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UNEP Consultation Meeting on Mercury Waste and Storage Geneva, 23 September 2010



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- GC 25/5 mandated UNEP Chemicals to continue existing work on enhancing capacity for storage of mercury and on the environmentally sound management of mercury
- UNEP reacted by initiating and continuing projects to support developing countries in strengthening their capacity and to develop national/ regional strategy:
 - UNEP mercury waste management projects
 - UNEP mercury storage projects
- Complementary projects by
 - Secretariat of the Basel Convention (e.g. Technical Guidelines)
 - other UN organisations
 - Partnership on Mercury Waste Management



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- Review UNEP mercury storage projects
- Summarize the linkages and gaps between mercury storage issues and experiences from the mercury storage studies towards the Basel Technical Guidelines on Mercury Containing Waste
- Indicative proposal for pilot sector studies to develop handy guidance for use in developing countries



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Goals

- Estimation of the amount of excess mercury to be expected in the region between 2010 and 2050
- Assessment of the feasibility of implementing concepts for temporary or permanent storage of excess mercury in the region

Regional coverage

- Asia Pacific
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia (only excess mercury)



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- Conducted by Concorde/ Peter Maxson (Belgium)
- Approach: Estimates on current demand, supply, stocks & prediction of future development
- Different scenarios considered
- Order of magnitude estimates

Region	Excess Mercury	Earliest possible need for storage
Asia Pacific	5,500-7,500	2017
Latin America/ Caribbean	2,000-8,000	2013
Eastern Europe/ Central Asia	2,300-10,000	2011

→ Probably early need for regional temporary and permanent storage facilities



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Arrangements

- Inception Workshop Regional Executive Committee
- Studies conducted by institutions from the region:
 - Asia: RRCAP/ AIT, Thailand
 - LAC: LATU, Uruguay

Considered concepts

- Permanent storage (underground disposal)
- Temporary storage (above ground)
- Export to another country



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Results Asia Pacific

- Permanent storage considered as not implementable in region due to lack of salt deposits and high costs
- Preferred options: temporary storage in desert area or export
- Legal framework required to regulate storage obligation, site selection, licensing, operation and liability
- Need for bi- and multilateral agreements to arrange relationships between countries that export and countries that store mercury.



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ck formations (hard rock, clay) for permanent e in the region, but more investigations

tion: temporary above-ground storage
rack imports, exports and use of mercury
e technical standards regarding ESM of mercury
e including disposal
institutional capacity to implement ESM incl.

