1. Background

Because of degrading air quality in urban areas, the lives of millions of people are under threat due to health impacts associated with air pollution. Continued economic growth in Asia will result in further pressure on air quality. According to WHO estimation, about 5,30,000 premature deaths in Asia occur every year because of outdoor air pollution. The quality of life of millions continues to be negatively affected, and the economic cost of air pollution is now believed to amount to 2-3% of GDP in many of the developing countries of Asia.

In addition to this, air pollution is also affecting crops and biodiversity through acid deposition, damaging cultural and heritage properties through corrosion and contributing for climatic variability and extremes by interfering natural climate system.

Although nearly 15% of total population lives in urban areas of Nepal, the urbanization rate of country is very high in compare to other South Asian countries. Kathmandu’s air quality is not meeting national and international standard. The high level of PM 10 is the major concern for public health. These studies have also revealed that vehicular emission is the major cause of air pollution followed by road re-suspension dust, brick kilns.

The impacts of climate change and air pollution are generally trans-boundary and global in nature. The impacts can be experienced in the places far away from original place where pollution occurred. For this reason, global and regional community should work collectively to tackle the air pollution problems. In this connection, various global and regional level initiatives have been taken to lessen the impacts of climate change and air pollution. Among them, “Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia” is a regional level initiative and effort taken by governments of countries of South Asia aimed at tackling air pollution problem in this region.

2. What is the Male Declaration?

The “Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its likely Trans-boundary Effect for South Asia” was adopted in the seventh meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held in April 1998 in Male. The basic objective of this declaration is to foster regional cooperation to address the rapidly increasing problem of regional air pollution with a focus on South Asia. The Malé Declaration stated the need for countries to carry forward, or initiate, studies and programmes on air pollution in each country of South Asia. The first stage in this process documented the current knowledge and information/institutional capacity in each nation.

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2 CAI-Asia Center (2007).
3 [http://www.rrcap.unep.org/issues/air/Maledec/](http://www.rrcap.unep.org/issues/air/Maledec/)
relevant to air pollution issues. The second phase of declaration focused on capacity building to analyze transboundary effects of air pollution by developing expertise, information and strengthening monitoring system. The running third phase of declaration is aimed to use information and knowledge for policy development, carry out emissions inventory and model the atmospheric transfer of air pollutants, assess the risks to health, crop, materials and ecosystem.

The participating countries in the Malé Declaration are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In the case of Nepal, Ministry of Environment Science and Technology is a national focal point for this declaration and International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a national implementation agency.

3. Why National Stakeholders’ Workshop?

Although government agencies have a major role and responsibility to be fulfilled, we should not forget other key actors and stakeholders whose active participation can complement government effort. Such stakeholders include – civil society, researchers, local people, industrialist, NGOs, media person and so on.

All the above-mentioned stakeholders should be well informed on the issues and concerns of air pollution so that motivation and interest are generated within themselves to act for solution. Adequate capacity building of stakeholders involved in developing and implementing comprehensive and effective air quality management (AQM) is another important agenda. The chances for effective AQM in region will be enhanced by a continued effective exchange of knowledge and experiences and increased coordination which involves not only the city governments but also the national governments, civil society, the business sector, media, academe and the development community. In this context, one day national stakeholders’ workshop has been planned to bring relevant stakeholders at a common forum to discuss over air pollution issues and foster collaboration among them.

4. What are the specific objectives of the workshop?

- To create awareness on air pollution issues and disseminate information on Male Declaration
- Share and receive the stakeholders views and ideas on the implementation of Male declaration
- To showcase ongoing regional and national initiatives for air pollution
- Enhance coordination and partnership among the stakeholders for future work for air pollution
5. Who are the participants for the workshop?

The participants of the workshop will be representatives from all the relevant stakeholders such as polluter, local people affected by pollution, researchers and intellectuals, experts, academic institutions, Media persons, civil society, students

The estimated number of the participants will be 50 to 60. Please refer annex 1 for list of participation.

6. Methodology

The workshop will follow paper presentation methodology followed by group discussion. The resource persons from relevant institutions will be invited to present papers which will form the basis for the group discussion.

7. Date and Venue for the Workshop

The workshop is scheduled to be held in 4 March 2008 at Hotel Himalaya, Kupondole.

8. Supporters and Partner Organizations for the Workshop

- Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- South Asian Cooperation for Environmental Programme (SACEP)
- SEI
- International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, ICIMOD
- Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN)
- Center for Pollution Studies, Institute of Engineering
National Stakeholders’ Workshop

Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia

4 March 2008

Program Schedule

Organized by: Ministry of Environment Science and Technology, ICIMOD, Clean Air Network Nepal, Center for Pollution Studies, IOE in support with UNEP, SACEP, SEI

09:00- 09:30  Registration of participants

Inauguration Session : Master of Ceremony (Ms Anjila Manandhar, CANN)

09:30 – 09:40  Welcome Address
Joint Secretary, MOEST

09:40-09:50  Opening Address
ICIMOD

09:50-10:00  Address by
UNEP

10:00-10:10  Address by Director General, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)

10:10 – 10:30  Coffee/Tea Break

Technical Session I

Chairperson – Joint Secretary, MoEST

10:30 – 10:50  Implementation of Male Declaration
United Nations environmental programme (UNEP)

10:50 – 11:10  Male’ Declaration Status in Nepal - ICIMOD

11:10 – 11:50  Presentation by SEI

11:50 – 12:10  Air Pollution status of Nepal - MOEST

12:10 – 12:30  Air Pollution Management and the Role of Stakeholders
Professor Rabindra Nath Bhattrai,

12:30- 13:30  Lunch

Technical Session II :
Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia

4 March 2008

Program Schedule

Organized by: Ministry of Environment Science and Technology, ICIMOD, Clean Air Network Nepal, Center for Pollution Studies, IOE in support with UNEP, SACEP, SEI

Chairperson – Prof Rabindra Nath Bhattarai

13:50 – 14:10  Health Impacts of Air Pollution
14:10 -14:30   CANN initiatives and Clean Transport for Abatement of Air Pollution – Gopal Raj Joshi, CANN
14:30 – 15:00  Cleaner Technology in Building Construction- Mr. Urs Hagnauer, MinErgy Programme Nepal
15:00 -15:45   Floor discussion on issues, priorities and recommendations for clean air and formation of coordination committee for Male Declaration

16:00 – 16:30  Tea and Coffee