National Training on Strengthening Country-Level Inter-Agency Coordination on Trade of Mercury

Summary Report

Workshop Date: 23 – 24 June 2025, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

National Training on Strengthening Country-Level Inter-Agency Coordination on Trade of Mercury

Meeting Location: Corporate Hotel, Ulaanbaatar 14251, Mongolia

Meeting Date: 23 – 24 June 2025

Organised by: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) *in collaboration with* Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), and the Government of Mongolia as a joint initiative under the Japan-funded "Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention".

Workshop Report Developed by:

Ashley Bastiansz, Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

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Meeting Background

A one and a half day in-person National Training workshop was developed to provide practical guidance on combatting issues related to the trade of mercury, mercury compounds and mercury-added products (MAPs) in alignment with the Minamata Convention on Mercury. This activity was a joint initiative developed under the Japan-funded “Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention” implemented regionally by UNEP.

The project has a special focus on the area of information exchange, awareness and education, research, development, and monitoring. A comprehensive programme was designed to strengthen capacity, build on the resources in and around Minamata, and employ technologies held by institutions in Japan for the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention’s obligations.

The meeting was held for a full day on Monday 23 June and a half day on Tuesday 24 June 2025 at the Corporate Hotel located in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The meeting was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), and the Government of Mongolia via the Ministry of Environment.

The workshop focus was on representatives from Mongolia Customs with several governmental/related agency representatives also in attendance.

Opening Remarks and Introduction to the Session

The workshop was chaired by Mr. Solomon Huno, AIT and Ms. Ashley Bastiansz, BRI. Introductory remarks were virtually provided by Mr. Thomas Verbaere, Knowledge and Risk Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who welcomed participants to the meeting and provided context on the project, highlighting that the training was designed to build capacity, facilitate information exchange, and enhance monitoring tools for managing the mercury trade. Representing Mongolia, Mr. Ts. Urtnasan, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), highlighted the challenges of this work, including the need for coordination between ministries as well as the importance of having this training in Mongolia. Final remarks for the opening session were provided by Dr. Guilberto Borongan, Director of the Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT RRC.AP) who

discussed that mercury trade remains a growing concern, yet effective implementation continues to face significant challenges since much of the trade occurs online or through informal channels, making it difficult to trace its origins and detect activities without proper coordination and monitoring tools. Dr. Borongan noted the importance of the activities, like this workshop, to address the major challenges posed by unregulated mercury trade, informal supply chains, and weak enforcement systems. Strengthening institutional cooperation and building trust are essential to safeguarding both the environment and human health from the harmful impacts of mercury.

Following a round of introductions from participants, Ms. Ashley Bastiansz, BRI, provided an overview of the objectives and goals of the workshop to:

- Build country-specific enforcement capacity through hands-on training.
- Improve coordination between national agencies to close enforcement gaps.
- Train officers in forensic detection and risk assessment for mercury shipments.
- Initiate a national action plan for mercury trade control.

Ms. Bastiansz additionally discussed the expected outcomes of the workshop to:

- Strengthened inter-agency coordination for mercury trade enforcement.
- Improved capacity of national authorities to detect and prevent illicit mercury trade.
- Standardized procedures for customs and law enforcement authorities.
- Initiation of country-specific action plans and policy recommendations.
- Gather up to date information on illegal mercury trade data and national challenges.

It was also noted that the Mongolia National Training workshop would be one of three national trainings provided under the Japan-funded project including a previously held workshop in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 2 June 2025 as well as an upcoming workshop in Koror, Palau on 17 June 2025, and supplementary online training webinars from May – August 2025.

Implementation of the Minamata Convention in Mongolia [with simultaneous interpretation]

Mr. L. Batzorig, Senior Officer responsible for Chemical Impact Policy at the MOECC, presented information on the historical use of mercury, particularly in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). Mr. Batzorig mentioned that in 2011, Mongolia issued a decree to phase out the use of dental amalgams containing mercury. Mongolia signed to the Minamata Convention in 2015, and as part of this effort, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) supported the development of a baseline Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) and a National Action Plan (NAP), both of which have been submitted to the Convention. Mr. Batzorig emphasized that the gold and coal sectors are the primary sources of mercury use and emissions in Mongolia, and highlighted that brown coal is used for energy production and is also exported. Additionally, mercury compounds are manufactured for medical use within the country. Despite these efforts, illicit flows of mercury persist, including from mercury-added consumer products.

To address these challenges, Mr. Batzorig made several recommendations including enhancing technical support, improving the detection of illicit mercury in Mongolia, and upgrading technologies to reduce mercury emissions from industrial facilities, particularly in the coal sector. Lastly, Mr. Batzorig stressed the need for improved storage facilities for mercury and for equipping institutions with the capability to detect mercury in products, which would support researchers and enforcement efforts.

Mercury Use and Environmental Impact

Mr. Mark Burton, BRI, provided a brief background on the global sources and flows of mercury, the mercury cycle and main sources of mercury compounds. Mr. Burton discussed a high-level overview of mercury-added products as well as the ASGM process, and the respective human and environmental exposure from these products and process. Mr. Burton also addressed the importance of biomonitoring to assess human mercury exposure as it can assisting people in making more informed decisions.

Understanding the Issues Posed by Mercury and Needs for Implementing the Obligations under the Minamata Convention

Dr. Elena Jardan, WHO, virtually presented on the human health impacts of mercury where she highlighted the acute and chronic impacts of mercury exposure. Dr. Jardan touched upon the different forms of mercury found in food and consumer products and the various health effects as a result of exposure. The different routes of mercury exposure can lead to a wide range of symptoms, from chronic headaches to muscle atrophy and developmental impairments of the nervous system—particularly affecting pregnant women and young children, who are the most vulnerable. Additionally, Dr. Jardan highlighted the importance of specific types of biomonitoring that are dependent on the type of mercury exposure. Dr. Jardan addressed mercury exposure through fish consumption, particularly in regions where fish is a dietary staple and a vital source of protein and omega-3 fatty acids—underscoring the importance of balanced and context-specific risk communication.

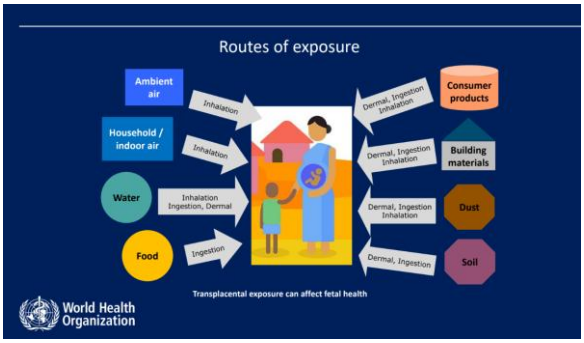


Figure 1: Extract from WHO's Presentation showing Routes of Exposure to Mercury

Ms. Tahlia Ali Shah, BRI, virtually presented on the obligations of the Minamata Convention in relation to mercury trade which is highlighted under Article 3 "Mercury Supply Sources and Trade" of the Minamata Convention as well as other related articles. The main provisions of Article 3 set out guidelines for the import and export of mercury with both Parties and Non-Parties to the Minamata Convention. It emphasizes that mercury trade is only permitted for authorized uses or for environmentally sound storage, in accordance with the Convention's requirements. In addition to Article 3, Ms. Ali Shah provided an overview of Articles 4, 7, and 11 of the Convention. To conclude, Ms. Ali Shah discussed the Convention's draft reports and guidance documents related to the global supply, production, trade, and use of mercury compounds, with relevant weblinks provided for reference.

Subsequently, Mr. Kyaw Nyunt Maung, UNEP Consultant, virtually presented on the mercury mass flow analysis conducted for

project countries of the Japan-funded project, which aims to better understand and quantify the flows and stocks of mercury in the country due to its sources and releases. Mr. Nyunt Maung explained that the mercury mass flow analysis in Mongolia is based on data from the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA), Material Flow Analysis (MFA), and the UNEP Level 3 Toolkit. The MIA for Mongolia, developed in 2019, covers the period from 2013 – 2018 and draws on a wide range of data sources including government records, private sector reports, and UN Comtrade statistics. According to Mongolia's MIA, approximately 95% of mercury use is attributed to the mining sector, followed by the energy sector (primarily coal combustion, MAPs and waste disposal. Mr. Nyunt Maung explained that the MFA methodology was employed to move beyond a basic inventory of mercury emission and releases to enable a more comprehensive life cycle perspective. MFA quantifies the flows and stocks of mercury across different stages of use and disposal, guided by principles such as system boundaries and process balance modeling. Additionally, the MFA supports applications in national resource accounting, industrial process optimization and product lifecycle analysis, aiming to produce concrete, quantifiable data rather than theoretical models. Following this, Mr. Nyunt Maung underlined that mercury mass flow analysis can assist in identifying priority sources of national mercury for the implementation import regulations and trade control enforcement, as well as better inform targeted mitigation strategies.

Afterward, Mr. Tegshbayar Tumurbaatar, Senior State Customs Inspector, Quarantine Division, Customs General Administration of Mongolia, emphasized the critical role that customs authorities play in ensuring national compliance and safety through their enforcement of tariffs and restrictions aligned with international conventions including the Minamata Convention. Mr. Tumurbaatar stated that under the current legislation, MAPs are classified as restricted goods, and additionally the import of toxic chemicals are controlled through special licensing systems. To effectively manage toxic substances, Mr. Tumurbaatar stressed that customs rely on skilled agents at every checkpoint to identify restricted goods, supported by CAIS software, which uses specific codes to flag restricted or prohibited items. Importers must submit five key documents that verify the origin of imported products, including licenses for non-tariff restricted goods. Mr. Tumurbaatar concluded by acknowledging that despite these measures in place, detecting mercury in products remains challenging due to limited laboratory capacity, which is an identified issue for improvement. Given that many products containing mercury enter Mongolia from China and Russia, Mr. Tumurbaatar

mentioned that the import framework is being reviewed to enhance understanding to strengthen controls of products containing mercury at the border.

Quantifying Atmospheric Mercury through Manual Active Sampling Methods

After the first series of presentations, AIT presented a recorded video highlighting the importance of atmospheric mercury monitoring for assessing environmental exposure and pollution risks. The video explained the three primary methods used for mercury sampling: automated active sampling, passive sampling, and manual active sampling. Each method has distinct advantages and is suited to different goals, timeframes, and available resources. The video primarily focused on manual active sampling, emphasizing its portability and cost-effectiveness compared to automated systems. Manual active sampling involves pumping air through a soda lime trap to remove interferences, then passing it through a gold amalgamation cartridge that captures mercury. The collected mercury forms a stable gold amalgam, which can be safely stored and later analyzed in the laboratory. This method typically operates over a 24-hour period, using inexpensive, reusable equipment such as a low-flow pump (~0.5 L/min), making it well-suited for short-term surveys and emergency monitoring, especially in remote or resource-limited settings. Unlike automated systems, which provide continuous, high-resolution and speciated data but require costly equipment and skilled operators, manual active sampling strikes a balance between reliability and practicality. The video highlighted the critical role of atmospheric mercury testing in expanding monitoring efforts and supporting informed environmental health decisions in affected regions.

Tools and Resources for Customs and Other Agencies for Effective Management of Mercury Trade and Practical Exercises on customs inspection procedures and mercury shipment profiling

Following AIT's video on manual active sampling, Ms. Anna Kobylecka from the World Customs Organization (WCO), virtually presented on the essential role customs authorities play in enforcing the Minamata Convention and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), which commonly rely on trade restrictions, prior informed consent, and licensing, labelling and monitoring requirements. Ms. Kobylecka provided an overview of the Minamata Convention Articles 3, 10 and 11, which are

most relevant for customs agencies, as they respectively cover import/export, interim storage, and waste management. Ms. Kobylecka emphasized that customs officers need to be familiar with the Minamata forms and Harmonized System (HS) trade codes developed by the WCO. Accurate classification is vital, as misclassification—intentional or not—can result in illegal trade or improper disposal. The capacity of customs agencies is critical to effective implementation of the Minamata Convention, preventing illegal mercury trade and supporting environmental protection efforts.

Ms. Ashley Bastiansz, BRI, followed this presentation with a practical exercise adapted from an exercise developed by Ms. Kobylecka, which focused on customs inspection procedures and mercury shipment profiling. This exercise aimed to assess the current understanding of mercury-related issues and to develop strategies for strengthening Customs' capacity to identify and regulate risks at the national level. Through this exercise, participants split off into smaller groups and went through the process of developing and managing a Customs risk profile, starting with the analysis and identification of risks to justify the need for profiling, demonstrating the relevance of the risk and current controls for effectiveness. This exercise involved selecting appropriate risk indicators compatible with existing Customs control systems to effectively target the identified risks as well as setting up and implementing the risk profile by defining its parameters to ensure proper application within Customs enforcement.

Managing Mercury Trade, Storage, Waste and Disposal

Ms. Tahlia Ali Shah, BRI, virtually presented on the handling and disposal of mercury wastes in relation to the Minamata Convention obligations. In this presentation, Ms. Ali Shah defined and identified "mercury wastes" and managing mercury wastes under Article 11 of the Convention, as well as provided guidance for mercury waste management outlined by the Basel Convention. For handling and disposing of mercury wastes, Ms. Ali Shah discussed the importance of ensuring that waste is safely and securely handled to prevent spills and ensuring that individuals handling the waste are properly trained. Key storage considerations for mercury waste include location, design, flooring, equipment, structural features, temperature control, signage, and material handling tools like

forklifts. Ms. Ali Shah stressed that mercury wastes should be treated to meet disposal facility acceptance criteria while minimizing emissions during treatment and that treated wastes must be disposed of in specially engineered landfills or permanent storage sites to ensure environmental safety.

To provide further context to Ms. Ali Shah's presentation, Mr. Krishna Zaki, Nexus3 Foundation, virtually presented on Indonesia's experience in managing mercury trade, storage and disposal in ASGM. Mr. Zaki shared and introduction of the Nexus3 initiative and its aim to protect environmental and health impacts on vulnerable populations. Under the Minamata Convention's framework, Indonesia's National Action Plan mandates the creation of local plans to reduce or eliminate mercury use at sub-national levels. However, Mr. Zaki explained that Indonesia's regulations do not explicitly ban cinnabar mining, and that mercury is still sold online in Indonesia, sometimes openly and other times by using secret codes, complicating control efforts. Mr. Zaki provided an overview of the tiered system in which mercury storage is managed: Tier 3 facilities provide medium-scale, short-term safe storage; Tier 2 facilities at the provincial level offer high-safety storage; and Tier 1 facilities at the national level handle long-term surface or underground storage of elemental or stabilized mercury. Although mercury is not currently classified as a prohibited substance under Indonesia's LARTAS policy, it is recommended that it be regulated as such to strengthen controls and import/export of mercury.

Risk Assessment Methodologies

The first day concluded with a presentation from Ms. Ashley Bastiansz, BRI, discussing the importance of risk assessment in identifying mercury exposure and supporting regulatory monitoring and risk management. Ms. Bastiansz noted that effective mercury risk assessment depends on robust analytical detection techniques, which are essential for protecting human health, informing policy decisions, monitoring illegal transport of mercury, and advancing global commitments such as the Minamata Convention. For the purpose of this presentation, Ms. Bastiansz chose to use mercury-added skin-lightening products as a case study, since it represents an emerging issue and is more difficult to identify in comparison to elemental mercury. Ms. Bastiansz provided a brief overview of Article 4 of the Convention, as well as the mercury-added skin-lightening products and its associated risks to human and environmental health. Ms. Bastiansz addressed the need for testing skin-lightening products for mercury and common

analytical instruments used for testing mercury concentrations in these products. Her presentation concluded with a video, previously filmed at the BRI laboratory, demonstrating skin-lightening products analysis using the X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) method.

Day 1 Summary

At the end of the first day, participants shared some key takeaway points, which included learning new information on international environmental treaties and highlighting the need to strengthen national capacity in Mongolia. Participants expressed that enhancing laboratory capabilities, improving Customs knowledge, and fostering better inter-agency coordination are essential to effectively implement MEAs. They shared that as part of an ongoing regulatory reform to meet these MEA obligations, a new integrated information portal is being developed that will enable relevant agencies to access and share data on substances like mercury, supporting more effective monitoring and compliance.

Day 2

Cross-Agency Collaboration in Mercury Trade Enforcement and Practical Exercise: Planning a Joint Operation

Ms. Anna Kobylecka, WCO, commenced the second day of the workshop through a virtual presentation on the role of Customs agencies and their responsibility for enforcing international and national regulations, preventing illegal trade, and facilitating legitimate commerce. Despite the crucial role Customs play, Ms. Kobylecka, expressed that their efforts are often limited by a lack of technical capacity to identify mercury and its compounds, weak coordination among agencies, and disjointed information systems. Ms. Kobylecka, highlighted that while Customs agencies inspect shipments, apply risk profiling, and seize illegal or undeclared mercury and related products, they must work closely with environmental agencies that oversee licensing, compliance, and safe disposal. Additionally, effective mercury control relies on interagency cooperation, with law enforcement handling investigations and prosecutions, health authorities providing technical expertise, and all additional relevant stakeholders engaging in joint

operations, capacity building, and timely information exchange. This requires formal protocols with designated communication channels, standardized formats, clear responsibilities, and confidentiality provisions. Ms. Kobylecka, called attention to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), as they are essential tools to guide strategic planning, inspections, and coordinated response, defining when and how agencies collaborate. SOPs should be supported by formal agreements (i.e., Memorandum of Understandings) and aligned with international standards. She noted that existing SOPs from the World Customs Organization (WCO) on waste shipment control can be adapted for mercury enforcement. Ms. Kobylecka reinforced that strengthening cross-agency cooperation is critical to addressing mercury trade and fulfilling obligations under agreements including the Minamata Convention.

Participants had questions for Ms. Kobylecka that focused on handling seized mercury, detecting mercury outside of Customs' jurisdiction, and guidelines for mercury storage and disposal. Ms. Kobylecka addressed each of these questions by highlighting that effective management of seized mercury waste requires strong interagency coordination and clear protocols aligned with established SOPs. She mentioned that the first point of contact often varies by country when illegal mercury is detected at Customs, but environmental inspectors are typically involved due to their expertise in hazardous material regulations. For mercury found outside of Customs' control, risk profiling is essential for detection, relying on knowledge of legal frameworks, labelling, Customs documentation, and high-risk indicators like certain HS codes or flagged importers/exporters. Ms. Kobylecka stated that Customs agencies must collaborate with environmental authorities to refine detection strategies and develop risk profiles using case studies and past seizure data. While Customs agencies may not always be involved post-entry, their role is critical in tracing illegal shipments, supporting legal cases, and updating enforcement protocols. Establishing a pre-defined task force or checklist for stakeholder roles enhances preparedness and ensures coordinated responses to mercury-related incidents.

Following Ms. Kobylecka's presentation, Ms. Bastiansz, BRI, led a practical exercise developed from a previous exercise of Ms. Kobylecka, where participants split off into groups and simulated planning a joint operation with Customs and other agencies. Each of the groups emphasized a structured approach to planning and implementing national mercury enforcement strategies. The groups' processes began with the planning and preparation of a national operational plan, identification of key

stakeholders (e.g., Customs, environmental authorities, police, laboratories), and the assignment of roles and responsibilities for key stakeholders. Draft action plans were created with input from stakeholders, followed by awareness-raising through training and inter-agency workshops. During the implementation phase, groups proposed a phased approach:

- **Pre-operational**: Establish clear communication channels and contact points, assign operational space, and brief participating stakeholders.
- **Operational**: Conduct coordinated activities based on risk profiles and tactical objectives, including analysis and enforcement actions.
- **Post-operational**: Evaluate outcomes, hold debriefings, and compile findings.

Groups placed a strong focus on developing customs risk profiles and logical frameworks for analysis, supported by training, capacity building, and guidance tools like checklists. Effective communication and outreach, including engagement with journalists and the public, was highlighted as essential in the final reporting stage. Groups agreed that all stakeholders should collaboratively review and finalize the report before it is publicly shared, ensuring transparency and shared accountability.

ASGM Experience in Mongolia - PlanetGOLD

The final presentation of the training was delivered by Ms. Khishgee Dondov from PlanetGOLD Mongolia. Ms. Dondov provided a summary of Mongolia's efforts to reduce mercury use in ASGM, in line with the Minamata Convention, particularly Articles 2 and 7, which call for formalized action plans. ASGM in Mongolia remains largely informal, with widespread mercury use—estimated at 1.3 kg of mercury is used per gram of gold—often taking place in homes with minimal awareness of associated health risks. Although a legal framework and a formal miners' federation exist, enforcement is limited, and gold smuggling remains a concern. Through the planetGOLD program that ended recently (2019–2025), Mongolia has adopted a life cycle approach with four key strategies:

1. **Formalization** of miners and the gold supply chain, supported by 36 formal mining partnerships across 81 hectares.
2. **Strengthening regulation and enforcement**, especially to curb smuggling and improve compliance.
3. **Introducing mercury-free processing using gravity methods**, which raised recovery rates to 70–80% and reduced mercury usage by 0.17 tons through targeted workshops.

4. **Capacity building and awareness**, including training, gender-inclusive workshops, media outreach, and the development of a knowledge hub.

Ms. Dondov outlined remaining challenges, including limited access to formal ore and the need for a clear framework to supply tailings of mercury-free processing centres. Despite these challenges, Ms. Dondov described financial tools such as group savings and loans which are being explored to support miners' investment in clean technologies and market access.

Summary of Opportunities for Collaboration and Closing Remarks

To close off the second and final day of the workshop, final takeaways and remarks were shared by participants. Participants expressed the valuable insights they gained into the Minamata Convention and recognized the need to strengthen interagency coordination and found the discussions on international instruments particularly relevant. A participant from the Ministry's inspection department, which oversees regulatory compliance, expressed interest in follow-up actions on mercury monitoring, storage, and disposal. In relation to ASGM, some participants mentioned potential collaboration opportunities with AIT and BRI in the future to better understand the impacts of mercury from ASGM. Looking ahead, participants were especially keen on having additional training opportunities in mercury management and hope to explore the development of a long-term storage facility project as the tangible next step.

Ms. Bastiansz also noted that this workshop is just one aspect of the coordinated effort between the "Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention" and the project, "Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products". Online webinars will be made available between June – August to exchange information on different topics related to mercury trade and further reports/guidelines on managing trade of mercury-added skin lightening products will be shared later in the year.

The meeting was closed with thanks to all participants for their engagement and support in phasing out mercury.

Half Day Field Visit

After the meeting concluded, colleagues from AIT (Dr. Guilberto Borongan and Mr. Solomon Huno) and BRI (Ms. Ashley Bastiansz and Mr. Mark Burton) visited Mongolia's current confiscated mercury

storage facility, located at confidential site. While the facility remains operational, concerns from nearby residents have resulted in halting additional mercury storage at this location. As a result, Mongolia is now seeking an alternative site to safely store additional existing and future confiscated mercury.

Annex 1- Meeting Agenda

National Training on Strengthening Country-Level Inter-Agency Coordination on Trade of Mercury

Date: 23rd – 24th June 2025

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Tentative Programme Agenda

Background and Objectives

Effective mercury trade enforcement requires tailored national strategies that align with each country's regulatory and operational context. This in-country training focuses on practical, hands-on exercises to enhance coordination among customs officers, environmental regulators, and law enforcement authorities. Strengthening inter-agency collaboration is essential for detecting, monitoring, and preventing illicit mercury trade, which remains a persistent challenge across the Asian Region.

This initiative aims to equip national enforcement agencies with the technical skills and enforcement tools necessary to combat mercury smuggling. By integrating regional collaboration with country-specific training, the program fosters a comprehensive enforcement network, enhancing national and cross-border cooperation to improve compliance with the Minamata Convention and other trade regulations. Ultimately, this approach will bolster national enforcement capacity and contribute to regional efforts to eliminate mercury trade.

Objectives

1. Build country-specific enforcement capacity through hands-on training.
2. Improve coordination between national agencies to close enforcement gaps.
3. Train officers in forensic detection and risk assessment for mercury shipments.
4. Initiate a national action plan for mercury trade control.

Expected Outcomes

1. Strengthened inter-agency coordination for mercury trade enforcement.
2. Improved capacity of national authorities to detect and prevent mercury trade.
3. Standardized procedures for customs and law enforcement authorities.
4. Initiation of country-specific action plans and policy recommendations.
5. Gather up to date information on mercury trade data and national challenges.

Tentative Agenda

Day 1- Monday 23 June 2025 **(UTC+8 Time zone)**		
8:30 - 9:00	**Registration** – housekeeping announcements.	AIT
9:00 – 9:30	**Opening Remarks**	Mr. Thomas Verbaere, Knowledge and Risk Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division of UNEP Mr. Ts. Urtnasan, the State Secretary of MOECC Dr. Guilberto Borongan, Director, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT RRC.AP)
9:30 – 9:50	**Introduction of Participants**	All
9:50 – 10:00	Objectives, expected outcomes, and schedule of the training.	Ashley Bastiansz, Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)
10:00 – 10:15	Implementation of the Minamata Convention in Mongolia [with simultaneous interpretation]	Mr. L. Batzorig, Senior Officer responsible for Chemical Impact Policy, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), Mongolia
10:15 – 10:30	Mercury Use and Environmental Impacts	Mark Burton, BRI
10:30 – 10:45	Human Health Impacts of Mercury	Elena Jardan, World Health Organization (WHO) - *virtual*
10:45 – 11:00	Overview of Mercury Trade and Related Minamata Convention Obligations	Tahlia Ali Shah, BRI - *virtual*
11:00 – 11:15	***Short Break and Group Photo***	
11:15 – 11:35	Mercury Mass Flow in Mongolia	Kyaw Nyunt Maung, UNEP- *virtual*
11:50 – 12:30	Atmospheric Survey and Analysis (Manual Active Sampling Method)	AIT
12:30-13:30	***Lunch***	

13:30 – 14:00	Understanding the role of Customs and the available resources for enhancing implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury/other environmental agreements	Anna Kobylecka, World Customs Organization (WCO)- *virtual*
14:00 – 14:50	Practical exercises on customs inspection procedures and mercury shipment profiling (to include case studies on smuggling tactics and interception methods and identifying and handling illegal mercury shipment scenarios)	Facilitator: Ashley Bastiansz, BRI All participants Note-takers: Mark Burton, BRI and AIT
14:50 – 15:00	***Short Break***	
15:00 – 15:20	Handling and Disposal of Mercury Waste	Tahlia Ali Shah, BRI - *virtual*
15:20 – 15:40	Experiences in the region - Indonesia's Experience in Managing Mercury Trade, Storage and Disposal in ASGM	Krishna Zaki, Nexus3 Foundation - *virtual*
15:40 – 16:15	Risk-assessment methodologies: Mercury detection and forensic analysis techniques- XRF	Ashley Bastiansz, BRI
16:15 – 16:30	Wrap up of day's outcomes and plans for day 2.	BRI and all participants.

Day 2 – Tuesday 24 June 2025 **(UTC+8 Time zone)**		
9:00 – 9:30	Cross-Agency Collaboration in Mercury Trade Enforcement- • Working with environmental, police, other relevant law enforcement authorities, and health agencies 1. Information-sharing protocols and joint operations • Developing national action plans and SOPs for enforcement agencies	Anna Kobylecka, World Customs Organization (WCO)- *virtual*
9:30 – 11:30	Practical Exercise: Planning a Joint Operation Group activity: Simulate planning a joint operation with Customs and other agencies	Facilitator: Ashley Bastiansz, BRI All participants Note-takers: Mark Burton, BRI and AIT
11:30 – 12:00	ASGM Experience in Mongolia – PlanetGOLD	Ms. Khishgee Dondov, PlanetGOLD
12:00 – 12:30	Summary of Discussions and Next Steps for Potential Development of National Action Plan for Mongolia – *Open Discussion* *Closing Remarks*	Ashley Bastiansz, BRI, Mongolia Customs Representative All Participants

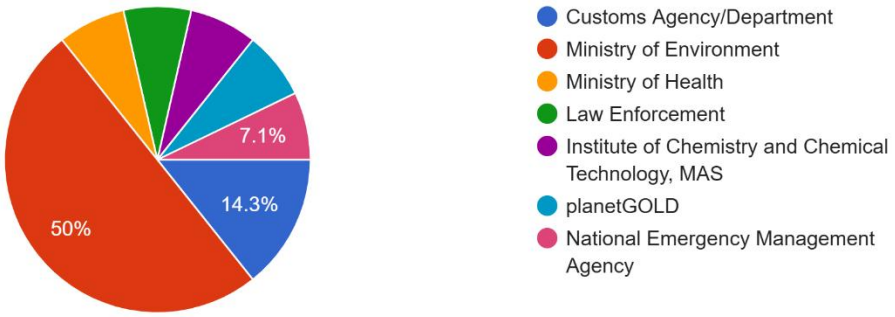
Half Day Field Visit is scheduled after Lunch with BRI, AIT and MOECC

Annex 2 – Post-Training Survey

Post-training survey – Responses from 14 Participants

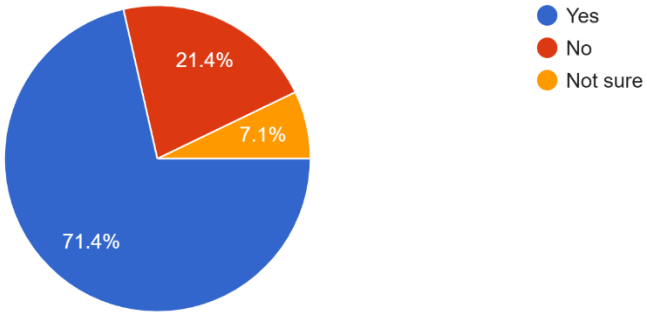
Which organization/agency are you affiliated with?

14 responses



Prior to this workshop, have you ever received any mercury training or do you have prior understanding of the issues related to mercury, ...compounds or the Minamata Convention on Mercury?

14 responses



1. **What session(s) did you take the most interest in from the workshop's discussions?**

Participants showed the most interest in sessions related to mercury analysis methods, Minamata Convention obligations and Customs requirements, mercury waste treatment, cross-agency collaboration, sampling and laboratory analysis, risk assessment, and the environmental and health impacts of mercury use. Several respondents noted that all sessions were valuable and found the overall workshop engaging.

2. **Were there any topics discussed that you would have like to get further information on?**

Participants expressed interest in receiving further information on several topics, including the analysis of airborne mercury dispersion, customs requirements, full treatment and disposal of mercury and mercury-added product waste, risk analysis, and details related to the Minamata Convention. Additional areas of interest included chemical handling, waste management, and proper disposal methods for mercury-containing substances.

3. **Were there any topics NOT discussed today that you would have like to get more information on?**

Some participants indicated interest in topics not covered during the workshop, particularly related to mercury waste disposal and treatment, destruction of hazardous chemicals, emergency response procedures for illegal mercury detection, and waste management with biomonitoring. However, several respondents felt that the information provided was sufficient.

4. **How would you rate the overall experience of the workshop?**

Participants rated the overall experience of the workshop 4.71 out of 5.

5. **Please provide any further feedback on how we could improve the workshop and recommendations for future potential workshops.**

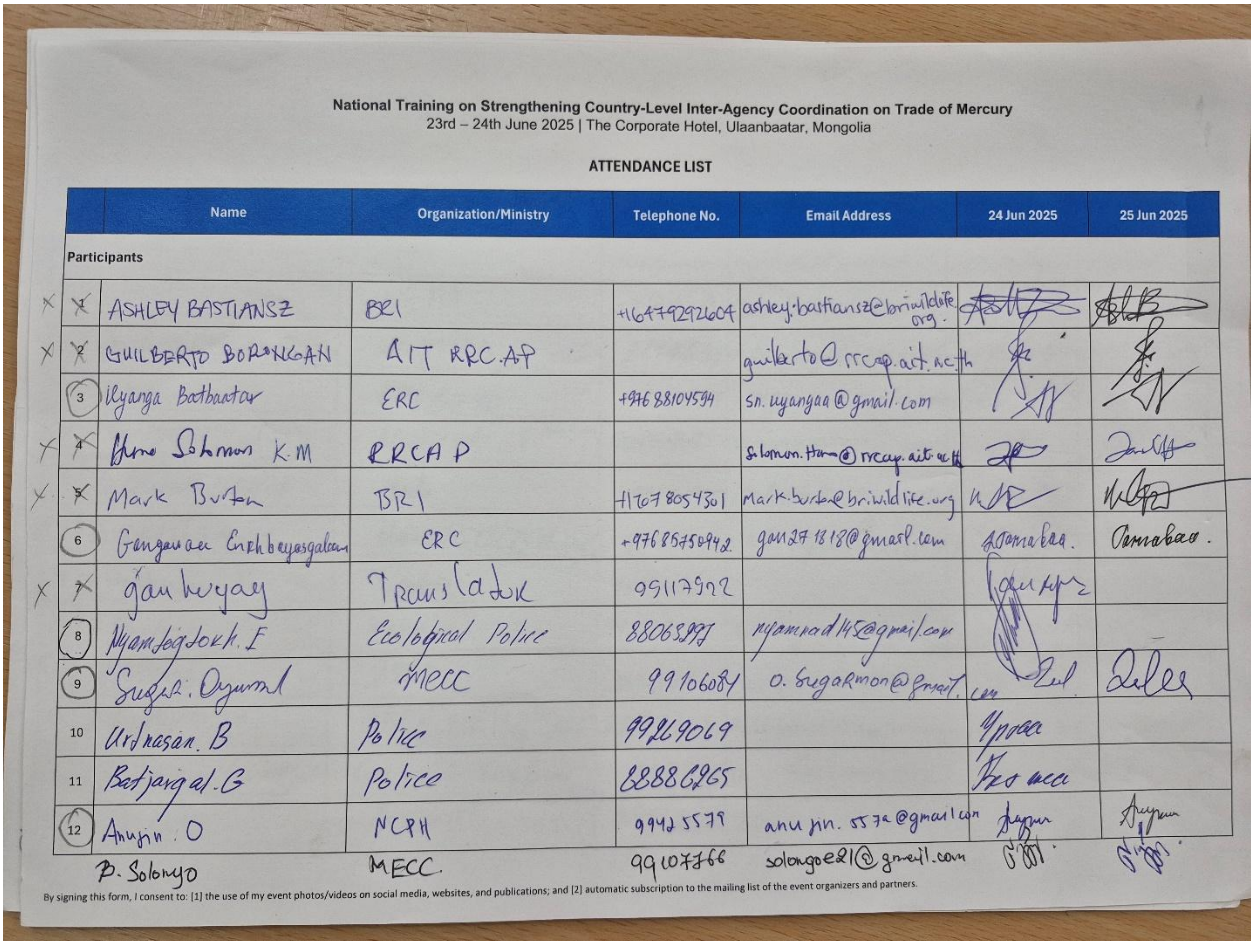
Participants suggested improving future workshops by providing more information on the Minamata Convention, mercury waste disposal, and biomonitoring. They recommended including more practical exercises and hands-on training, enhancing cross-agency collaboration, incorporating technological advancements, and covering topics such as laboratory analysis and monitoring of metallic mercury. Overall, there was a strong interest in deeper, more applied learning experiences.

Annex 3- List of Participants

	Name	Country	Position	Organization/Ministry
Organizers, Partners, and Resource Speakers				
1	Ms. Tahlia Ali Shah	Trinidad and Tobago	International Environmental Specialist	Biodiversity Research Institute
2	Ms. Ashley Bastiansz	Canada	International Environmental Specialist	Biodiversity Research Institute
3	Mr. Mark Burton	USA	Geospatial Specialist	Biodiversity Research Institute
4	Mr. Huno Solomon Kofi Mensah	Ghana	Programme Specialist	Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific Asian Institute of Technology
5	Dr. Guilberto Borongan	Philippines	Director	Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific Asian Institute of Technology
6	Dr. Kyaw Nyunt Maung	Myanmar	Data Analyst	United Nations Environment Programme
7	Mr. Thomas Verbaere	France	Programme Manager Associate	Knowledge and Risk Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division of UNEP
8	Ms. Anna Ewa Kobylecka	Poland	Technical Officer	World Customs Organization
9	Ms. Elena Jardan	Romania	Technical Officer	World Health Organization
10	Mr. Ts. Urtnasan	Mongolia	State Secretary	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
11	Mr. L. Batzorig	Mongolia	Senior Officer responsible for Chemical Impact Policy	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC)
12	Mr. Krishna Zaki	Indonesia	General Manager	Nexus3 Foundation

13	Ms. Khishgee Dondov	Mongolia	National Project Manager	PlanetGOLD

Participant Attendance List (In-person)



National Training on Strengthening Country-Level Inter-Agency Coordination on Trade of Mercury
23rd – 24th June 2025 | The Corporate Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

ATTENDANCE LIST

	Name	Organization/Ministry	Telephone No.	Email Address	24 Jun 2025	25 Jun 2025
Participants						
1	ASHLEY BASTIANSZ	BRI	+16479292604	ashley.bastiansz@briwildlife.org		
2	GUILBERTO BORONGAN	AIT RRC.AP		guilberto@rrcap.ait.ac.th		
3	Ilyanga Batbaatar	ERC	+976 88104594	sn.uyangaa@gmail.com		
4	Hmo Solomon K.M	RRCAP		solomon.hmo@rrcap.ait.ac.th		
5	Mark Burton	BRI	+17078054301	mark.burton@briwildlife.org		
6	Gangamaa Enkhbayasgalan	ERC	+97685750942	gan271818@gmail.com		
7	Ganbuyan	Translator	95117922			
8	Nyamdorj.E	Ecological Police	88063997	nyamnad145@gmail.com		
9	Sugar. Oyumaa	MECC	99106084	o.sugarmon@gmail.com		
10	Urdnasan. B	Police	99269069			
11	Batjargal. G	Police	88886965			
12	Anujin. O	NCPH	99425579	anujin.5579@gmail.com		
	B. Solongo	MECC	99107766	solongoe21@gmail.com		

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	Name	Organization/Ministry	Telephone No.	Email Address	24 Jun 2025	25 Jun 2025
13	Munkhtulga Shooriibuu	NEMA	+97688031050	tulgaa.0514@gmail.com	[illegible]	[illegible]
14	J. Dambadarjaa	NEMA	78090529	Jam. dambaa@gmail.com	[illegible]	М. Дамбадаржаа
15	Ts. Batjargal	МХУА	91195490	batjargal09@gmail.com	[illegible]	[illegible]
16	E. Uuganzaya	БОНХУЯ	91010879	uuganaa.e2016@gmail.com	[illegible]	[illegible]
17	A. Sumiyagarav	БОНХУЯ (Нийслэл)	99277743	sumiyagarav.aaa@gmail.com	[illegible]	[illegible]
18	Yu Chuluuntsetseg	Ёрка	99987555	chuluuntsetseg@garshim.mn	[illegible]	
19	D. Khishgee	planetGOLD Mongolia	99079924	khishgee@artisanalgold.org	[illegible]	[illegible]
20	Altanbagana B.	UNEP	80225350		[illegible]	
21	P. Gantuya	NCPH	99299786	Gantuya3995@gmail.com	[illegible]	П. Гантуяа
22	B. Solongo	MECC.	99107766	solongoe21@gmail.com	[illegible]	
23	A. Баярмаа	ОБЕГ "NEMA" УАБ	99687913	aset.bavic1106@gmail.com	А. Бау	
24	T. Tumurbaatar	General Customs organization	99893510	ferrum3s1@gmail.com	[illegible]	
25	R. Oyunbat	MACCET	88112100	ROyunbat88@gmail.com	Р. Оюунбат	Р. Оюунбат
26	A. Оюун	MECC	88117558	oyun@mecs.gov.mn	[illegible]	Р. Оюунбат

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	Name	Organization/Ministry	Telephone No.	Email Address	24 Jun 2025	25 Jun 2025
43.	Shinezul Sanjmedorj	MECC	95569609	shinezul2020@gmail.com	[signature]	[signature]
41	П. Баярмаа	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		[signature]
26	Б. Нарандалай	ХААЯХ, ШУА	94014228	narandalaib@mas.ac.mn	[signature]	[signature]
27	Л. Амартүвшин	ГЕГ, Хяналт, бүрдүүлэлтийн газар	99006458	Amartuvshin.L@customs.gov.mn	[signature]	
28	У. Солонго	АМГТГ – Ахлах шинжээч	99880170	solongo.u@mrpam.gov.mn	[signature]	
29	Ш. Байгалмаа	Газар шим үйлдвэрлэл	88078309	bahayaa@garaashim.mn	[signature]	
30	B. Dulmaa	MECC.	99148544	batchuluun.dulmaa@gmail.com	[signature]	[signature]
31	S. Bayasgalan	AIT, RRCAP			[signature]	[signature]
32	~~Soloman Huno~~	~~AIT RRCAP~~				
33	~~Guillermo Borogan~~	~~AIT RRCAP~~				
34	Б. Энхтөмөр	БОУАОЯ	8800571	Enkhtumur@mecc.gov.mn	[signature]	[signature]
35	Л. Батзориг	БОУАОЯам	88881619	batzorig@mecc.gov.mn	[signature]	
36	Н. Мөнх-Үрэл	ГЕГ Төвийн лаборатори	88104167	ncheka1207@gmail.com	[signature]	
37	Д. Жавзантогох	Экологийн цагдаа	88065997		[signature]	
38	Б. Уртнасан	Экологийн цагдаа	88103786	URTNASAN8850@Gmail.com	[signature]	
39	Г. Батжаргал	Экологийн цагдаа	88886265		[signature]	
40.	Э. Ганзаяа	ERC	85750942	gan271818@gmail.com	[signature]	

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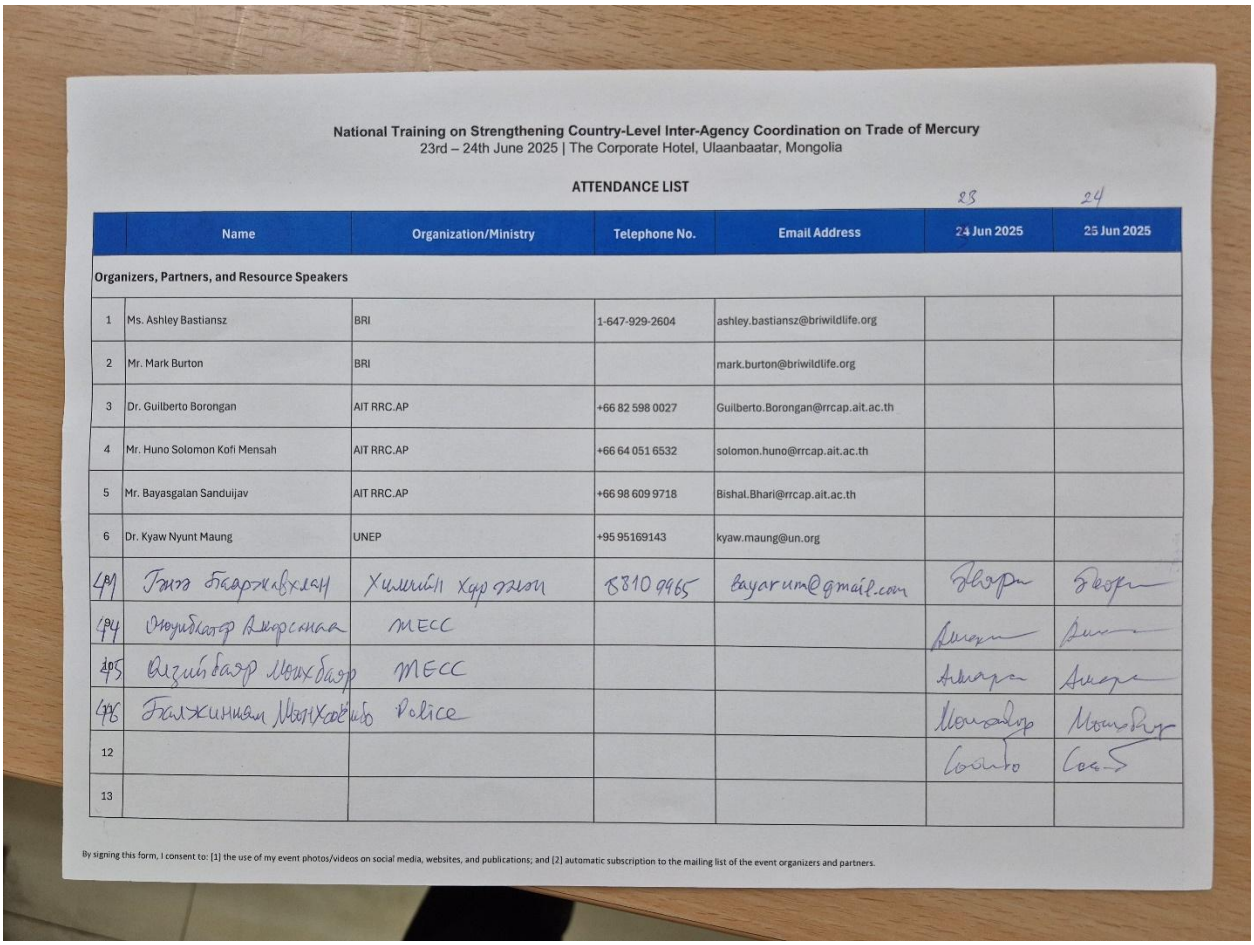

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ATTENDANCE LIST

	Name	Organization/Ministry	Telephone No.	Email Address	24 Jun 2025 (23)	25 Jun 2025 (24)
Organizers, Partners, and Resource Speakers						
1	Ms. Ashley Bastiansz	BRI	1-647-929-2604	ashley.bastiansz@briwildlife.org		
2	Mr. Mark Burton	BRI		mark.burton@briwildlife.org		
3	Dr. Guilberto Borongan	AIT RRC.AP	+66 82 598 0027	Guilberto.Borongan@rrcap.ait.ac.th		
4	Mr. Huno Solomon Kofi Mensah	AIT RRC.AP	+66 64 051 6532	solomon.huno@rrcap.ait.ac.th		
5	Mr. Bayasgalan Sanduijav	AIT RRC.AP	+66 98 609 9718	Bishal.Bhari@rrcap.ait.ac.th		
6	Dr. Kyaw Nyunt Maung	UNEP	+95 95169143	kyaw.maung@un.org		
491	Гэнэ баярхавхлан	Химийн хор судлал	8810 9965	bayarun@gmail.com		
494	Отгонбаатар Анарсанаа	МЕСС				
495	Өвгөнбаатар Мөнхбаяр	МЕСС				
496	Балжинням Мөнхбаяр	Police				
12						
13						

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Annex 4 – Presentations and Supporting Information

All meeting presentations and supporting information is available at the following link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F_gV7CPmlzLZxlKSVIL3-h7KiG5N8CoQ