



August 16, 2020

Minamata Convention on Mercury Promotion Network
108 Nanpuku-ji, Minamata city
Kumamoto prefecture, Japan

Voice of the Victims of Minamata Disease

I am Shinobu Sakamoto.

I am fetal Minamata disease patient. I was exposed to mercury in our mother's womb, and became Minamata disease. I became Minamata disease because of mercury. I'm frustrated when I think that I could run like everyone else without Minamata disease.

Many people became Minamata disease due to mercury. Minamata disease is not over yet. Some sufferers are still fighting at court. In Minamata, mercury still remains under the landfill. Many people are suffering from the disease. Minamata disease never cures. Please do properly about mercury. Protect women and children from mercury.



I am Koichiro Matsunaga.

I was born in 1963, and four years before my birth, both the government and the company knew that the cause of Minamata disease was drainage from the factory. But neither the government nor the company stopped draining for economy. They prioritized the economy over the lives of people. I am so frustrated whenever I think that I might not have received such incurable damage if only they had stopped it before I was born.

I know people do the wrong thing. But, if you notice your mistake, have courage to stop it.

We need more countries to ratify the Minamata convention on mercury, and we need more positive actions to regulate mercury in all over the world. If we do not regulate mercury now, many children in the future will be affected just as we were.

Do not repeat the tragedy that occurred in Minamata in your country.



Minamata Convention on Mercury Promotion Network (MICO NET) is a citizens' network that aims to support active implementation of the Minamata Convention on mercury and to promote lessons of Minamata Disease from Minamata.