

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership  
2nd Waste Management Partnership Area Meeting  
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ZMWG Statement by Mr. Takeshi Yasuma  
(ZMWG/Citizens Against Chemicals Pollution)

Dr. Narvaez, thank you very much for your informative presentation.

I am Takeshi Yasuma from Citizens Against Chemicals Pollution, an NGO in Japan and also a member of the Zero Mercury Working Group. I am here on behalf of ZMWG, which acts as an interim lead for the Mercury Supply and Storage Partnership.

I quite agree with Dr. Narvaez's views on Key Measures to Reduce Mercury Supply, that is:

- Ban or phase out of mercury mining
- Mercury export bans, and
- Long-term storage of surplus mercury.

The Mercury Storage is closely related to Mercury Waste Management. The partnership between both areas is very important because surplus mercury is and can mainly be derived from mercury containing wastes as well as recycling of industrial wastes or unintentional by-products.

For example, Japan exports more than 100 metric tons of surplus mercury every year, which comes from recycling of mercury containing wastes which were treated at the mercury recycling facility in Hokkaido, northern part of Japan.

I believe Japan, as a country that experienced the Minamata tragedy, should become the third global power to ban mercury export following the European Union and the United States.

The surplus mercury should not be exported but it should be sequestered from the global marketplace. This means that long-term storage is and should be mandatory for mercury export bans. We acknowledge that there are some challenges to be resolved such as social and political acceptability, storage methodology, collection and transportation schemes, selection of site, and cost and responsibility for construction and operation of the facilities. These factors are most important for those countries and regions that have much excess mercury supply.

Finally, I would like to express ZMWG's thanks to the Japanese government for its continued support in moving the storage and waste partnership work forward.

Thank you.