



## A Moment to Minamata

### Context

The Minamata Convention on Mercury takes its name from Minamata City in Southwest Japan, which hosted the ceremonial opening of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in October 2013. This beautiful corner of Japan experienced a large scale mercury poisoning of tens of thousands of people in the 1950's and 1960's, known as Minamata disease. The Convention recognizes in its preamble the lessons of Minamata Disease and reaffirms that such tragedy should not happen again.

To the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a delegation from Minamata will come to celebrate the entry into force of the Convention and to convey their message for the future. Immediately before the start of the High-Level Segment, this event will provide an opportunity for delegates to listen to the voices from Minamata, look back on its history, and refresh the determination of the global community not to repeat it.

### Programme

Thursday, 28 September 2017

#### **A Moment to Minamata**

13:00 to 13:45

Opening remarks: Mr. Hiroshi Nishida, Mayor, City of Minamata

Special message: Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

Lessons of Minamata: Ms. Shinobu Sakamoto, Storyteller of the Minamata Disease

Message from Minamata: Ms. Sena Sawai, Japan's Goodwill Ambassador to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, introduced by the Minister of Environment, Japan (tbd)

Presentation of a memorial gift to the COP President and the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, followed by comments by COP President

Closing remarks by Mr. Erik Solheim, Head, UN Environment

*Conference  
Room 3*

Moderated by Mr. Eisaku Toda, Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury