

REGIONAL STUDY ON

MERCURY

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE ASEAN COUNTRIES



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PREFACE

The Secretariat of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) commissioned a regional study on mercury waste management in the region to the Asian Institute of Technology, Regional Resource Centre for Asia-Pacific (AIT RRC.AP), in cooperation with the UN Environment. The study covers the current situation of mercury waste management in the region, which consists of the ten ASEAN Member States (AMS), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. All AMS are Parties to the Basel Convention, however, AMS such as Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand are not signatories to the Minamata Convention.

The result of the study is presented in this report, providing information on the current state of the mercury waste management systems in each AMS jurisdiction, which includes the regulatory framework, institutional framework, mercury waste management infrastructure and operations, as well as the information and control elements. In addition, it also provides information on the mercury management practices for selected activities, inventories of mercury and mercury waste, and AMS' input on the challenges, needs and opportunities implementing the ESM of mercury waste in the region.

The report is expected to serve as baseline information for consideration by the Association and its member states for decision-making in implementing environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury waste as well as to the ASEAN Secretariat and other regional organisations for relevant programme development. It also identifies the current gaps of information and data on mercury management in the region.

The study relied on the secondary data available on the web and a set of questionnaires as the primary survey instrument. It was difficult to obtain the specific information needed for analysis in order to meet the objectives of the study. Although the questionnaire was expected to be the source of more reliable and updated information and data, AMS did not fully complete it. Generally, they also did not have the information and data on certain aspects of the mercury and mercury waste management in their jurisdictions. The unfavourable situation has made the study take a longer time than initially planned. Nevertheless, the author has tried to make all efforts to optimise the results of the study in order to make it more meaningful as per the objectives and purpose of the report.

The author would like to thank the AIT RRCAP and UNEP-IETC for trusting and providing support to the author in undertaking this interesting study, which is the first of its kind in the region. Appreciation is also extended to Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam for their efforts in responding to the questionnaire and their additional input during the Expert Review Meeting in August 2016 in Bangkok.

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