Japan
Information on Measures to Implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Regarding the paragraph 4 of the Article 30 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), Japan hereby provides the information on its domestic measures to implement the Convention. The information provided here focuses mainly on measures for the articles with legally-binding obligations. (For measures, which have been implemented in Japan, "Lessons from Minamata Disease and Mercury Management in Japan" could be referred to at the web-site of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan: http://www.env.go.jp/en/chemi/mercury/mcm.html)

Article 3 Mercury Supply Sources and Trade

- Under the Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury (Act NO.42, 2014. Hereinafter referred to as "the Mercury Act"), new primary mercury mining is prohibited and licenses for existing mercury mining are treated as valid for up to fifteen years from the date of entry into force of the Convention for Japan (Note: there is no existing mercury mining in the country).
- The Mercury Act requires a person who stores mercury exceeding 30kg to submit periodical reports for identifying individual stocks of mercury.
- The Export Trade Control Order prohibits export of mercury and the export on the mercury compounds except only for the use allowed under the Convention. In addition, the export for the purpose of artisanal and small-scale gold mining or for the purpose of interim storage is not allowed.
- The Import Trade Control Order prohibits import of mercury from primary mercury mining that was not being conducted at the date of entry into force of the Convention for Japan and the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities. The use of imported mercury is required to conform to the Mercury Act, the Import Trade Control Order, technical guidelines for the storage of mercury and other relevant acts and regulations.

Article 4 Mercury-added products

- Manufacture, exports and imports of mercury-added products in Part I of Annex A will not be allowed by the Mercury Act and the Export Trade Control Order and the Import Trade Control Order, as is described in the table below.

	Phase-out date
Batteries (excluding the following) • Button zinc silver oxide batteries (Button cells with a mercury content less than 1% by weight) • Button zinc air batteries (Button cells with a mercury content less than 2% by weight)	End of 2017 (End of 2020 for button alkali batteries)
Switches and relays	End of 2020
Single-ended compact fluorescent lamps and self-ballasted fluorescent lamps for general lighting purposes that are less than or equal to 30 watts of rated power consumption with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	End of 2017
The followings, among linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: • Products that are less than 60 watts of rated power consumption with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp, using triband phosphor • Products that are equal to or less than 40 watts of rated power consumption with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp, using halophosphate phosphor	End of 2017
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes	End of 2020
The following cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: • Products whose length is equal to or shorter than 500 mm with a mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp • Products whose length is longer than 500 mm and equal to or shorter than 1500 mm with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp • Products whose length is longer than 1500 mm with a mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp	End of 2017
Cosmetics	End of 2017
Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics	End of 2017(End of 2020 for topical antiseptics)
The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available: (a) barometers (b) hygrometers (c) manometers (d) thermometers (e) sphygmomanometers	End of 2020

- As for listed measures of Part II of the Annex A, more than two measures from the listed measures have been already implemented in Japan under the Dental and Oral Health Promotion Law, the Health Insurance Act, the National Health Insurance Act and others. The Mercury Act prohibits incorporation of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A to assembled products. It also regulates manufacture and distribution of mercury-added products not covered by any known use prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention unless a manufacture or a distributer provides the assessment of the risks and benefits, which demonstrates environmental or human health benefits of such products.

Article 5 Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used

- The Mercury Act does not allow the use of mercury and mercury compounds in the manufacturing processes listed in both Part I and Part II of Annex B of the Convention.

Article 7 Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

- The Mercury Act prohibits use of mercury and mercury compounds for gold mining.

Article 8 Emissions

- Air Pollution Control Act(Act NO.97, 1968) prohibits any operator from emitting soot and smoke into the atmosphere that fail to comply with the relevant emission standards at the outlets. As mercury attach to soot and dust and are removed from flue gas at soot and smoke abatement facilities, the prior Air Pollution Control Act has co-benefits for control on mercury emissions.
- Other than that, Japan has amended Air Pollution Control Act (Act NO. 41, 2015), which was promulgated on June 19, 2015 to introduce a mercury emission control system.
- In accordance with the amended Act, mercury emissions from new and existing sources as provided for by the Convention will be regulated based on emission limit values that are consistent with the application of Best Available Technology (BAT). Pursuant to the amended Act, the business operators of mercury emitting facilities are required to notify the local governments, comply with the emission limit values, monitor the volume of emissions and keep the records thereof. The business operators shall receive recommendation for improvement in case they continue to fail to comply with emission limit value, and administrative order for improvement or penalty shall be applied in case the operators do not respond to the recommendation. The implementing body shall be prefectural governors and mayors of ordinance-designated cities and core cities.

- Furthermore, for facilities that are not listed in Annex D but have considerable amount of mercury emissions in Japan (such as iron and steel production facilities), the amended Act requests their operators to take voluntary efforts to control mercury emissions.
- The new mercury emission control system will be set force within two years after the date of entry into force of the Convention to Japan under the amended Act.
- The Ministry of the Environment has been compiling the inventory of atmospheric mercury emissions from emission sources and will continue to keep it updated.

Article 9 Releases

- The Ministry of the Environment through local governments has identified facilities that could release mercury or mercury compounds comprehensively based on the Water Pollution Control Act (Act NO.138, 1970) and it is confirmed that there are no significant anthropogenic point sources of releases of mercury or mercury compounds in Japan.
- Under the Water Pollution Control Act, the business operators that establish facilities or modify existing facilities that release wastewater containing mercury or mercury compounds, or use/store hazardous substances, are required to notify the local governments about the establishment of these facilities or their modifications in advance. If these facilities fail to comply with mercury effluent standards stipulated by the Water Pollution Control Act, the governors may order change of the plan of establishment/modification or closure of the facilities.
- As for the inventory of releases of mercury or mercury compounds to land and water, the Ministry of the Environment has estimated mercury releases to land and water as a part of the national material flow of mercury and will establish and continue to keep the inventory updated.

Article 10 Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury

- Based on the Mercury Act, the competent ministers will develop and publish technical guidelines for those carrying out storage of mercury and specified mercury compounds to take measures to prevent environmental pollution by the storage of mercury and mercury compounds, and after the entry into force of the Convention, mercury and specified mercury compounds should be managed in accordance with the guidelines.
- When the competent ministers finds it necessary in order to prevent environmental pollution, the ministers, taking into consideration the technical guidelines, may recommend those carrying out storage of mercury and specified mercury compounds the measures to be taken in order to prevent environmental pollution of

mercury and mercury compounds. In addition, the Mercury Act and its relevant regulations require those carrying out storage of mercury or specified mercury compounds over 30kg to report annually on the status of storage including purpose of the storage and the breakdown of annual mercury balance including amount transferred to waste.

- When the guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage are adopted by the COP, the competent ministers will revise the technical guidelines based on the Mercury Act as necessary.

Article 11 Mercury wastes

- Among the mercury wastes provided under the Convention, those covered by the definition of "waste" under the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act (Act NO. 127, 1970. Hereinafter referred to as "the Waste Act"), in particular, waste mercury-added products (fluorescent lamps etc.) and wastes contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds (e.g. sludge) are regulated by the standards on collection, transportation and disposal of such wastes and the technical standards on relevant waste treatment facilities stipulated by the Waste Act. Taking the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes under the Basel Convention into account, Japan amended the Order for the Waste Act, that sets new requirements for the indication of mercury wastes on industrial waste manifest sheets and for the recovery of mercury from waste products containing a high concentration of mercury categorized as industrial wastes and waste contaminated with a high concentration of mercury, as well as sets relevant collection/transportation/storage standards. In addition, the amended Order categorize wastes consisting of mercury or mercury compounds as "specially controlled waste (hazardous waste)" and establishes a standard for its final disposal (disposal after mercury refinement and subsequent sulfurization and solidification).
- The items classified as mercury wastes under the Convention but not classified as waste under the Waste Act, such as mercury containing sludge generated from smelting of non-ferrous metals, are defined as "recyclable resources containing mercury" under the Mercury Act. The Mercury Act also requires the competent ministers to develop and publish technical guidelines for those carrying out the management of the items, as for the storage mentioned above in the part of Article 10. The competent ministers may recommend those, who maintain the items to take the measures and the ministers require them to submit annual report, as those carrying out the storage. When the requirements for environmentally sound management of mercury waste are adopted in an additional annex by the COP, the competent ministers will revise the technical guidelines based on the Mercury Act

accordingly.

- Japan is a party to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. The transboundary movement of the mercury wastes is regulated in accordance with the Waste Act and the Act for the Control of Export, Import and Others of Specified Hazardous Waste and Other Wastes (Act NO. 108, 1992).