



Final Report for Zero Mercury Campaign in China

— Phase Three: *In-depth research on mercury in China*

By

Global Village of Beijing



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1. Review of phase three

1). Maintain and expand the Chinese mercury network and improve NGOs' capacity on mercury

Through the mission trip in three cities, more than 20 local NGOs and green students groups have been involved in the mercury network, and some of which have independently launched some mercury educational activities and exhibitions after training conducted by GVB. we confirm that what we have done is a good way to improve NGO's capacity on mercury.

Some local NGOs and green students group (Green Dragon River, green students group of Herbin Commercial University, Herbin Engineering University and University of Chinese Medicine) have involved in the investigation on mercury pollution along Songhua River. It is a good opportunities for those organizations to enhance the capacity on a specific mercury issue.

GVB organized a Skillshare on chemical safty and environmental health on October 16-19th. 54 NGOs from 23 provinces in China and several international organizations shared the info and experiences on chemical issues, it would definitely promote Chinese NGOs work in chemical field.

2). Inform Chinese people and Administrations about the decisions and developments on mercury at European and Global level, especially the UNEP meeting, and influence EU/US/UNEP decision-making whenever needed

GVB has informed the public and some government officers about EU mercury ban, EU mercury strategy proposal, UNEP decision on mercury on UNEP regional meeting in Bangkok, US mercury export ban and developments have been made through all kinds of approaches including holding workshops, sending out newsletters, establishing website, communicating via email and effective conversations, etc.

3). Let knowledge and information about mercury be disseminated to broader areas in China

The knowledge of Mercury has already been received on local scale by our mission trip and by these selected NGOs' various educational activities and exhibitions on mercury.

GVB behaves as a mercury information centre in China through gathering Chinese national information and translating international mercury information into Chinese from EEB's info, which then were released via our mercury website and chemical blog. Besides, we also sent weekly newsletter to our subscribers comprised of NGOs, journalists, students groups, experts, GVB' s volunteers and other people who show their special interest in mercury, in which we provided some linkages to our mercury website and chemical blog.

In addition, representatives from 54 local NGOs in 23 provinces in China have shared the info and experiences on chemical issues (including mercury) by the Skillshare on chemical



safty and environmental health.

4). Review mercury pollution history of Songhua River, and investigate the remaining problems in some cities and villages along Songhua River

GVB has contacted with some department and organizations who did research on mercury pollution in songhua river before, such as Heilongjiang Reseach Academy of Environmental Sciences, Heilongjiang EPA, Environmental Monitoring station in Zaoyuan County and Heilongjiang Hygiene and Anti-Epidemics Station, etc. GVB got some info and data on mercury pollution along songhua river, basicly understand the mercury pollution history.

After that, GVB has visited five villages along Songhua River: GuQia, Bajaiahe, Shuishoushizi, Friendship Village, Xihaishidi. Most villagers from aboving five places used to be fishers and has been infuenced by mercury pollution in 1980s.

Through the investigation, GVB found that villagers had no idea about mercury, they even don't know the mercury pollutiion had happened in 1980s, what they know is government did not let them eat fish at that time. GVB released some brochures and let them know the mercury harmful effect and mercury pollution in songhua river in 1980s. The villiagers were very interested and expressed that the importance for local NGOs and green strudents group to organise educational activities for villiagers.

GVB has collected some hair samples from 13 villagers from five villages, and sent to Academy of Quality Inspection and Research for Heilongjiang Province to test the mercury level in hairs. Fortunately, mercury level from those samples are below the limitation, which means those 13 people are not poisoned by mercury now. GVB could not say that the mercury pollution has totally gone, but mercury pollution has been greatly mitigated.

5).Promote healthcare without mercury

GVB provided the exhibition board for TianTan Hospital, let patients and staff in hospital know the what kind of product contain mercury and what harmful effect on human health. GVB participated in the report meeting on Pilot Hospital Project, made sense of how the two pilot hospital reducing mercury in their own hospitals. GVB also established the contact with the hospitals and involved government departments.

GVB collected the info about the substitutes of mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers in Chinese market. We found that the education on mercury is very important to broader substitutes market. .and find a reliable and accurate substitute with a reasonable price is the key point to promote healthcare without mercury.



2. Major Activities Foreseen in Proposal (Phase Three) and Actual Outcomes

	Activities	Expected results (deliverables/dates)	Detailed description
1	Mission trips to 3 Chinese large cities other than Beijing (Changchun, Herbin, Xiamen)		workshops/trainings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mercury workshop in Herbin on Sept. 17th Organizer: GVB and Green Dragon River Participants: representatives from local NGOs and students groups Visited and had a conversation with several local NGOs and students groups, such as environmental association of Herbin Engineering University, Green Civil association of Herbin Commercial University, etc. ● Mercury workshop in Xiamen city on Sept.24. Organizer: GVB and Environmental Association of Xiamen University Participants: representatives from nine environmental associations of Universities in Xiamen, such as green student group of JiMei University, etc. ● Mercury workshop in Guangzhou city on Sept.27. Organizer: GVB and Fresh Association of South China University of Technology Participants: representatives from green students group of universities and local NGOs Visited and had a communication with several local NGOs and students groups in Guangzhou on mercury issues.
	A NGO training/workshop comprised of local mercury experts, and representatives of NGOs and student green groups	D1a: One half-day training/workshop in each city	
	B GVB project officers work with local NGOs or university green groups on mercury exhibition	D1b: One-day joint event (including both GVB and local NGOs or university green groups)	
2	Select local partner NGO/student green group (can be more than one) to independently conduct the mercury exhibition and educational activities in those cities, after necessary training by GVB	D2: Exhibit at ≥ 5 universities, communities or public sites in each city	After mercury training of GVB, local students groups and NGOs conducted educational activities or exhibitions at local places. the photos and final report of each activities were put on our website and chemical blog. Some NGOs and students groups are still willing to conduct educational activities and mercury exhibition in couple of months.
3	Extend exhibition to communities and public buildings in Beijing	D3: Exhibit at universities or communities D3: Exhibit at universities or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On Mar.20, GVB conducted a mercury exhibition on Sohu Square; ● On Apr.28, GVB conducted a mercury exhibition in Chunshuyuan Community; ● Because the residents from ChunShuYuan Communities want GVB to



			<p>further introduce mercury issue, GVB organized the mercury exhibition and educational activities to go further to release mercury info on Jun.1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On Oct. 23th, GVB conducted mercury exhibition in educational base of DaXing district.
4	New materials production based on new understanding on mercury or new information		<p>Based on the new understanding, GVB designed and produced New brochures, and translated and printed other materials from HCWH, even other organizations.</p>
5	Investigations in cities or villages along Songhua River where local people have been suffering from mercury poisoning	D5: More than one place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GVB has visited five villages along Songhua River: GuQia, Bajahe, Shuishouhizi, Friendship Village, Xihashidi. Most villagers from above five places used to be fishers and has been influenced by mercury pollution in 1980s. ● Participants: representatives from Green Dragon River, green students group of Herbin Commercial University, Herbin Engineering University and University of Chinese Medicine. ● Communicated with the villagers and let them know the mercury harmful effect. ● collect hair sample from 13 villagers from five villages, and sent to Academy of Quality Inspection and Research for Heilongjiang Province to test the mercury level in hairs.
6	Seminar in Beijing to review the history of mercury pollution in Songhua River, discuss the current status or remaining problems of mercury pollution, NGOs, journalists, experts, government and other persons involved will be invited	<p>D6a: Pre-investigation training D6b: GVB project officer and Journalists go to Guizhou Province for mercury investigation D6c: Paper reports of the investigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● haven't been done. <p>Reason:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Through the investigation along Songhua River, GVB has established a contact with related department and experts, and got some info and data on mercury pollution and mercury level in hairs in 1980s and 1990s. Based on that, GVB has the basic understanding on mercury pollution and mitigation during those years. ● Investigation along Songhua River has been finished at the beginning of October. After that, GVB has organized an influential conference(Skillshare on chemical safety and environmental health), and we made some flexible change. GVB put the budget to make a bigger seminar on mercury issues during the Skillshare.
7	Collecting information on substitutes of mercury products common in use, such as	D7: Compile a Health Care without Mercury guide for hospitals and other interested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collected information on substitutes of mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers. ● output is the report of non mercury thermometers and



	thermometer, sphygmomanometer, amalgam, etc, analyzing the trend of substitutes in the markets	entities	sphygmomanometers in Chinese market.
8	One workshop in Beijing	D8: The workshop is about global mercury strategy for UNEP meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● GVB has conducted a China skill-share event on Chemical safety and environmental health (main sponsors are IPEN and Asia Foundation).● The event was held in Beijing, China from the 16th to the 19th of October 2007.● More than 80 people have attended the skillshare, including 26 speakers from academy, institutions, national and international NGOs as well as 54 representatives of Chinese NGOs around 23 provinces in China.● An evening session on mercury is organized on Oct.17. the speakers are from IPEN, Toxic links, SEPA and Heinrich-Böll-Foundation. The speakers introduced why mercury is a global issue, current situation of mercury use, demand, supply, international negotiations on mercury issues, how zero mercury working group contributed effort to reduce mercury at global level and mercury in China.
9	Maintain the website and Blog better, increase the inter-links with other organizations on websites, and send newsletter containing mercury information to members every week		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The NGO mercury website (www.mercury.ngo.cn) is regularly updated.● The Chemical Blog is established and regularly updated. Abstracts of some important articles from EEB's info email are put on the blog regularly (www.chemical.ngo.cn).● The Newsletter providing links to articles in the websites and Chemical Blog is sent to subscribers every week.



3. FINANCIAL REPORTS – GVB ZERO MERCURY CAMPAIGN (PHASE 3)

Regarding (1,2,3)

Activities	Agreed Budget (CNY)	Expenditure (CNY)	Remaining (CNY)
General cost	32,000	32,000	0
Activities			
A. Mission trips to 3 Chinese large cities other than Beijing	7,700	6760	940
B. Exhibition circuit in 3 Chinese large cities other than Beijing	3,600	5900	-2,300
C. New promotional materials	3,000	6800	-3,800
D. Investigations in cities or villages along Songhua River	4,800	4,800	0
E. Seminar in Beijing on mercury pollution of Songhua River	9,160	0	9,160
F. Research and promotion of health care without mercury, and substitutes	3,000	3,000	0
G. One workshop in Beijing on mercury strategy	3,045	7,045	-4,000
H. Website costs	3,600	3,600	0
Carried from Phase 2			
I. Mission trip for Guangzhou	3,000	3,000	0
Total	72,905	72,905	0

Regarding (4)

Note: Invoice number EEB-XX represents invoice issued by GVB to EEB if necessary

Other number like General-01 and C-02 represent photocopies of original invoices and receipts related real expenditure for the project activities



4. Conclusion

GVB basically achieved the established targets in phase three. GVB has done the investigation and research on one of the most serious pollution events in the history---mercury pollution in Songhua River, research and promotion of health care without mercury, identification the substitutes in Chinese market.

GVB successfully organized the Skillshare in which 54 NGOs from 23 provinces participated. GVB's effort on mercury issues has been acknowledged, and our national mercury network has been broadened and enhanced by skillshare.

GVB achieved the good relationships with departments or organizations focus on mercury, and got some useful info on mercury issues by two Investigations. However, we have to say it is really a hard work for GVB to do two investigations in half a year.

Through the past three years work on mercury, public awareness on mercury issue has been raising, but it's still a long way, especially in some remote places. The important role NGOs could play to mitigate mercury pollution in China is being realized by the government now. We will try our best to share the efforts we have made to reduce mercury in China with Chinese government and push the government decision-making towards our goal. GVB has the confidence to do better and go further.