



8 January 2013

Hon. Ramon J.P. Paje
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Hon. Juan Miguel Cuna
Director
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Dear Sirs.

New Year's greetings from the EcoWaste Coalition and the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN).

We are pleased to submit for your consideration the attached letter from the EcoWaste Coalition and IPEN for the delegates of the upcoming fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC5) that is tasked to prepare a global legally binding instrument to curb mercury pollution.

The letter expresses our concern about the current weak draft treaty text, which to our assessment, "will likely not be sufficient to prevent future outbreaks of Minamata disease, will not mandate adequate responses to any future Minamata-like tragedy, and will not reduce global levels of methyl mercury pollution in fish and sea food."

The letter tackles three important questions:

1. Would the mercury treaty prevent a future Minamata-type tragedy?
2. How would the mercury treaty impact a future Minamata-type tragedy?
3. Will the treaty significantly reduce global levels of methyl mercury pollution in fish and sea food?

The letter concludes with an appeal to all delegates, particularly at the Diplomatic Conference, to select a name other than the "Minamata Convention" for the global mercury treaty.

"Mercury pollution represents a large and serious global threat to human health and the environment and a robust and ambitious global response to this threat is needed."

We trust that the Government of the Philippines through the DENR will exert extra steps to

ensure that the INC produces a treaty that will be able to adequately respond to mercury problems and challenges in our country and across the globe.

For more information about IPEN and its views on the mercury treaty that is being drafted, please log on to:

<http://www.ipen.org/index.html>

<http://ipen.org/minamata/>

Thank you very much for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Edwin T. Alejo
Coordinator
EcoWaste Coalition

Manny C. Calonzo
Co-Chair
IPEN