

Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research Partnership (MFTP) Area

The Minutes of the Teleconference (held on 25th November 2009)

<i>To:</i>	MFTP Partners
<i>From:</i>	Participants to the teleconference
<i>Date:</i>	19 January 2010
<i>Version:</i>	5

People attending MFTP Teleconference: Nicola Pirrone and Alessandra Fino (CNR – Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research CNR - National Research Council, ITALY); Stan Durkee and Marilyn Engle (US EPA – USA); Leonard Levin (Air Quality, Electric Power Research Institute – USA); Grace Howland and Heather Morrison (Environment Canada – CANADA); Gunnar Futsaeter (Chemicals Branch , UNEP); Toru Terai (Environmental Health and Safety Division, Ministry of the Environment – JAPAN).

Items discussed in the agenda:

- 1) Quick Roundtable introduction of partners.
- 2) Short presentation by Grace Howland of PAG and OEWG discussions relevant to the F&T partnership made. Regarding PAG (the first meeting of Partnership Advisory Group, held in Geneva from 31 March to 2 April 2009), it was suggested that F&T business plan should be updated taking into account the UNEP Governing Council decision 25/5 and other comments given with the aim of encouraging the work of the partnership area consistent with the overall goal and operational guidelines of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. The next PAG meeting is scheduled for autumn 2010. Regarding the OEWG (held in Bangkok from 19 to 23 October 2009), the possible contribution of F&T to the Paragraph 29 study, coordinated by John Munthe, was brought out.
- 3) Regarding the contribution of MFTP to support the UNEP process as it moves forward towards a treaty in 2013, the following comments were made:
 - It was emphasized that F&T partners could contribute to Paragraph 29 study that regards the various types of mercury-emitting sources and current and future trends in mercury emissions, including an analysis and assessment of the cost and the effectiveness of alternative control technologies and measures. This study should be finalized by the beginning of October 2010 while final inputs have to be given by May – June 2010. Contributions of F&T partners could include, but not be limited to, providing any available information on costs and effectiveness of alternative control technologies and measures and review of a “zero draft” of the study (expected near the end of January, 2010).
 - The report in progress within the framework of Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollutants (TF HTAP) of the UNECE-LRTAP Convention will certainly provide relevant information relevant to the Paragraph 29 study. The report, that–will be finalized by September-October 2010, is structured in 5 chapters titled: Chap. 1: Conceptual Overview; Chap 2: Observations; Chap. 3: Emissions; Chap. 4: Modelling; Chap. 5: Impacts;

- Modelling studies, that are under way (as part of the HTAP report), can be useful to evaluate the impact of various alternative emission scenarios in terms of deposition fluxes. The results of the studies will be shared with UNEP;
- Nicola Pirrone, being the lead of the mercury HTAP report, will ensure that the data will be made available to UNEP and the Paragraph 29 study;
- It was considered the possibility of organization of a consulting group of experts, within MFTP, that could provide responses to UNEP on technical issues raised by countries.

4) The participants in general agreed that, considering the importance of an integrated evaluation of mercury impacts on the whole environment, the focus of the MFTP will be expanded to include aquatic transport and fate as well as exposure.

Gunnar Futsaeter informed of the work underway by GESAMP (The Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection), conducting a study on mercury in aquatic environment (releases, levels, effects, transport). The GESAMP report will be a direct input to the UNEP study updating the UNEP Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment, Sources, emissions and transport, 2008 (Paragraph 36 of the GC25/5)¹.

5) Regarding the improvement of communication among MFTP member countries on T and F projects, it was suggested that more frequently teleconferences should be set up among F&T partners, at least once every three months. All participants approved the teleconferences as a useful way to share information among partners.

6) Regarding ways of promoting work aiming to characterize Hg emissions from point and diffuse sources, Marilyn Engle described a new project proposal that will provide training to scientists about speciation measurements, with a focus on artisanal gold mining, particularly gold shops. The results of this project would improve the capacity of estimating air transport and fate of mercury emissions from this sector.

Marilyn also provided some details of a new USEPA project on VCM in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry for the Environment.

7) Regarding the upcoming T and F face-to-face meeting:

- Dates: 22-23 March 2010;
- Place: Rome (Italy) hosted by the Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research of CNR.

Regarding the updated version of the UNEP Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment, Sources, Emissions and Transport 2008 report, Gunnar Futsaeter informed that UNEP plan to establish a organisation for the work by the end of the year or shortly after. This would include a description of responsibilities of the various components (boxes) in this organisation. In consultation with the MFTP, specific tasks for partnership experts to carry out would afterwards be identified. The partnership expert network will be important in developing the study and will be continually consulted in the process.

In order to avoid duplication and parallel tracks of work, the members of the MFTP and its leader are available to discuss possible contributions to the updated report with UNEP in the next months. Partners are strongly recommended to present their suggestions or ideas on how F&T may contribute to UNEP process, before the face-to-face meeting to be held in 2010.

¹ For further information on GESAMP work see web link: <http://s244621454.onlinehome.fr/common.php?id=61>