



MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Reference: Minamata Convention/SIP

7 March 2019

Subject: Launch of applications to the Second Round of the Specific International Programme

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

I am very pleased to announce that the Second Round of applications to the Specific International Programme was launched on 5 March 2019. The Application Guidelines and simplified forms for the Second Round were agreed on by the Governing Board of the Programme at its Third Meeting, held in Geneva on 14-15 February 2019. These revised Application Guidelines utilized the feedback from Parties, as well as reflections from the Governing Board and Secretariat following the experience with the pilot First Round of applications.

As you are already aware, the Specific International Programme forms part of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention and is set up to assist developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to support their capacity to implement their obligations under the Minamata Convention.

Our experience with the First Round of applications has confirmed the strong demand from Parties for the Programme. The approved projects from the First Round are driven by country needs and priorities and focus on impact and sustainability. We look forward to communicating project results to you as implementation advances.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Programme donors - Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. Their generous support allows us to fund key capacity-building needs.

All the relevant information for the applications, including the Application Guidelines and the relevant application forms are available on the Minamata website: www.mercuryconvention.org. The Application Guidelines are also attached to this message for your ease of reference.

Applications for the Second Round must reach the Secretariat by Friday, 14 June 2019. Early submissions would facilitate the screening and appraisal work of the Secretariat, in preparation for the next face-to-face meeting of the Governing Board where review and approval of projects will take place.

To: National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Permanent Missions to the UN Environment Programme
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In conclusion, I strongly encourage all eligible developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to apply to this Second Round of the Specific International Programme. Should you need any other information on the applications per se or the Specific International Programme in general, please feel free to contact the Secretariat at MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org with a copy to madeeha.bajwa@un.org.

Best wishes,

Rossana Silva Repetto
Executive Secretary

Attachments: Application Guidelines to the Second Round of the Specific International Programme