

In response to the request from the Committee of the Whole, the United States offers the following information related to capacity building and technical assistance as referred to in paragraph 4 and paragraph 5 of article 14 of the Minamata Convention.

The following are examples of capacity-building and technical Assistance Activities supported by the United States through funding or in-kind assistance. These U.S. supported activities have reduced the use of mercury in artisanal small-scale gold mining and other mining, including through introduction of mercury-free processing techniques; identified methods and technologies to reduce mercury emissions from coal combustion and store mercury safely; and provide individuals with tools to reduce their mercury exposure. The U.S. Department of State (DOS) [Mercury Program website](#) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [International Cooperation website](#) have brief project summaries. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Jane Dennison at [DennisonJE@state.gov](mailto:DennisonJE@state.gov) or Rodges Ankrah at [ankrah.rodges@epa.gov](mailto:ankrah.rodges@epa.gov).

#### Examples of Capacity-building and Technical Assistance Activities

##### *Mercury emissions*

- Reducing Mercury Emissions from the Coal Combustion Sector
  - DOS funded two International Energy Agency Clean Coal Center workshops to discuss methods and technology that countries could use to reduce mercury emissions from the coal combustion sector, one in India and one in South Africa.
- Measurement of Mercury and Black Carbon Emissions
  - DOS funded Arcadis, Inc. to build the capacity of Vietnam's government through training on analytical equipment to measure mercury emissions from the coal combustion sector.
- Mercury Emissions Measurement Toolkit
  - EPA developed a toolkit housing a complete portable package of sampling and analytical equipment to measure emissions from coal combustion sources such as power plants and cement manufacturing; successful testing in joint UNEP-EPA measurement efforts has occurred in South Africa, China and Russia.
- Mercury Emissions Control Demonstration at Russian Coal-Fired Power Plant
  - EPA, Russian Institutes, UNEP, and Sweden demonstrated that sorbents made from activated carbon removed up to 90 percent of mercury emissions at a Russian coal-fired power plant with particulate emission collectors.
- Information Exchange on Mercury Emission Sources
  - EPA provided information on mercury air pollution control and measurement to China related to metals smelting, cement production, and coal-fired power plants and industrial boilers.

## *Mercury Management*

- Developing of National and Regional Approaches to Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury in Southeast Asia
  - DOS funded Ban Toxics and BaliFokus preliminary mercury intervention frameworks in Indonesia and the Philippines.
- Mercury Management, Storage, Stabilization and Disposal Action Planning in Peru
  - EPA assisted Peru's Ministry of the Environment in a multi-stakeholder, public-private workshop that outlined plans for enacting Peru's Minamata National Implementation Plan for storage and disposal of mercury.
- Developing Local Institutional Capacity to Collect, Manage and Store Mercury in Colombia
  - EPA is working with UNEP and the Colombian Cleaner Production Center (CNPML) to develop local capacities in ASGM and gold shop communities to manage and store excess mercury from ASGM mines and gold shops in Colombia. This is coordinated with local, regional and national government entities.

## *Artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM)*

- Reducing ASGM Gold Shop Mercury Air Emissions and Human Exposure
  - EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy developed a system to capture mercury vapor emitted from amalgam burning in gold shops with 80% efficiency. Two systems were installed in Peru and Brazil. EPA provides technical assistance to Peru ASGM communities on issues related to burning amalgam.
- Developing Mercury Inventories in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Southeast Asia
  - DOS funded a BaliFokus study on mercury inventories and trade in the ASGM sector in South East Asian countries involving Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and several mercury-exporting countries.
- Reducing Mercury Use and Release in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Francophone West Africa
  - DOS supported the Artisanal Gold Council's work setting up three mercury-free processing plants that demonstrated a much higher recovery of gold than when miners were using mercury.
- Legal and Policy Approaches to Address Environmental and Health Impacts of Artisanal Gold Mining in Nigeria
  - DOS funded the Environmental Law Institute assessment of legal and policy challenges underpinning the informal artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Nigeria.

- Training and Educational Projects under the UNEP Partnership on Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining
  - DOS supported Natural Resources Defense Council mercury guide to help people reduce their exposures.
- Development and implementation of artisanal and small-scale gold miner training resources for reducing mercury use and release in South America
  - DOS supported the development of two training videos on mercury-free alternative processing techniques that can be introduced to ASGM operations.
- Environmental Enforcement and Mercury Detection in ASGM in Colombia
  - EPA and the US Department of Justice have provided training to Colombian law enforcement and environmental officials on mercury air and soil detection/measurement equipment at ASGM sites.
- Prevention and Control of Gold Mining in Colombia and Peru
  - USAID, DOS and EPA are cooperating with Colombia and Peru to support formalization of the ASGM sector by developing transparent gold supply chains, improving working conditions and increasing control over the use, supply, management, storage and final disposition of mercury.

*Collaboration to Achieve Policy Goals*

- Information Exchange on Mercury
  - EPA facilitated the exchanged information on U.S. and Chinese policies for elemental mercury and mercury products relevant to the Minamata Convention through a bilateral workshop.
- UN Global Mercury Partnership (GMP)
  - The United States encourages participation in the UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership, in which the EPA plays an active leadership role, as a resource to Parties for advancing the management of mercury issues.