

Reference: TA/EMISSION/AUGUST2019

19 August 2019

Subject: Asia-Pacific workshop on regional workshop on the reduction of mercury emission from coal combustion

Dear Focal Points of the Minamata Convention,

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank your Government for its efforts on the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

As you may be aware, Parties to the Minamata Convention are required to take measures to control emissions of mercury to air from relevant sources in its territory. The Convention provides that Parties shall require the use of best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control emissions no later than five years after the entry into force of the Convention. For existing sources, the Convention provides that Parties shall implement one or more measures out of five measures listed, of which the use of BAT/BEP is one, no later than ten years after the entry into force. The Convention also requires Parties to establish emission inventories no later than five years after the entry into force. The Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting in 2017, adopted guidance on BAT/BEP and emission inventories.

The emission of mercury to air is the primary cause of the mercury pollution at the global level, and coal combustion is the largest point source of emission. If other sources are included, it is only second to artisanal and small-scale gold mining. Asia accounts for 75% of the global coal consumption, and therefore the reduction of mercury emission from coal in Asia is key to the success of the Convention in protecting the human health and the environment from mercury.

In this context, as part of its capacity development and technical assistance programme, the Secretariat intends to organize a 2-day workshop hosted by the Government of Viet Nam, to bring together major coal-using countries in Asia, namely China, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam. The workshop is a joint undertaking with the UN Environment's project "Implementing Chemicals and Waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Asia through Enhancing Understanding and Building Capacity" which targets China, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. Government officials and experts from other countries are also invited on a self-funded basis. The workshop is also convened in conjunction with a meeting of the coal combustion area of the UN Environment's Global Mercury Partnership.

The overall objective of this workshop is to support these countries in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention as they relate to mercury emissions from coal combustion, and to contribute to protecting human health and the environment from the dangers of mercury through the reduction of global emissions.

The concept note for the workshop is attached. The current plan for the workshop is as follows:

- **Date:** 31 October – 1 November 2019, with an opportunity to attend the meeting of the Coal Combustion Partnership Area of UNEP Global Mercury Partnership on 30 October
- **Location:** Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment, Hanoi, Viet Nam

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Although the secretariat is not in a position to provide funding for the participation from your country, we would welcome such participation for exchanging information to support the implementation of the Convention. If you nominate participants, please submit a registration form (attached) for each nominee to Mr. Eisaku Toda (eisaku.toda@un.org) by Friday 6 September 2019.

The participants are also invited to the meeting of the Coal Combustion Partnership Area of the Global Mercury Partnership to be held in Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hanoi, on 30 October. They may also wish to attend the 14th Multi-Pollutant Emissions from Coal Workshop organized by the International Energy Agency Clean Coal Centre at their own expenses. Those who wish to attend it should register through the website <https://www.mec-workshops.org/>.

Participants will be invited to submit information relevant to emission inventory, existing and planned regulations and technology/technical needs in their countries prior to the workshop, and make presentations at the workshop. They will receive further practical information on the workshop.

We look forward to collaborating with you in this important matter to facilitate the control of mercury emissions.

Yours, sincerely,

for

Rossana Silva Repetto
Executive Secretary

Attachments: Concept note, registration form



Asia-Pacific workshop on regional workshop on the reduction of mercury emission from coal combustion Concept note

Background

Mercury emission to air is the major source of global pollution through long-range transport. Coal combustion is the second largest source of global mercury emission. Asia accounts for 75 percent of global coal consumption. Article 8 of the Minamata Convention requests parties to control new emission sources no later than 5 years after the entry into force of the Convention, and existing sources no later than 10 years. To achieve the objective of the Convention to protect the human health and the environment from mercury, it is imperative that these measures be taken in major coal-using countries in Asia.

UN Environment and its Global Mercury Partnership have been addressing the mercury emission from coal combustion through the development of technical guidance documents and pilot projects in China, India, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa, Thailand and Viet Nam involving the analysis of mercury content of coal, mercury emission monitoring and training on mercury control technologies. There is an ample opportunity to build on these capacity building activities to further assist major coal-using countries in Asia in implementing the Minamata Convention.

This capacity building project will start with a workshop inviting officials from major coal-using countries in Asia to discuss the use of the guidance documents on best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP), the development of emission inventory, and the planning for policy measures including the use of BAT/BEP and/or the establishment of emission limits.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To understand the applicability and usefulness of the BAT/BEP guidance document and identify needs for further guidance
- To exchange information on the emission inventories from coal.
- To share experience in introducing control measures on the mercury emission from coal combustion, and identify opportunities for international cooperation.

Outline

The workshop will invite the following officials and stakeholders from China, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam (two participants from each country will be funded):

- Government officials or experts on the regulation on mercury emission from coal combustion.
- Government officials or experts from industry or academia on emission inventory.
- Government officials or experts in charge of the Minamata Initial Assessments

The workshop will be held in conjunction with the UN Environment's project "Implementing Chemicals and Waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Asia through Enhancing Understanding and Building Capacity", by inviting additional participants from China, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, as well as developing E-learning tools on mercury emission control.

Experts from other countries will also be invited on a self-funded basis.

The workshop will be held at Ha Noi University of Natural Resources and Environment, No. 41A Phu Dien Street, Cau Dien Ward, Bac Tu Liem District, Ha Noi City, Viet Nam, on 31 October and 1 November 2019. It is back-to-back with the meeting of the coal combustion area of the Global Mercury Partnership to be held at Crowne Plaza West Hanoi, on 30 October. The invitees to the workshop will have an opportunity to participate in the Partnership meeting. They may also wish to participate in the preceding Multi-Pollutant Emissions from Coal (MEC) Workshop (<https://www.mec-workshops.org/>) from 28 to 30 on a self-funded basis.



Preliminary programme

Thursday 31 October

Session 1 – Introduction

09h00 – 09h30: Opening, presentation by the secretariat on the background and objectives

09h30 – 10h00: Presentation on the provisions of the Minamata Convention, BAT/BEP guidance and emission inventories.

Session 2 – Best available technologies and best environmental practices

10h00 – 10h30: Presentation on the activities of the Global Mercury Partnership, including process optimization guidance and country projects.

10h30 – 12h00: Country presentations on the use of BAT/BEP

12h00 – 13h00: Discussion in breakout groups

14h00 – 14h30: Plenary feed back and summary of session 2

Session 3 – Emission inventories

14h30 – 16h00: Country presentations on Minamata Initial Assessments and emission inventories

16h00 – 17h00: Discussion in breakout groups

17h00 – 17h30: Plenary feed back and summary of session 3

Friday 1 November

Session 4 – Regulatory approaches

09h00 – 10h30: Country presentations on emission limits, BAT requirements, multi-pollutant regulations and other regulatory approaches.

10h30 – 11h30: Discussion in breakout groups

11h30 – 12h00: Plenary feed back and summary of session 4

Session 5 – E-learning tool

13h00 – 13h30: Presentation on the plan for developing an E-learning tool

13h30 – 14h30: Discussion in breakout groups

14h30 – 15h00: Plenary feed back and summary of session 5

Session 6 – Summary and future work

15h00 – 16h30: Future work – ideas for country projects

16h30 – 17h00: Summary and closing

Preparatory work

Nominated participants will be requested to submit information on emission inventory, existing and planned regulations and technology/technical needs prior to the workshop.