, Iran</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediation of mercury contamination at a pulp and paper plant site in Western Central Tunisia 	<i>Salah Hassini, Tunisia</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Palestine 	<i>Abdul Rahman Musallan, Palestine</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Syria 	<i>Khaled Fastouk and Eyad Ibrahim, Syrian Arab Republic</i>
	Questions and plenary discussion	
15:40 – 16:00	BREAK	
16:00 – 18:00	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	<i>All (in Groups 1A and 1B)</i>

WEDNESDAY 13 October 2004

09:00 – 9:50	Presentation of results of Working Group 1A and 1 B in plenary Questions and plenary discussion	<i>Working Group chairs</i>
7th session:	Strategies to reduce exposures, uses and releases of mercury: Potential pollution prevention measures, control technologies and outreach strategies	<i>Moderator: Juan Caicedo, UNEP Chemicals</i>
9:50 – 10:10	The Global Mercury Assessment – information on policy approaches, and options for addressing significant global adverse impacts of mercury	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>

10:10 – 10:40	Products containing mercury - Promoting responsible use of mercury and increasing awareness and promotion of mercury-free products, with a special focus on products important in the region	<i>Magnus Nyström, resource person</i>
	Mercury-containing soaps and cosmetics	<i>Jesper Bo Nielsen, resource person</i>
11:00 – 11:20	BREAK	<i>Moderator: Ahmed Abou Elseoud, Egypt</i>
11:20 – 11:45	Waste collection, treatment (other than incineration), storage – strategies to reduce mercury releases	<i>Magnus Nyström, resource person</i>
11:45 – 12:10	Chlor-alkali production and other processes that involve mercury that are a potential issue in the region	<i>John Munthe, resource person</i>
12:10 – 12:35	Strategies to reduce mercury exposure in artisanal and small-scale gold mining	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
12:35 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00 – 14:30	Clean-up/management of waste sites (such as abandoned chlor-alkali plants, closed mining operations, & other hazardous waste sites)	<i>John Munthe, resource person</i>
14:30 – 14:55	Coal combustion and other types of incineration sources that are of importance in the region	<i>John Munthe, Resource person</i>
8th session	Short-term approaches to reduce exposures and risks to human health, such as education and outreach strategies	<i>Moderator: Magnus Nyström, resource person</i>
14:55 – 15:45	Fish consumption advisories as a means of protecting susceptible populations	<i>Jesper Bo Nielsen, resource person</i>
15:45 – 16:05	BREAK	
9th session:	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?	<i>Moderator: Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
16:05 – 16:30	Relevant initiatives at regional and international levels for controlling releases and limiting exposures, and examples of regional cooperation and agreements to address mercury pollution, and overview of Action Plans (what are they and how can they be developed) and examples	<i>Magnus Nyström, resource person</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Questions and plenary discussion	

THURSDAY 14 October 2004

10th session:	Sound mercury management – Technical, financial, and other support needed at national/regional and international levels to enhance countries' capacity to manage mercury safely	<i>Moderator: Mohammed bin Suleiman Al-Abri, Oman</i>
09:00 – 09:30	Possibilities for technical, financial and other assistance to support countries' efforts to deal with mercury pollution	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>

09:30 – 10:00	Enabling activities for the development of a national implementation plan for mercury Questions and plenary discussion	<i>Helal Ali Saleh Al-Reiashi, Yemen</i>
11th session:	Sound mercury management – What are the challenges for the future?	<i>Moderator: Jesper Bo Nielsen, resource person</i>
10:00 – 10:15	UNEP Governing Council – mercury and other heavy metals – preparations for the 23 rd session in February 2005	<i>Juan Caicedo, UNEP Chemicals</i>
10:15 – 12:00	ARAB ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATIONS Venue: Formal Governmental Hall, transfer by bus	<i>All</i>
12:00 – 14:00	RETURN TO THE HOTEL AND LUNCH BREAK	
14:00 – 14:15	Other relevant developments at international and regional levels	<i>Resource person or other</i>
14:15 – 16:00	WORKING GROUP 2: What national/regional actions, policy approaches and regional cooperation might be needed to reduce the risks posed by mercury in the region/sub-region? What further measures may be needed at the regional or international level? How can countries be effectively supported in their efforts to address mercury pollution and what are the needs for technical and financial assistance?	<i>All (in Groups 2A and 2B)</i>
16:00 – 16:30	BREAK	
16:30 – 17:15	Presentation of results of Working Group 2A and 2B in plenary Questions and plenary discussion	<i>Working Group chairs</i>
12^h session:	Wrapping up the workshop – Questions and feedback	
17:15 – 17:30	The report and proceedings of the workshop – finalization and publication Collection of workshop evaluation form	<i>UNEP Chemicals All</i>
17:30 – 18:00	Closing Remarks	
18:00	CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP	