

# Mercury Storage-Supply Partnership



*Desiree M. Narvaez, UNEP Chemicals  
for the Zero Mercury Working Group  
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership on Waste  
Tokyo, Japan  
9-10 March 2010*

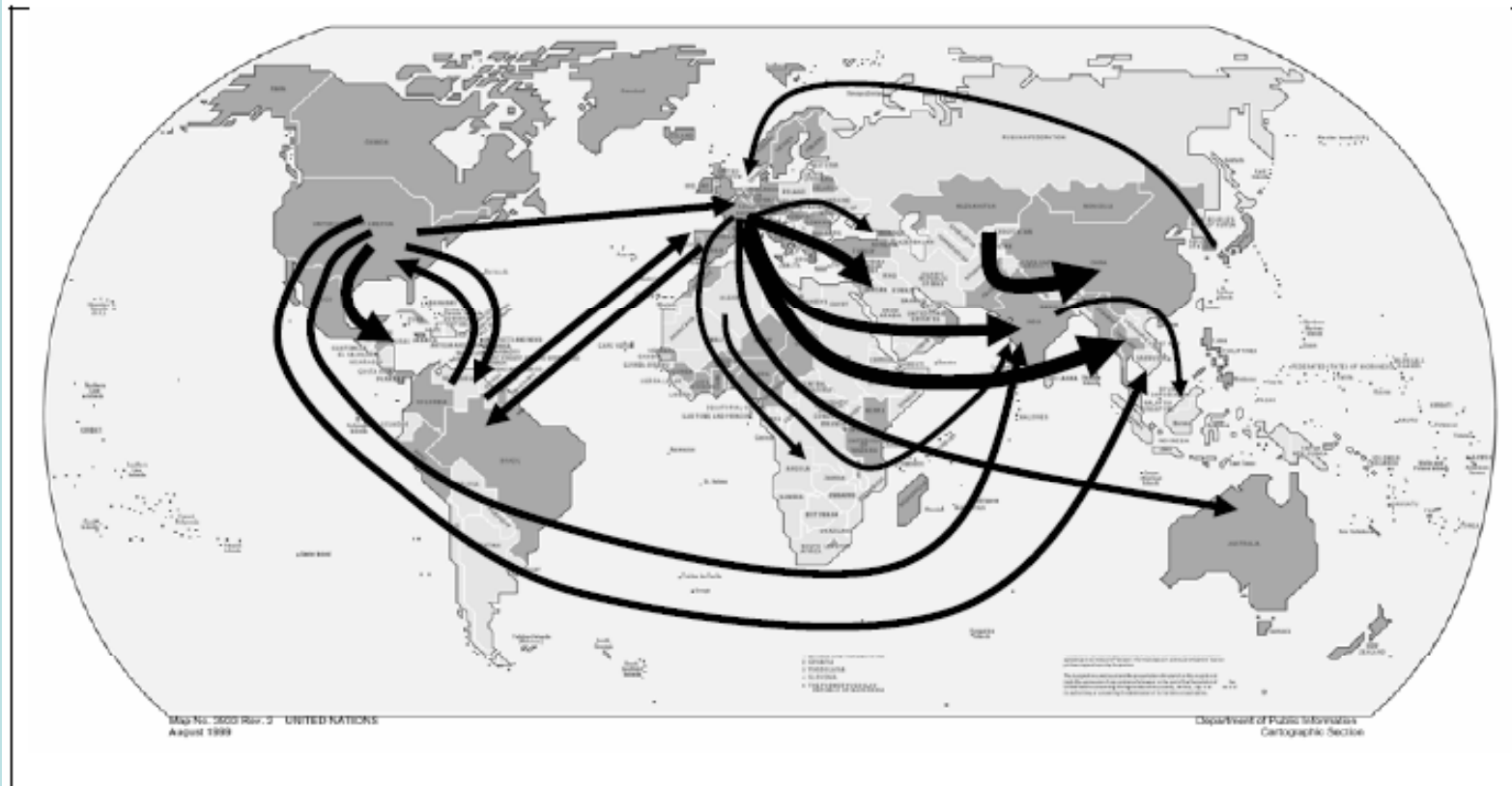


**Mercury  
Policy Project**

# Trade Flows set the Agenda Supply and Storage work



Figure 4 Commodity mercury shipments among world regions, 2004



From: UNEP Chemicals. Summary of Supply, Trade and Demand Information on Mercury. Nov 2006

# Global Mercury Supply context (2007)



Main mercury sources	Metric tonnes/year
<b>Primary mercury mining</b>	<b>1300-1600</b>
<b>By-product mercury recovery</b>	<b>400-600</b>
<b>Chlor-alkali facilities</b>	<b>700-900</b>
<b>Recycling of mercury catalysts, wastes and products</b>	<b>600-800</b>
<b>Commercially available mercury stocks</b>	<b>As needed (+)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3100-3900+</b>





# Key Measures to Reduce Mercury Supply

- Ban on new primary mercury mining, and phase out existing mercury mining
- Collect mercury from major sources (e.g. chlor-alkali and by-product mercury) and sequester it from the global marketplace (“long-term storage”)
- Mercury export bans

# Kyrgyz Republic Primary Mercury Mine Closure Project



- Initiated in December 2007 through funding from Switzerland and the United States.
- In October 2009, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic announced willingness to consider closure of the mine if a number of outstanding issues could be addressed.
- UNEP and UNITAR working with the Kyrgyz Republic and the international community to design a framework for a mine closure project.



# Creation of new partnership area on supply and storage



- Initiated during Partnership Advisory Group in April 2009:
  - Purpose is to enhance the on-going work in these areas, identified as a priority in GC Decision 25/5, paragraph 34.
  - Zero Mercury Working Group agreed to serve as interim chair with understanding that government lead or co-lead would be identified.
- Proposed business plan (updated version of earlier UNEP draft) drafted in consultation with stakeholders.
  - Anticipates limited life of partnership in deference to anticipated treaty obligations and governance structure.
  - Therefore, focus on near term priority activities.



**Mercury  
Policy Project**



# Draft business plan



## Partnership goal:

- reduce mercury supply to 50% by 2013 (from 2005 baseline)
- need 600 ton mercury reduction beyond EU/USA export bans.



## Reduction opportunities include:

- additional mercury export restrictions
- storage of chlor-alkali mercury, and
- less primary mercury mining.

*An Open Mercury Cell  
Chlor Alkali Plant*

Source: Center for Science and  
the Environment, New Dehli,  
"Down to Earth"

# Regional, country initiatives



- A number of countries/regions have adopted legislation or enacted regulatory measures to reduce mercury supply from being traded.
  - EU Hg export ban by 2011, phase out mining.
  - U.S. Hg export ban by 2013.
  - Hg export bans in Scandinavian countries.
- The EU and US are taking steps to store Hg.
- Not all countries need permanent Hg storage. Hg storage is most important for those countries/regions that have much excess mercury supply.



**Mercury  
Policy Project**



# Regional mercury storage projects

- Storage projects in the Asia-Pacific (AP) and the Latin America and Caribbean regions (LAC) aimed at reducing excess mercury supply.
- Meetings co-sponsored by UNEP & ZMWG, supported by Japan, Norway.
- Assessment/trade flow reports
- Project executive committees
- Storage option preferable to re-entry of elemental mercury into the global marketplace.
- Options analysis studies



**Mercury  
Policy Project**

# Next steps on supply and storage

- Encourage further progress on the two regional storage projects and Kyrgyzstan primary mining project already underway.
- Collaborate on funding opportunities as they arise.
- Revise draft business plan based on input received.
- Invite potential partners to join the new partnership area and identify a government lead or co-lead.



# Global Hg supply reductions & storage



- Investing in supply, trade and storage initiatives is more efficient and effective than trying to control mercury release.
- Storage options for large mercury quantities should be accessible globally.
  - Must be accompanied by regional and/or national legal and regulatory measures.
  - The US and EU have adopted policies to phase out exports, store surplus mercury.
  - There is a need for assistance in developing storage capacity in certain regions.
- Not all countries need permanent mercury storage. Storage is most important for those countries/regions that have excess mercury supply.



**Mercury  
Policy Project**

# Global Hg supply reductions & storage



- INC to develop provisions to reduce the supply of mercury and enhance the capacity for its environmentally sound storage in its overall approach to mercury (paragraph 27.b of Decision 25/5).
- INC deliberations expected to:
  - Address trade related issues.
  - Develop effective universal global coordination, action, and enforcement mechanisms.
  - Assist in developing storage capacity in certain regions.
  - Global treaty embodying storage will ensure consistent & sustained national government policies.



**Mercury  
Policy Project**