

REGIONAL AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP ON MERCURY POLLUTION –

a Global Problem That Needs To Be Addressed

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 18-21 January 2005

TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 2005

08:00 – 09:30	Registration of participants	<i>All</i>
1st session:	Opening of the Workshop	
09:30 – 10:30	Opening statements by host and other organizations	<i>Chairperson: Dr. Carol James</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Chemicals Unit	<i>Aase Tuxen, Scientific Affairs Officer, UNEP Chemicals</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basel Convention Caribbean Regional Centre (BCRC)	<i>Dr. Ronnie Sookhoo, Director, BCRC</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural presentation : Mother Earth	<i>Brother Resistance</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feature address on behalf of Ms. Penelope Beckles, Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment	<i>Mr. Earl Nesbitt, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment</i>
10:30 – 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 – 11:20	Overview of agenda and organization of the workshop	<i>UNEP Chemicals</i>
10:20 – 10:50	Introduction of participants, resource persons and workshop secretariat	<i>All participants</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: Luke Trip</i>
11:50 – 12:10	Why is mercury a problem of global concern – key findings of the Global Mercury Assessment report	<i>Juan Caicedo, UNEP Chemicals</i>
12:10 – 12:30	Overview of the UNEP Governing Council decisions relevant to mercury and UNEP's mercury programme	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Presentations by other international/regional organizations, industry and public interest groups with relevant activities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pertinent role and activities of the Basel Convention Caribbean Regional Centre in the region	<i>Ronnie Sookhoo, BCRC</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perspective from the Ban Mercury Working Group (BMWG)	<i>Michael Bender, BMWG</i>
	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: Rita Schoeny</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Primary uses of mercury and sources of releases, global and regional perspectives	<i>Alexis Cain, Resource person</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Trade of mercury, including imports, exports, and flows through society – global and regional perspectives	<i>Michael Bender, BMWG</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Overview of the fate, transport, and cycling of mercury in the environment	<i>Luke Trip, Resource person</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	<i>Moderator: Ivan Chang Yen, Trinidad and Tobago</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury Management: Antigua and Barbuda's Status 	<i>Malverne P. Spencer, Antigua and Barbuda</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Bahamas 	<i>Laura Williams, Bahamas</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present status of mercury in Barbados 	<i>Leona Deane, Barbados</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Belize 	<i>Celi Cho, Belize</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Dominica 	<i>Boniface Xavier, Dominica</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Grenada 	<i>Guido Marcelle, Grenada</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Guyana 	<i>Khalid Alladin, Guyana</i>
18.30	Cocktail reception	

WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2005

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: Aase Tuxen</i>
09:00 – 9:45	Overview of exposures and health effects of mercury for humans and wildlife Questions and panel discussion	<i>Rita Schoeny, Resource person</i>
5th session:	The national/regional nature of the mercury problem: Assessing national and regional risks	<i>Moderator: Alexis Cain</i>
9:45 – 10:30	Approaches for assessing population exposures	<i>Rita Schoeny, Resource person</i>
10:30 – 10:50	Measuring and monitoring mercury levels in various media and biota (such as air, water, soils, fish) – Overview	<i>Daniel Peplow, CTEW</i>

10:50 – 11:20	BREAK	
11:20 – 11:50	Mercury in sediments and biota from the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad and Tobago	<i>Wendy Norville, Trinidad and Tobago</i>
11:50 - 12:10	Sampling techniques and analytical methods – Overview/Summary	<i>Daniel Peplow, CTEW</i>
12:10 - 12.30	Guidance for developing an inventory of mercury uses and releases	<i>Luke Trip, Resource person</i>
12.30 – 13.00	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: Sonja Carilho</i>
14:00 – 15:40	Presentations by participants on the mercury pollution situation, experience, and main mercury issues within their countries	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury in Jamaican Environment 	<i>Gillian Guthrie, Jamaica</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in St. Kitts and Nevis 	<i>Randolph Edmead, St. Kitts and Nevis</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in St. Lucia 	<i>William Lesmond Magloire, Saint Lucia</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines 	<i>Benedict Alexander Charles, St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury situation in Suriname 	<i>Gerda Wesenhagen, Suriname</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National situation on mercury pollution in Trinidad and Tobago 	<i>Wayne Raskumar, Trinidad and Tobago</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 Group 1A and 1B)</i>

THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2005

09:00 – 9:40	Presentation by Working Group chair of results of Working Groups 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</i>
9:40 – 10:00	Global Mercury Assessment – information on policy actions/approaches and options for addressing significant global adverse impacts	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
10:00 – 10:20	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>Alexis Cain, Resource person</i>
10:20 – 10:40	Ritual uses of mercury	<i>Rita Schoeny, Resource person</i>
10:40 – 11:00	Mercury in soaps and cosmetics for skin lightening	<i>Michael Bender, BMWG</i>
11:00 – 11:20	BREAK	
		<i>Moderator: Leona Deane</i>
11:20 – 11:40	Waste collection, treatment (other than incineration), storage – strategies to reduce mercury releases	<i>Alexis Cain, Resource person</i>
11:40 – 12:00	Fossil fuel and other types of combustion sources	<i>Luke Trip, Resource person</i>
12:00 – 12:20	Small-scale and artisanal gold mining	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
12:20 – 12:40	Small-scale and artisanal gold mining in Suriname	<i>Nathalie Emanuels, Suriname</i>
12:40 – 13:00	Questions and plenary discussion	
13:00 – 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>Luke Trip, Resource person</i>
14:30 – 14:55	Chlor-alkali production and other processes that involve mercury that are a potential issue in the region	<i>Alexis Cain, Resource person</i>
8th session	Short-term approaches to reduce exposures and risks to human health, such as education and outreach strategies	<i>Moderator: Alexis Cain:</i>
14:55 – 15:30	Fish consumption advisories – balancing risks and benefits	<i>Rita Schoeny Resource person</i>
15:30 – 16:00	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: Rita Schoeny</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Relevant initiatives at regional and international levels and overview of Action Plans (what are they and how can they be developed)	<i>Luke Trip Resource person</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Sound mercury management in Suriname – National policy approach in Suriname	<i>Sonja Carilho, Suriname</i>
	Questions and plenary discussion	

FRIDAY 21 JANUARY 2005

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: Luke Trip</i>
09:00 – 9:40	Possibilities for technical, financial and other assistance to support countries' efforts to deal with mercury pollution	<i>Aase Tuxen, UNEP Chemicals</i>
9:40 – 10:10	Technical and financial assistance projects to enhance capacity building for safe mercury management – Example from Suriname	<i>Rachel Pollack, Suriname</i>
	Questions and plenary discussion	
11th session:	Sound mercury management – What are the challenges for the future?	<i>Moderator: Aase Tuxen</i>
10:10 – 10:30	UNEP Governing Council – mercury and other heavy metals – preparations for the 23 rd session in February 2005	<i>Juan Caicedo, UNEP Chemicals</i>
10:30 – 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 – 12:30	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 Group 2A and 2 B)</i>
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK	
13:30 – 14:15	Presentation by Working Group chairs of results of Working Groups 2A and 2B in plenary	<i>Working Group chairs</i>
	Questions and plenary discussion	
12th session:	Wrapping up the workshop – Questions and feedback	<i>Moderator: Juan Caicedo</i>
14:15 – 14:30	The report and proceedings of the workshop – finalization and publication	<i>UNEP Chemicals</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Closing Remarks	
15:00	CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP	