

23 June 2010

Dear Mr. Ibrahim Shafii,

I would like to inform you that the Government of Japan has decided to continue to serve as a lead country for developing the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury waste in accordance with decision OEWG-VII/7 and decision IX/15. As a lead country, pursuant to paragraph 4 of decision OEWG-VII/7, the Government of Japan will be happy to prepare a revised version of the guidelines, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, taking into account the comments received from the parties and others. The Government of Japan expects to submit a revised version of the guidelines to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention by 31 October 2010 pursuant to para 4 and by 31 July 2011 pursuant to para 6 of decision OEWG-VII/7.

The Government of Japan would like to request the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to encourage the parties and others for further nomination to participate in the work of the small intersessional working group. In addition, the Government of Japan would also like to request other parties to volunteer to edit and proofread the revised guidelines, due to budgetary constraints.

Should you have any other detailed questions on this matter, please contact Dr. Shunichi Honda (Ministry of the Environment) at +81-3-5501-3157 or shunichi_honda@env.go.jp

Yours sincerely,

Tsutomu Mizutani