



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2016/SOM2/MTF/009

Agenda Item: 4

**Concept Note – Developing Training Materials to
Reduce Mercury Use and Improve Gold Recovery in
Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in APEC
Economies**

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: United States



**10th Mining Task Force Meeting
Arequipa, Peru
9-10 May 2016**

APEC Concept Note

Project Title:	Developing Training Materials to Reduce Mercury Use and Improve Gold Recovery in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in APEC Economies
Fund Source (Select one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Project Account (formerly Operational Account) <input type="checkbox"/> TILF Special Account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>APEC Mining Task Force Sub-Fund</u>	
For ASF: As per Guidebook Ch. 3, list MTF Sub-fund if appropriate for this project: <i>Mining Sub-fund</i>	
APEC forum:	Mining Task Force
Proposing APEC economy:	United States
Co-sponsoring APEC economies:	Viet Nam; Papua New Guinea; Chinese Taipei; Japan; Chile
Expected start date:	Upon approval (August 2016)
Expected completion date:	December 31, 2017
Project summary: Describe the project in under 150 words. Your summary should include the project topic, planned activities, timing and location: <i>(Summary must be no longer than the box provided. Cover sheet must fit on one page)</i>	This project will survey and develop curriculum and training modules for stakeholders within the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector that support efforts to eliminate mercury use. A performance measurement framework to identify key indicators to benchmark the success of different training modalities targeted at reducing mercury use and enhanced efficiency of economic, natural, and human resources will also be developed. Two training modules will be developed, in collaboration with private sector organizations: 1) business planning to increase capacity of the ASGM sector to engage with the private sector and facilitate investment and 2) the role of women in small-scale gold mining. Benchmarking workshops will be held in coordination with parallel efforts on miner training (e.g. CIRDI, USDOS, etc.): economies under consideration include Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Peru. Results will be shared with APEC economies at the completion of the project.
Total cost of proposal: <i>(APEC funding + self-funding):</i> USD 200,000 <i>(USD 150,000 APEC Funding + USD 50,000 from CIRDI)</i>	Total amount being sought from APEC (USD): 150,000 By category: <i>Travel: 40,000 Labor costs: 70,000</i> <i>Hosting: 30,000 Publication & distribution: 10,000 Other: N/A</i> <i>(See Guidebook on APEC Projects, Ch. 9 to ensure all proposed costs are allowable.)</i>

Project Overseer Information and Declaration:

Name: Jane Dennison, Ph.D.

Title: Mercury Program Officer

Organization: U.S. Department of State

Postal address: 2201 C Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20520

Tel: 202-647-6880

E-mail: dennisonje@state.gov

As Project Overseer and on behalf of the above said Organization, I declare that this submission was prepared in accordance with the **Guidebook on APEC Projects** and any ensuing project will comply with said Guidebook. Failure to do so may result in the BMC denying or revoking funding and/or project approval. I understand that any funds approved are granted on the basis of the information in the document's budget table, in the case of any inconsistencies within the document.

Name of Project Overseer

Date:

Project Synopsis

1. **Relevance – Benefits to region:** What problem does the project seek to address? What is the relevance of the project? Does it have sustained benefits to more than one economy?

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin and major public health hazard whose transboundary migration makes it a global concern. The Minamata Convention on Mercury is anticipated to enter into force in early 2017. Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) is the largest global source of mercury pollution and specifically addressed in the Convention. Besides mercury pollution, the sector impacts the environment through deforestation, loss of biodiversity from habitat destruction, and sedimentation of rivers.

Mercury-free processing techniques can be cost-effective and often even more profitable than using mercury, but miners must be comfortable incorporating the new techniques in their operations. This starts with proper training in several key areas, such as: basic concepts on milling and concentration, exploration and mine planning, formalization, legal requirements, personal financial management, business planning, and occupational safety. While there have been some initiatives to develop ASGM training centers and materials, they have generally been stand-alone. Without measurable indicators it is difficult to compare the effectiveness of training modalities or develop benchmarks for ensuring Minamata Convention compliance. This project is intended to provide a framework, set of indicators and training recommendations to enhance coordination among ASGM education programs throughout the APEC region. Ultimately, the project will provide baseline knowledge to develop and critically review an APEC strategy for monitoring and evaluation systems in ASGM education.

Relevance – Rank: Which Rank in the annual *APEC Funding Criteria* does this project fall under? Briefly explain why. Is it also linked to other Ranks? If so, briefly explain which/how.

This project falls under Rank 1 under “Building sustainable and resilient communities” and under “Human capital development . . . education and capacity building, as well as cross-border education cooperation.” It also relates to Rank 2 under “Inclusive Growth, Women and the Economy and Activities/issues related to addressing the social dimension of globalisation, including health and gender” and “Sustainable Growth- sustainable development in mining.”

2. **Objectives:** Describe the 2-3 key objectives of the project. (e.g. ensure workshop participants will be able to...; to create a framework...; to develop recommendations...; to build support...; to revise strategies...; to create an action plan;...to increase knowledge in; to build capacity in... etc.)

- 1) To perform a desk-top review of the status of existing ASGM miner training materials and curriculum and what gaps or needs exist to ensure Minamata Convention compliance.
- 2) To develop two training modules on business planning and the role of women in the ASGM sector, including best practices for inclusion and capacity building, and women and children's health in mining communities.
- 3) To create a performance measurement framework for educational modalities to identify 'best practice' training programs for mercury abatement and resource efficiency.

3. **Alignment – APEC:** Describe specific APEC priorities, goals, strategies, workplans and statements that the project supports, and explain how the project will contribute to their achievement.

This proposal addresses many of the points in the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration from Beijing, China, which specifically highlights sustainable development in mining and the Minamata Convention and the “pivotal role of women in the development and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific.”

Alignment – Forum: Briefly explain how the project is aligned with your forum's workplan / strategic plan.

This project aligns with the 10 APEC Mining Policy Principles, including, inter alia, to pursue policies that improve the economic and social wellbeing of our people, contribute to economic, environment and social development outcomes and promote information exchange and

cooperation on technologies that are cost effective, efficient, economically sound, environmentally responsible and socially acceptable. It has a strong focus on two important concepts enshrined in the Principles, particularly sustainability and exchange between member economies. This project will contribute strongly to the capacity building activities planned for 2016 under the Mining Task Force Proposed Workplan “reducing mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining.”

The Canadian International Resources and Development Institute (CIRDI) will support the project through its education and training programs, and coordinate activities with operational projects in Indonesia and Peru. The private sector participated in a U.S. State Department workshop addressing the question of what investors would need to see in a business plan for them to invest in the ASGM sector. This project would work with these investors to develop the business plan module. ABAC is another private sector organization that could potentially participate in this project in the development of the business plan module. The project will engage with mining industry associations, including the Chilean Mining Association, primarily through in-kind assistance with training efforts. In addition, this project will leverage additional funding through close coordination with parallel efforts on ASGM training. One of these efforts is a U.S. project to be awarded this year to develop and field test a mobile plant to deliver mercury-free training. Overall, international engagement is important because these groups can help develop a knowledge-sharing network for disseminating the training materials. They will also be able to provide information on large-scale mining best practices as appropriate.

Methodology: How do you plan to implement the project?

Workplan:¹

Key Activities	Aug-Sept	Oct-Feb	Mar-Jul	Aug-Dec	Outputs
1. Survey existing curriculum and training materials for ASGM in target economies					- Review and integration of existing reference materials;
2. Pre-test collaborative benchmarking framework; 3. Develop 2 training modules					- Pilot collaborative benchmarking framework.
4. Conduct collaborative benchmarking exercise					- Performance benchmarking responsible investment promotion of mercury-free gold for ASM sector - Performance benchmarking for women's role in ASGM sector
5. Dissemination of project results					- Implement, disseminate and execute knowledge mobilization plan to share results.
6. Monitoring/ Evaluation					- Final evaluation report

Beneficiaries: The primary beneficiaries of the project will be current ASGM training center teachers/trainers and administrators and small-scale miners and ore processors. As the ASGM becomes more professionalized and part of the formal economic sector, local businesses are expected to also benefit. Small-scale miners will be identified through local cooperatives/associations. In the absence of local cooperatives/associations, selection will be made in cooperation with local government and other local stakeholders. Emphasis will be placed on including women miners. Secondary beneficiaries will be local trade schools, Departments of Mining/Science and Technology, government trade school agencies, with whom materials will be shared.

Evaluation: The following indicators shall be utilized:

1. Number of curriculum / modules / materials produced;
2. Number of training centers engaged and participating;
3. Number of performance benchmarking tools developed

Linkages: The project will be coordinated with APEC Mining Task Force and results presented at an appropriate APEC venue.

¹ All materials developed must be “Minamata-compliant” and will be reviewed by the United Nations Environment Programme Mercury Partnership on ASGM.