

Referee Report

The reviewed paper provides information on emissions of mercury during cremation of corps. This manuscript is an important contribution to the improvement of our knowledge on emission sources of mercury, particularly in the context of newly established UNEP convention on reduction mercury emissions worldwide. Although contribution of emissions from crematories is not the one dominating the total emissions on a global scale, but it is important for emission inventories in many countries worldwide. It is also expected that this contribution will be even more important in the future.

Results of measurements of total mercury concentrations in the air and concentrations of its chemical forms are rather scarce in the literature. Therefore, the measurements described in the reviewed manuscript are very important. Sampling and analytical methods used in the reported work are very adequate. So is also the analysis of results in the paper and development of future scenarios of emissions of Hg from crematories in Japan. The results, such as emission factors and emission rates presented in the reviewed paper can be used by scientists in other countries to estimate emissions of Hg from crematories in these countries.

In summary, I recommend the reviewed paper for publication in its current version.