

**Mercury Treaty, First Conference of the Parties**

24, September 2017

**Plenary Opening Statement by Shinobu Sakamoto**

“My name is Shinobu Sakamoto.

I came from Minamata, Japan.

I was exposed to mercury when I was in my mother’s womb.

I was born with fetal Minamata Disease in 1956.

The fetal Minamata disease patients, including myself, are getting worse year by year.

Many people are still suffering and struggling.

Minamata disease is not over yet.

I have an action message for everyone here:

We must protect women and children from mercury exposure.

Protect the future of them.

Thank you.”