

The Honorable Yukio Hatoyama, Prime Minister of Japan  
The Honorable Katsuya, Okada, Minister for Foreign Affairs  
The Honorable Sakihito, Ozawa, Minister of the Environment

October 15, 2009

## Civil Society Organizations Joint Statement Japanese Government Needs to Enact Mercury Export Ban Act

We, civil society organizations concerned about world-wide mercury pollution strongly request the Japanese Government to enact a Mercury Export Ban Act at the earliest possible time.

At the 25th session of the Governing Council of the UN Environment Programme at Nairobi in February 2009, governments unanimously decided to launch negotiations on a legally binding international mercury treaty to deal with world-wide emissions and discharges of a pollutant that threatens the health of millions, from fetuses and babies to small -scale gold miners and their families.

They also agreed that the risk to human health and the environment was so significant that an accelerated action under a voluntary Global Mercury Partnership is needed whilst the treaty is being finalized.

The eight -point partnership plan includes:

- Boosting the world-wide capability for nations to safely store stockpiled mercury
- Reducing the supply of mercury from for example primary mining of the heavy metal
- Carrying out awareness-raising of the risks alongside projects to cut the use of mercury in artisanal mining where an estimated 10 million miners and their families are exposed
- Reducing mercury in products such as thermometers and high-intensity discharge lamps to processes such as some kinds of paper-making and plastics production

At the Asia Mercury Storage Inception Workshop held at Bangkok in March 2009, all Asian countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations who participated confirmed the necessity of safe permanent storage of excess mercury in the Asian region as one of the tools necessary to further cut mercury supply.

In the autumn of 2008, the European Union (EU) and then late in the year, the United States enacted mercury export bans and took related actions to promote safe storage of excess mercury.

The rationale for putting up the EU and US export bans is the evidence showing that in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, majority of mercury imported from the EU or the US ends up being used unsustainably.

However, although Japan has the tragic history of Minamata with mercury, unfortunately Japan export mercury more than 100 metric tons per year mainly derived from nonferrous metal smelters and recycling of mercury containing wastes to some developing countries and countries with economies in transition, resulting in putting re-circulation of the mercury into the global marketplace.

As a major trading giant in the world with powerful influence and also as a country with Minamata experience, we believe that Japan should become the third global power to ban mercury export following the EU and US. We are certain that the mercury export bans in concert with the EU, the US and Japan will have a big impact on the movement toward mercury export bans and mercury reduction worldwide, and will surely contribute to accelerate the promotion of the effective international mercury treaty to be set up by UNEP in the immediate future.

We strongly request the Japanese government to take the following action immediately.

- 1.To enact a Mercury Export Ban Act.
- 2.To safely place in long-term storage all surplus mercury produced in Japan
- 3.To show good leadership to realize the International Mercury Treaty and increase effort to create mercury storage capacity for Asia and the Global Mercury Partnership.

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Signatory Organizations (As of August 31, 2009)  
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(1) Japanese organizations: 54 (not shown)

(2) Overseas organizations: 60 (as follows)

PAN AP, Asia and the Pacific  
Susana Muhlmann, Architect, Argentina  
Asociacion Argentina de Medicos por el Medio Ambiente (AAMMA), Argentina  
National Toxics Network (NTN), Australia  
News Network, Bangladesh  
European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Belgium  
Environment Protection Association (APROMAC), Brazil  
Association of Combat against Pollutants (ACPO), Brazil  
It's Not Garbage Coalition, Canada  
Centre national d'information independante sur les dechets (CNIID), France  
Asia Monitor Research Center (AMRC), Hong Kong  
Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA), India  
Vettiver Collective, Chennai, India  
Corporate Accountability Desk of The Other Media, Chennai, India  
Community Environmental Monitoring, Chennai, India  
Bhu Bhadratha, India  
BALIFOKUS Foundation, Indonesia  
Center for Non-proliferation and Export Control, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic  
Donat Anthony Theseira & Mylene Ooi, Malaysia  
Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends' of the Earth Malaysia), Malaysia  
Consumers' Association of Penang, Malaysia  
Association of Doctors for the Environment "MADE", Republic of Macedonia  
Ban Toxics!, Philippines  
Ecological Society of the Philippines, Philippines  
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alliance (GAIA), Philippines  
Sagip Sierra Madre Environmental Society, Inc. (SSMESI), Philippines  
Mother Earth Foundation, Philippines  
BUKLOD TAO, INC, Philippines  
Sining Yapak (SIYAP), Philippines  
SOLJUSPAX, Philippines  
Waste Prevention Association 3R, Poland  
Indaloyethu Environmental Cooperative, South Africa  
groundWork- Friends of the Earth SA, South Africa  
Korean Zero Waste Movement Network, South Korea  
ECOLOGISTAS EN ACCION, Spain  
Ecologistas en Accion de Navarra, Spain

MERCURIADOS patients's association, Spain  
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Sweden  
International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE), Switzerland  
Yufeng Wong, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan  
Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Thailand  
Ecological Alert and Recovery - Thailand (EARTH), Thailand  
Raks Thai Foundation, Thailand  
Dr. Arpa Wangkiat, Rangsit University, Thailand  
Ecological and Cultural Study Group, Thailand  
Udon Thani Environmental Conservation Group, Thailand  
Public Policy for Mineral Resources (PPM), Thailand  
Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria Control (UNETMAC), Uganda  
National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), Uganda  
pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU), Uganda  
United Kingdom Without Incineration Network (UKWIN), United Kingdom  
Environmental Health Fund, US  
American Environmental Health Studies Project, USA  
Green Science Policy Institute, USA  
Mercury Policy Project (MPP), USA  
Basel Action Network (BAN), USA  
Pacific Environment, USA  
Clean Production Action, USA  
Texas Campaign for the Environment, US  
Rainforest Action Network (RAN), USA

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