

## International Forum Addressing Primary Mercury Mining in Kyrgyzstan

**Location** Bangkok, Thailand  
**Timing** Sunday 18 October 2009, 8.30 – 14.00  
 (before the Mercury Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group, 19-23 October 2009)

### Overall Project Objective

Reducing the supply of mercury from, for example, primary mercury mining (UNEP Governing Council Decision 25/5 Paragraph 34.b).

### Meeting Objective

The objective of the meeting is to reflect upon the needs of Kyrgyzstan in transitioning to more sustainable economic activities over the long term, as the last country known to mine mercury for export.

### Proposed Agenda

8.30	Registration (coffee)
<b>8.45 – 9.15</b>	<p><b>Welcome / Introductions</b></p> <p>Overview of the mercury results from UNEP Governing Council 25 and its implications on primary mercury mining                  SPEAKER: Per Bakken, Head, Chemicals Branch, UNEP</p>
9.15 – 9.30	<p><b>Kyrgyzstan Introductory Remarks</b></p> <p>SPEAKER: to be identified by Kyrgyzstan</p>
9.30 – 10.00	<p><b>Report on the current status of the mine</b>, including an overview of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The mining operation (overview of the current and historic state of the mine and its environmental impact, revenues, and export information).</li> <li>- The context of the mine at the local community level, national level (including payroll, profits, tax payments).</li> </ul> <p>SPEAKERS: Mr. Bodgetsy, Kyrgyzstan (to be confirmed)                  Ms. Tinara, Kyrgyzstan (to be confirmed)</p>
10.00 – 10.30	<p><b>Report on Development Strategy and entry points identified in the National Action Plan</b></p> <p>SPEAKER: Mr. Noruzbaev, Kyrgyzstan (to be confirmed)</p>
10.30	BREAK
10.45-11.15	<p><b>Near Term Efforts</b></p> <p>Proposed remediation efforts for site, tailings, water and slag (30 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- steps to consider, estimated costs and timeframe</li> <li>- socio-economic benefit to the region (environment and employment)</li> </ul> <p>SPEAKER: Mr. Bodgetsy, Kyrgyzstan (to be confirmed)</p>

11.15-12.45	<p><b>Promotion of Alternative Economic Activities</b> Introduction of activities to date, steps to be taken, opportunities for synergy, estimated costs and timeframe. SPEAKER: to be identified.</p> <p>Detailed Discussion with linkages, estimated costs and timeframe. Topics to be confirmed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Small scale alternative economic development opportunities. SPEAKER: to be identified.</li><li>2. Large scale private economic investment development opportunities. SPEAKER: to be identified.</li><li>3. Other. SPEAKER: to be identified.</li></ol>
12.45-13.15	In-meeting Lunch Provided
13.15-14.00	Open discussion on opportunities and conclusions for next steps. Facilitated by Craig Boljkovac, Manager, UNITAR
	<b>Closure of the meeting</b>

**Background**

It was decided by UNEP Governing Council 25 (held in February 2009) that a legally binding instrument on mercury will be negotiated by 2013. The legally binding instrument is to include provisions to limit mercury supply, reduce the demand for mercury and reduce international trade in mercury. It is therefore expected that making market demand for mercury will be minimal within five to ten years. Related to this, reducing the supply of mercury from, for example, primary mercury mining (UNEP Governing Council Decision 25/5 Paragraph 34.b) has been identified as a priority area for immediate action.

Kyrgyzstan's Haidarkan primary mercury mine is the last remaining major supplier of primary mined mercury to the international marketplace (accounting for approximately 10% of the global supply in 2005). The contributions of Kyrgyzstan to the global mercury supply over many years have been important but not indispensable.

The Kyrgyzstan government has informally indicated that they are not against reducing mercury production but that very serious economic and social aspects must be considered in taking action, given that the facility is a major employer in the region, taxpayer to the government and supplier of mercury globally.