



**a toxics-free future**

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## **International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)**

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

### **ISIP Objectives**

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

**Title of activity:** Strengthening information to civil society to protect health from mercury exposure with a focus on vulnerable populations

**NGO:** Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente (AAMMA)

**Country:** Argentina

**Date:** August 2012

### **Elements of SAICM Covered:**

Promote reduction of the risks posed to human health and the environment (57); Help develop comprehensive national profiles or country situation reports about mercury (1, 166); Programs to monitor mercury to assess exposure (66, 82); Promote the development and use of products and processes that pose lesser risks (44); Take immediate action to reduce the risk to human health and the environment posed on a global scale by mercury in products and production processes (59); Participation in activities related to the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on mercury

**Description of the most common forms of mercury exposure:**

Waste management and polluted sites.

**Description of the damage caused by mercury:**

Chlor-alkali plants are the current known or reported mercury threats.

Polluted sites are some of the damages to the public and environment from mercury problems in the past.

The most vulnerable populations are those living close to polluted sites and waste disposal. At risk populations include workers involved in waste management and cleaning activities of polluted sites.

**Description of what forces support and oppose the Mercury Treaty, the public participation consultation process, and the level of public awareness of the treaty process:**

Please see the document prepared by AAMMA/ISDE, a "Thought Starter on the Health Elements of the Mercury Negotiation Process," presented at INC2 and added as an Informative Paper:

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/INC3/ISDE%20-%20Health%20Elements%20of%20the%20Mercury%20Negotiation%20Process%20-%20August%2029%202011.pdf>

**Project Outcome:****Description of the activity conducted:**

Preparation of a document in Spanish to be published under the website of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America, and working to further collaboration with different stakeholders by strengthening the health elements of the draft mercury treaty, with additional focus on the consequences of the mismanagement of mercury and mercury-containing waste. 18 Fliers were prepared to accompany this document to facilitate the dissemination of the concepts among the different actors involved.

**Impact on target groups:**

Active participation in the activities taking place in Argentina during the process of preparation of the documents under this proposal. The interaction facilitated the process of engagement of the different target groups working under the project driven by the Latin American and South American Basel Convention Centers.

**Impact on target policies:**

*The goal was to facilitate interactive work to improve multi-stakeholder work by using and disseminating the correct information, and facilitating the access to health effects consequences of the mismanagement of mercury and mercury waste.*

**Outreach to stakeholders:**

The stakeholders involved in this activity were the Latin America and South America Regional Basel Convention Centre, UNEP Chemicals, the National Institute of Industrial Development (INTI), the Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, AAMMA/ISDE and IPEN.

The present project allowed collaboration and participation in the bi-national (Uruguay and Argentina) project driven by the Latin America and South America Regional Basel Convention

Centres and UNEP Chemicals. It also allowed prepared material to be more visible and available to the main regional partners such as industry, private sector, mining sector and others important actors.

**Deliverables, outputs and/or products:**

The visible products are the document prepared in Spanish (Annex1) and the 18 fliers (attached) that will be published under the website of the South American Regional Basel Convention Centre.

**Communication efforts:**

Participation in regional activities in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners, and the publication of the products of this Project under the website of the South American Regional Basel Convention Centre.

**Recommendations, from a public interest, NGO perspective, on reducing and eliminating human sources of mercury:**

Develop and apply a strong treaty that includes explicit health elements as is stated in the Thought Starter prepared by AAMMA/ISDE on the Health Elements of the Mercury Negotiation Process.