



16<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Mr. Per Bakken  
Head, Chemicals Branch  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Bakken:

We wish to inform you that the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) would like to join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, and is committed to achieving the partnership goal.

IPEN intends to inform and engage our global network to contribute to all Partnership opportunities. This includes identifying international and national NGO experts to participate in Partnership activities. This effort will both raise awareness about the Partnership and promote robust civil society participation to collaborate with existing activities and contribute to new initiatives. This effort is also in parallel with IPEN's aims to promote coherency and synergies between the Partnership and the ongoing Mercury Treaty discussions.

IPEN is a global network of over 700 public interest non-governmental organizations from more than 80 countries united in support of a common goal of a "toxic free future." IPEN facilitates NGO engagement in efforts to eliminate POPs and other persistent toxic substances, and works for a world where exposure to chemicals is no longer a significant source of harm to public health and the environment. Most of the NGOs that participate in IPEN focus their attention on issues of public health and/or environmental sustainability; many have specialized expertise in areas such as agriculture, waste management, clean production, consumer issues, and workers' rights.

Our network has regional and sub-regional components that operate in all regions and in all six UN languages (as well as some other languages). While IPEN also works with NGOs in highly industrial countries, our main emphasis is on chemicals-related issues as they impact developing countries and countries with economies in transition. IPEN supports NGO efforts across a spectrum of approaches ranging from grassroots activism to engagement in intergovernmental policy-setting processes. This breadth of engagement helps deepen our understanding of chemicals-related issues. NGOs in our network have direct knowledge of the impacts of chemical exposure on their communities and country; this informs the perspectives they bring to intergovernmental policymaking processes. After international chemicals policies are agreed, NGOs in our network are well-positioned to promote the implementation of these policies at country and community levels.

### **IPEN and Its Scope of Work**

IPEN was founded in Montreal in June 1998 at the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Stockholm Convention. The network effectively mobilized and coordinated more than 350 public health, consumer, environmental, and other NGOs from 40 countries and contributed to the successful conclusion of negotiations. In recognition of this

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engagement, governments participating in the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) presented IPEN in 2003 with a “Special Recognition Award.”<sup>1</sup>

After the conclusion of the POPs negotiations, IPEN facilitated NGO engagement to promote national ratification of the Convention in their countries and to encourage speedy and effective implementation. IPEN has coordinated NGO participation in all the Stockholm Conferences of the Parties; has produced numerous technical, informational, and policy papers; and has continued to undertake NGO capacity building efforts at the country and regional level to enable contributions to implementation. NGOs associated with IPEN have participated in the ongoing work of the Convention by contributing to the POPs Review Committee, the BAT/BEP Expert Group, the DDT Expert Group, and other regional and national activities. Between 2004 and 2006, IPEN managed and coordinated a global GEF-funded NGO project, the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP), in partnership with UNIDO and UNEP, which supported more than 290 project activities in 65 countries that directly contributed to country efforts in preparing for Stockholm Convention implementation.<sup>2</sup>

IPEN has also supported NGO engagement in the SAICM process by coordinating NGO participation in all three PrepComs, the two ICCMs, all regional meetings, and the Extended Bureau and similar bodies. In 2006, IPEN took a formal decision to expand its mission beyond POPs and agreed to become a “Toxics Free Future” network. In 2007, with help from UNEP Chemical and the SAICM Secretariat, IPEN secured resources to launch the Global NGO SAICM Outreach Campaign.<sup>3</sup> The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness about SAICM and to secure commitments from NGOs in all regions to undertake efforts that will contribute to the achievement of SAICM’s objectives. This campaign targets not only environmental NGOs, but also organizations from other sectors including health, labor, agriculture and others. Several international NGO networks participate actively in the campaign including the Pesticide Action Network, Health Care Without Harm, Sustain Labor, the World Federation of Public Health Associations and others. As a result of the campaign, more than one thousand NGOs in over 80 countries have endorsed a civil society statement supporting SAICM and its objectives and committing themselves to contribute to SAICM implementation. The NGO SAICM Outreach Campaign has produced educational and outreach materials that have been translated into all official UN languages and distributed in all regions. The campaign continues to support NGO projects in all regions aimed at advancing SAICM objectives. Most recently, the campaign produced a *Citizen’s Report* detailing NGO SAICM-related activities that was presented to ICCM2.<sup>4</sup>

### **IPEN’s Heavy Metal Working Group**

In 2007, IPEN began a collaboration with Health Care Without Harm to form a joint Mercury Working Group. The IPEN Steering Committee also took the initiative to prepare an IPEN Policy Paper for use at the 2007 Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Mercury meeting in Bangkok. Since then, IPEN has become increasingly engaged on mercury issues, including by collaborating with the German Government to undertake a global mercury survey. In October at the Ad hoc Open Ended Working Group on Mercury in Bangkok, Thailand the Executive Summary of this joint IPEN-German lab report on mercury in products was released as a conference roo paper.

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<sup>1</sup> See: IFCS 2003 Special Recognition Award; [http://www.who.int/ifcs/documents/forums/forum4/sp\\_award/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ifcs/documents/forums/forum4/sp_award/en/index.html)

<sup>2</sup> See IPEP Projects and Report [www.ipen.org/ipepweb1](http://www.ipen.org/ipepweb1)

<sup>3</sup> See Global SAICM Outreach Campaign website [www.ipen.org/campaign](http://www.ipen.org/campaign)

<sup>4</sup> See Citizen’s Report: [http://www.ipen.org/ipenweb/documents/ipen%20documents/citzreport\\_09.pdf](http://www.ipen.org/ipenweb/documents/ipen%20documents/citzreport_09.pdf)

On a parallel track, IPEN NGOs undertook sampling activities in a number of countries and found that paint sold in many developing countries often contains high concentrations of lead. IPEN introduced a resolution to IFCS calling for the establishment of a global partnership to promote phasing out the use of lead in paints. The resolution was adopted and the proposal was subsequently approved at ICCM2.

In order to facilitate NGO efforts relating to both lead and mercury – and possibly other toxic metals as well – IPEN recently decided to establish a Heavy Metals Working Group. The Working Group will be co-chaired by the Indian NGO Toxics Link and the Czech NGO ARNIKA. This Working Group is tasked with coordinating the efforts of NGOs in IPEN relating to the mercury negotiations, the lead in paint partnership, and other relevant initiatives that may arise.

Yours sincerely,



Mariann Lloyd-Smith  
IPEN Co-Chairs



Jamidu Katima



Ravi Agarwal  
IPEN Heavy Metals Working Group Co-Chairs



Jindrich Petrlik

Bjorn Beeler, IPEN



# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

## INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet is intended to provide an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at the following web address: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm>

### What is the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship amongst various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership complements and supports the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3.

As of June 2008, the following partnership areas have been initiated:

- artisanal and small scale gold mining;
- mercury cell chlor alkali production;
- mercury air transport and fate research;
- mercury in products;
- mercury releases from coal combustion; and
- mercury waste management.

Other partnership areas are in the process of being considered and initiated.

### What is the Overall Goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its

compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.

### What does joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership mean for prospective partners?

- Supporting the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contributing resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities.
- Networking with other organizations/agencies/individuals addressing mercury issues.

### How does an organization join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Such letters should be submitted to:

**Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE  
11-13, chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland  
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460  
E-mail: [mercury@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:mercury@chemicals.unep.ch)**

In submitting this letter, UNEP asks partners to also complete the attached registration form. Participation to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP through a letter of confirmation. Your letter of support will be posted on the UNEP Chemicals web site.

# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM \*

<b>Partnership Area</b>	<p>Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⌘ <b>artisanal and small scale gold mining</b></li> <li>⌘ <b>mercury cell chlor alkali production</b></li> <li>⌘ <b>mercury air transport and fate research</b></li> <li>⌘ <b>mercury in products</b></li> <li>⌘ <b>mercury releases from coal combustion</b></li> <li>⌘ <b>mercury waste management</b></li> </ul> <p>Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.</p>
<b>Organization Name</b>	IPEN – International POPs Elimination Network
<b>Name, Functional Title of Representative</b>	Jindrich Petrlík Co-Chair IPEN Heavy Metals Working Group
<b>Address of Organization</b>	IPEN Secretariat: PO Box 7256 SE-402 35, Göteborg, Sweden
<b>Tel. No</b>	+420 2 2278 1471
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:heavymetals@ipen.org">heavymetals@ipen.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:jindrich.petrlík@arnika.org">jindrich.petrlík@arnika.org</a>
<b>Fax No.</b>	+ 420 2 2278 1471
<b>Website/URL</b>	<a href="http://www.ipen.org">www.ipen.org</a>
<b>Type of Organization</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Government</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regional economic integration organization</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-government Organization</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Industry</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Scientific community</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other, please specify:</b> _____

\* UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal. The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

**Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE**  
**11-13, chemin des Anémones**  
**CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland**  
**Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460**  
**E-mail: [mercury@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:mercury@chemicals.unep.ch)**