

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Coal Area

Partnership Area Lead:

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Issue

Burning of coal is the second largest single anthropogenic source of mercury air emissions. Up to 95%, of the mercury in coal can be captured within the power plant by improving coal and plant performance, and optimizing control systems for other pollutants.

Objective

The Coal partnership aims to support globally significant emissions reduction through existing multi-pollutant control approaches. It also aims to provide technically sound information on cost effective approaches for enhancing reductions of mercury emissions, particularly for developing nations and economies in transition.

Strategy

The partnership provides easy to access documentation and online tools to allow parties to the Minamata Convention to determine appropriate measures for mercury reduction from coal-fired utilities in a site and source specific manner, taking economic, geographic and technological limitations into account.

Contribution to Implementation of the Minamata Convention

The Coal partnership is currently assisting in the preparation of the guidance document on

BAT/BEP in support of implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Expert members within the partnership provide training and technical guidance on the measurement and monitoring of emissions from the coal sector and the determination of accurate emission inventories.

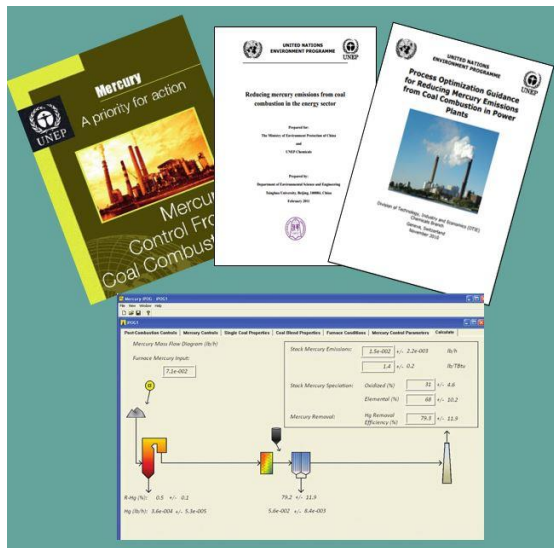
Article 8 of the Minamata Convention requires the control and, where feasible, reduction of emissions of mercury from point sources. New coal-fired utilities must install best available control technologies (BAT) and apply best environmental practice (BEP) to all new plants. For older units, countries must determine their own national plan on emissions, be it BAT/BEP, emission limits, reduction targets or any other appropriate strategy.

Outreach Activities

The partnership has facilitated desk and field projects in China, Russia, India, South Africa and Vietnam. These include studies to produce accurate emission inventories for the coal sector as well as demonstration projects for mercury reduction at full-scale utilities.

The partnership website hosts a wealth of documentation on mercury control options in several languages and provides access to a free downloadable tool which allows users to estimate mercury emissions from a coal plant

as well as estimate the effectiveness of potential control options.



Materials available on the Partnership website

Free reports are available on the application of mercury control technologies as well as the economics of these systems and the emerging international market. A separate report highlights the challenges faced in selected countries in South East Asia and discusses the specific control strategies which may be most appropriate in each region.

Featured Project

The Coal partnership works closely with the International Energy Agency Clean Coal Centre and has been an integral part of their annual MEC – Mercury Emissions from Coal – meeting. MEC has travelled the world over the last decade, taking international experts to locations such as Japan, South Africa, Russia, Slovenia and Poland. The 11th MEC meeting will take place in Chennai, India, on 16-20th November 2015.



For more information, please visit:

Mec11.conferences.org/ibis/MEC11/home

Future Work to be Carried out to Support Implementation of the Minamata Convention

The Coal partnership continues to spread the word on economic options for mercury control. Representatives of the partnership regularly attend international meetings and conferences and publish papers and journal articles which demonstrate the potential of the partnership and encourage new partners to join. The Partnership is keen to expand and to leverage funding to provide information and guidance to any party or prospective party to the Convention in order to facilitate the prompt implementation of mercury reduction approaches in the coal sector internationally

Collaboration with Other Partnership Areas and Relevant Stakeholders



The Coal partnership and Fate and Transport partnership work closely to share information on emissions and inventories. Joint meetings between these partnerships are held frequently.

For More Information

Visit our web site:

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Mercury/GlobalMercuryPartnership>

Or contact the partnership area lead:

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