



Call for
expression of
interest

Laboratory Proficiency Testing for Mercury

Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific¹ (UNEP ROAP) calls laboratories in the region that undertake mercury analysis (or will undertake near future) for monitoring, survey or research purposes to participate in the 'Proficiency Testing (PT)' for assessing their analytical capacity.

Objective

The PT aims at evaluating the performance of mercury analyses conducted by the laboratories. It provides their individual proficiency levels and collective mercury monitoring capacity in the region.

Laboratories subject to the PT

Public laboratories and **laboratories in universities** that undertake mercury analysis (or will undertake it in near future) for monitoring, survey or research purposes are welcomed to participate in the proficiency testing.

Outline and schedule

Prior to the mercury analysis, the participating laboratories will be requested

- » **Participate in a questionnaire survey** to compile regional laboratories profile (September 2021);
- » An **online training** opportunity provided (November 2021);
- » Laboratories will then **receive specimens** containing a certain level of mercury (January 2022);
- » Using their own procedures, the laboratories will **undertake mercury analysis** and submit the result to the organiser (March 2022); and
- » The results will be compiled and analysed statistically, and result will be published. In parallel, each laboratory will receive individual proficiency result and comments from the organiser.

Arrangement

National Institute for Minamata Disease (NIMD) is responsible for overall PT design and compiles and prepares the report. UNEP ROAP supervises project implementation. **Asian Institute of Technology Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (AIT RRC.AP)** organises laboratory engagement and sample distribution.

Contact information

For the laboratories interested in the PT can express their interest via email to warm@rrcap.ait.ac.th. Any query, including eligibility, can be communicated through this email.



¹ UNEP ROAP is implementing a Japan-funded project called "Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences" to support its member states for the early implementation of the Convention. The project will establish a region-wide network of analytical institutions with mercury monitoring capabilities around Asia and the Pacific to bring their capacities to international standards.