



First Coordination Meeting of Regional Programs and Initiatives on AQM in Asia

Asoke I Room, Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit

Bangkok, Thailand

16 June 2004

Background

Economic development in Asia is accompanied by adverse environmental impacts. More evidence is becoming available on the harmful impact of air pollution on public health in Asia and the associated economic and social costs. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the overall number of premature deaths due to ambient air pollution in Asia is about 500,000 per year. The associated economic costs due to premature deaths and other impacts of air pollution run into hundreds of millions of dollars for each Asian mega-city.

Asian countries and cities have started to address air pollution. They, however, in many cases continue to rely on the assistance of international development agencies and nongovernment organizations to address the challenges of local air pollution, transboundary air pollution, and the increase of greenhouse gases. The development community has responded positively. Proof of this is the more than 20 regional initiatives and programs working on air quality issues in the Asian region.

There is little coordination and cooperation among these initiatives. It is not unusual to discover initiatives and programs implementing projects covering similar themes and focusing on similar cities or countries. In order to effectively address air pollution issues in Asia, there is a need for these initiatives and programs to coordinate and cooperate with each other and to start a dialogue on the air quality management priorities for Asia. The Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) promotes the strengthening of air quality management in Asia by sharing experiences and building partnerships. To promote dialogue among the regional initiatives and programs on AQM, CAI-Asia is organizing the First Coordination Meeting of Regional Programs and Initiatives on Air Quality Management in Asia.

CAI-Asia collected in May – June 2004 information on the regional initiatives in Asia and their air quality projects. The objective of the data collection was to determine the geographic and thematic scope of these initiatives, as well as possible overlaps. The results of the survey have been collated into the first draft of the Compendium of Air Quality Management Projects in Asia. The data collected will also be accessible through the CAI-Asia website at <http://www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia>.

Objectives

The objectives of the coordination meeting are to identify air quality management priorities for Asia and to strengthen the coordination and cooperation among regional programs and initiatives.

Expected Outputs

During the meeting, the results of the regional initiatives survey carried out by CAI-Asia will be presented. The presentation includes a geographic and thematic analysis of the regional air quality initiatives.

Ample time is allotted for discussion on the expected outputs of the meeting: (1) the future AQM priorities for regional initiatives in terms of thematic and geographical coverage, (2) mechanisms for better sharing of information between and among initiatives leading to a common knowledge base, (3) mechanisms for improved coordination in the implementation of projects and studies, especially at the national and city level, and (4) common approaches to fund-raising, with the general aim of increasing the amount of funds available for air quality management in Asia.

The meeting is expected to be the beginning of a process of continuous dialogue, which will continue at the Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2004 workshop in Agra, India, 6-8 December 2004.

The results of the meeting and its expected follow-up in December 2004 will also be an input to the development of a CAI-Asia policy paper on AQM in Asia. Efforts are underway to bring the policy paper to the attention of the participants of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment in March, 2005.

Targeted Participants

Representatives from the various regional air quality programs and initiatives in Asia will participate in the meeting. Among the initiatives and organizations represented in the meeting are: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Regional Research Programme on Environmental Technology (ARRPET), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), USAID/United States-Asia Environmental Partnership (USAID/USAEP), and World Bank.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

- 08.30 – 09.00 Registration
Venue: Asoke I Room, Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit
- 09.00 – 09.45 OPENING SESSION**
- 09.00 – 09.10 **Opening Remarks**
Supat Wangwongwatana
Chairperson, Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities
- 09.10 – 09.20 **Remarks**
Surendra Shrestha
Regional Director and Representative UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP)
- 09.20 – 09.35 **Background and Objectives of the Meeting**
Glynda Bathan
Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Secretariat
- 09.35 – 09.45 **Introduction of Participants**
Supat Wangwongwatana
Chairperson, Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities
- 09.45 – 10.30 SESSION 1: STATUS OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT (AQM) IN ASIA**
- Economic development in Asia will lead to an increase in air pollution unless countries and cities in Asia intensify their efforts to manage their air quality. Do Asian cities have the capacity to effectively manage air quality? The Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) and the Air Pollution in the Megacities of Asia (APMA) answer this question by presenting the draft results of the Benchmarking Study on Air Quality Management Capability of 20 Asian Cities. The results are based on a self-assessment air quality management capability questionnaire and a city profile drawn up by APMA and the CAI-Asia Secretariat.*
- 09.45 – 10.05 **Draft Results APMA – CAI-Asia Benchmarking Study on Air Quality Management Capability in Asia**
Cornie Huizenga
Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Secretariat
- 10.05 – 10.30 **Discussion of Status of AQM in Asia**
- 10.30 – 10.45 Coffee Break
- 10.45 – 12.30 SESSION 2: CASE STUDIES**
- Selected regional initiatives will present their regional programs as case studies. Case study presenters have been requested to focus their presentation on how their program addresses the following objectives: (a) advancement of the knowledge base, (b) capacity building, (c) policy advocacy, and (d) regional exchange and coordination.*
- Each of the case study presentations will be followed by a brief Question and Answer Session.*

- 10.45 – 11.05 **Case study 1: Regional Programs: Public Health and Air Pollution in Asia**
Robert O'Keefe
Health Effects Institute
- 11.05 – 11.25 **Case study 2: Regional Programs: AIRPETT Program**
Nabin Upadhyay
Asian Institute of Technology
- 11.25 – 11.45 **Case study 3: Integrated Environmental Strategies Program**
Kevin Rosseel
United States Environmental Protection Agency
- 11.45 – 12.05 **Case study 4: Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC)**
Gary Haq
Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York
- 12.05 – 12.30 **Case study 5: Male Declaration and Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)**
Mylvakanam Iyngararasan and Jiang Wei
United Nations Environment Programme
- 12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch**
Venue: Basil Restaurant, 2nd Floor, Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit
- 13.30 – 15.30 SESSION 3: PRIORITIES FOR AQM IN ASIA**
- Air pollution adversely affects the public health. Two presentations will be made in this session. The Health Effects Institute based in the United States prepared a summary of the health effects of outdoor air pollution in developing countries of Asia based on 138 papers published in peer-reviewed literature between 1980 and June 2003. The HEI presentation will discuss the results of the study with emphasis on the pollutants which require the most attention because they pose the gravest health impacts. In the second presentation, CAI-Asia based on its experience of working for more than three years on AQM issues with the different sectors (eg. national and local government, international development agencies, private sector, NGOs and academic institutions), will present its on the AQM priorities that regional initiatives and programs might want to focus on in the next five years in order to achieve better air quality in Asia.*
- 13.30 – 13.45 **Air Pollutants of Concern in Asia**
Robert O'Keefe
Health Effects Institute
- 13.45 – 14.15 **The CAI-Asia perspective on Priorities for AQM in Asia**
Cornie Huizenga
Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Secretariat
- 14.15 – 15.30 **Discussion on AQM priorities in Asia**
- 15.30 – 15.45 **Tea Break**
- 15.45 – 17.00 SESSION 4: STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND COOPERATION OF REGIONAL AQM PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES**

Coordination and Cooperation on AQM can take different shapes and forms. This session will review and discuss possible areas of coordination and cooperation. It will distinguish between coordination and cooperation at the global, regional, national, and local levels. The role of regional AQM programs and initiatives and the coverage of their projects in terms of theme and geographical location as shown by the results of the survey conducted by CAI-Asia will be discussed in this session.

- 15.45 – 16.05 **CAI-Asia perspective on coordination and cooperation**
Cornie Huizenga
Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Secretariat
- 16.05 – 17.00 **Discussion on strengthening Coordination and Cooperation among
Regional Programs and Initiatives on AQM in Asia**
- 17.00 **Closure of the meeting**