

Submission by the Government of Japan for
“Response to the requests from the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating
committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury” – Article 22:
Effectiveness evaluation

In order to contribute to the further work required in preparation for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, the Government of Japan submitted relevant information on Article 22 - Effectiveness Evaluation in 2015 upon the request by the interim secretariat. INC7 in 2016 decided to invite Governments, regional and subregional monitoring programmes and partnerships, the World Health Organization, regional representatives, regional and national institutions, academia, industry, civil society and others as appropriate to submit to the interim secretariat information on existing monitoring programmes and how they can contribute to an overall monitoring approach, including the availability of baseline information. The Government of Japan submits herewith supplementary information that complements the information provided as the follow up to INC6.

At the Diplomatic Conference of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Japan expressed its intention to support developing countries and promote voices and messages from Minamata through the action titled “MOYAI Initiative.” As part of this initiative, the MOYAI Initiative for Networking, Assessment and Strengthening (MINAS) is being promoted. MINAS is a program of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) that is designed to support developing countries’ efforts in mercury management by providing assistance measures including various activities in close cooperation and collaboration with relevant agencies.

MINAS consists of 3 pillars:

- Networking: Building networks of mercury-related activities (e.g. monitoring) and information sharing between Japan and partner countries;
- Assessment: Accelerating developing countries’ mercury management efforts by supporting their situation assessment, taking advantage of Japan’s experience;
- Strengthening: Strengthening developing countries’ mercury management by providing Japan’s technologies and know-how.

The core activities of the pillar ‘Networking’ include the establishment of multi-media mercury monitoring network by promoting Japan’s mercury monitoring methodologies in Asia-Pacific region. It also explores the opportunity for the GEF resources to strengthening mercury monitoring capacity of national laboratories of partner countries.

MOEJ organized a visit program to mercury monitoring laboratory in Japan in March 2016. The program is based on the assessment of existing laboratories in partner countries, namely Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, which has identified the strengthening of national capacity will benefit the establishment and operation of regional monitoring network.

MOEJ has also been an active participant in APMMN (Asia-Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network) led by NADP (National Atmospheric Deposition Program), USEPA. The network is designed to monitor wet deposition in the region with standardized procedures. USEPA and MOEJ have a minister-level bilateral dialogue on environmental cooperation and appreciate each other's efforts for strengthening mercury monitoring capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, which will become a firm basis of the regional network (see attachment).

Attachment

Joint Statement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan on Continued Bilateral Environmental Cooperation (excerpt)

May 16, 2016

Toyama, Japan

Mercury

Both the U.S. and Japan are committed to the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The U.S. and Japan are among 25 countries to date that have joined the Convention. Cooperation on mercury projects to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury has emerged as a prime topic of the EPA-MOEJ relationship. EPA and MOEJ appreciate each other's efforts for strengthening mercury monitoring capacity in the Asia-Pacific region. EPA and MOEJ will support an Asia Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network annual partner's meeting planned for summer 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. EPA and MOEJ are also planning a technical workshop to share monitoring information and data and coordinate measurements of ambient mercury concentrations in the Asia-Pacific in late 2016 in Minamata, Japan. The preparation of a proposal to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is underway to enhance the value of our collaboration. During the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Minamata Convention (INC7) meetings in Jordan in March 2016, EPA and MOEJ worked to provide U.S.-Japan joint proposals for evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention and continue to collaborate to integrate monitoring approaches in the implementation of the Convention. EPA and MOEJ are working with Indonesia to explore potential stakeholder roundtable meeting on artisanal small scale gold mining and to assess domestic and regional mercury flows.