Local Network Summit

Representatives from CAI-Asia’s Local Networks in China, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam and staff of the CAI-Asia Center met in Manila for the CAI-Asia Local Network Summit to share their achievements in 2007 and plan activities for 2008. Among the main achievements of Local Networks and the CAI-Asia Center in 2007 are:

- Increase in the number of implemented and scheduled basic and advanced air quality management and sustainable urban transport training courses;
- More active involvement in air quality and sustainable urban transport policy development;
Bali Summit – a strong impulse for co-benefits, but where was transport?

The CAI-Asia Center participated in a number of side-events in the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) in Bali, Indonesia. The adoption of the Bali Action Plan and the discussions in the next two years prior to COP 15 in Copenhagen, where a follow-up agreement to the Kyoto Protocol is expected to be adopted, will greatly influence the discussion on climate change and air quality in Asia. The intense discussions to have “national appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner” (Bali Action Plan – 1, b, ii.), will make it possible to advance the co-benefits agenda in Asia, which the CAI-Asia Center has started to promote and which is also the main theme of the Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2008 workshop. Adopting a co-benefits approach will result in the formulation and implementation of actions that address climate change AND at the same time also lead to improvements in urban air quality and, for example, energy security.* At the same time, there was a shared concern among likeminded organizations that not enough attention was given to transport in the discussions in Bali, while the transport sector is the fastest growing sector in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. To ensure more attention for transport in future climate discussions an informal working group was established, in cooperation with the Clean Air Initiative for Latin American Cities, on the financing of Sustainable Urban Transport in Asia. In addition to focusing on overall financing needs for sustainable urban transportation, this working group will have a special focus on a better access of the transport sector to carbon financing under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other related initiatives. For more information on this working group contact Sergio Sanchez (CAI-LAC)-ssanchez[at]cleanairinstitute.org, or Cornie Huizenga (CAI-Asia) – cornie.huizenga[at]cai-asia.org.


SUMA Partners Coordination Forum

The Sustainable Urban Mobility in Asian (SUMA) program is in full swing, with SUMA partners undertaking a range of activities across Asia, and in particular in China and India. SUMA partners, including GTZ, I-CE, ITDP, WRI-EMBARQ, the CAI-Asia Center, and consultants Marie Tynell and Chris Cherry met in Washington to discuss activities completed in 2007 and planned for 2008. With activities ranging from a study on e-bikes in China, training to 20 future trainers from China and India, the development of a BRT service plan for Ahmedabad, road development plans that include cycling, and a City Survey of Indian cities planning a BRT system, and many more, SUMA promises to give sustainable urban transport (SUT) in Asia a push in the right direction. Many of the results will be presented at BAQ in Bangkok in November, so this is an event not to be missed by SUT practitioners! For information on SUMA program, partners and activities, please visit www.cleanairnet/suma.

CAI-Asia Center consultations in the US

The Executive Director of the CAI-Asia Center, Cornie Huizenga, and Sophie Punte, Deputy Executive Director, met in January with a large number of organizations in the USA to discuss existing and future cooperation. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is currently taking the lead in the formulation of an implementation plan for the ambitious plan on climate change (AB32) which was adopted recently by the Californian Legislature. AB 32 and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard which is under development will also influence the situation in Asia, in the same manner as the pro-active tackling of air pollution has also greatly shaped air quality management in Asia. In Washington D.C. detailed discussions were conducted with the United States Environmental Protection Agency on how to improved coordination on air quality management in China, India and other parts of Asia. It was agreed that both organizations can work together in convincing Asian countries in reducing emissions from shipping which is becoming an increasing air quality threat. Meetings were also conducted with the World Bank and other organizations attending transport meetings in the context of the Transport Research Board annual meeting. Cornie Huizenga participated, as a guest, in the Annual Meeting of the Institute for Transport Development Policy (ITDP), one of the SUMA partners. In New York, the Executive Director met with the Clinton Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation to introduce the CAI-Asia Center and to discuss the need for a more coordinated approach among international foundations and NGOs to address climate change and urban air pollution in Asia.

SUT Awards 2008

London and Paris received the 2008 Sustainable Transport (SUT) Award. Other cities nominated for the award include Guatemala City, Guatemala; Eugene, Oregon; and Pereira, Colombia. The award, which is in its fourth year, honors cities for enhancing the sustainability and livability of their community or region by adopting innovative transportation strategies that lessen the impact of climate change by reducing transportation greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions. The Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities and Latin American Cities through the CAI-Asia Center and Clean Air Institute for LAC are part of the committee.
that nominates and evaluates which cities deserve to receive the award. The CAI-Asia Center, through its Sustainable Urban Mobility in Asia (SUMA) Program hopes to bring the award to Asia in the near future by continuing to partner with national and local governments to promote and implement on-the-ground activities on sustainable urban transportation and air quality management. Other members of the committee include the United Nations Centre for Regional Development and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation’s Sustainable Urban Transportation Project. The Sustainable Transport Awards is led by the Institute of Transportation and Development Policy and Environmental Defense. For more information on the Sustainable Transport Award 2008, please visit www.itdp.org/index.php/news_events/event_detail/sustainable_transport_award. For more information on SUMA, please visit www.cleanairnet.org/suma

Regional Dialogue with development agencies

The CAI-Asia Center and UNEP brought together representatives from over twenty development agencies, initiatives and programs for the Fourth Regional Dialogue of Air Quality Management (AQM) Initiatives and Programs in Asia in Bangkok from 30-31 January 2008, to discuss air quality in Asia and areas for cooperation. UNEP, UNESCAP, USAID, GTZ and several others who participated in previous dialogues were joined by newcomers Clinton Climate Initiative, Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, Groupe Agence Francaise de Developpement, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Regional Forum on Environment and Health, Rockefeller Foundation, and UN Habitat. Climate change and its growing relevance to air quality and energy management were high on the agenda, as well as the development of a Long-Term Vision for Urban Air Quality in Asia. The dialogue fostered several collaboration opportunities to develop an AQM database, develop joint initiatives, and share information and experiences. Presentations and other documents presented by participants can be found at www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia/1412/article-72383.html

iAQM Database in the making

The CAI-Asia Center is in the process of developing a new knowledge product: the integrated air quality management (iAQM) database for Asia, with online information at the national and city level on:

- Drivers of air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (past, current, and forecast): population (growth), urbanization, motorization, energy use;
- Status of urban air pollution and GHG emissions (past, current, and forecast): total emissions for air pollutants and GHG emissions (where available) as well as concentrations of air pollutants;
- Impacts of urban air pollution: health and environmental (crops and corrosion), as well as economic costs

At a later stage the iAQM database will be expanded to include responses to air pollution and climate change. Initially it will contain about 100 cities but the design will be scalable so that it can be expanded to cover as many cities for which there are data. The iAQM database is developed in close consultation with potential data providers and data users.
The iAQM database aims to provide Asian countries and cities, and other stakeholder groups working with them, with the information to design policies and programs to address air pollution and climate change in an integrated manner.

**Viet Nam Air Quality Management: Gaining momentum**

If the number of AQM-related activities provides any good indication, Viet Nam is increasingly working towards improving its air quality with CAI-Asia strongly involved. CAI-Asia was contracted by the Swiss-Vietnamese Clean Air Program (SVCAP) to assist in mapping out Viet Nam’s AQM priorities to be used as input in the concluding chapter of the State of Environment Report 2007 (SOE). The SOE, which will soon be launched by the Center for Environmental Monitoring Data and Information (CEMDI), focuses on air pollution issues in Viet Nam. CAI-Asia is also providing technical inputs for the drafting of the Hanoi AQM Plan. CAI-Asia will also assist Viet Nam in establishing a National AQM Plan in the next few months.

**Introducing new staff**

**Alvin Mejia – Technical Assistant, AQM Unit**

If you want to know who’s behind the creative PowerPoint presentations of CAI-Asia these past few months, you must meet Alvin. Alvin is the newest and youngest member of the CAI-Asia Center Team. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from the Ateneo de Manila University and is on his way to completing a Masters in Environmental Management from Miriam College. He has 3 years experience in climate change issues, CDM and greenhouse gas accounting. He has also authored a guidebook on CDM Baseline Construction for The Electricity Grid in the Philippines published by IGES in 2006. Alvin was initially engaged to assist the Center in compiling the Compendium of AQM Programs and Projects 2007 for a short 12-weeks contract, but the Center could not let go of Alvin, the Technical Assistant by day and musician by night.

**Xiaojia Bao – Program Assistant for China Office**

If you are a member of the CAI-Asia listserve you may have now noticed a new name when receiving e-news from the CAI-Asia China Project E-Newsletter. Xiaojia (or Jacy) joined the CAI-Asia Center - China Office in February 2008 replacing Li Shuang (now works full-time at VECC-SEPA). As an Outstanding Graduate Student of Beijing in 2006, Xiaojia graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Economics and Management from the Renmin University of China and is currently a pursuing a Masters in Environmental Economics at the same university. Her significant environment-related work experiences started in 2007 when she joined as a temporary Research Assistant on SO2 abatement at the World Bank Beijing office and as an intern at the UNEP Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific doing

**Sponsorship opportunities for BAQ 2008**

The Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2008 workshop will be held in Bangkok from 12-14 November at the Imperial Queen’s Park Hotel in Bangkok. This event is expected to be the biggest air quality event in Asia, attracting 1000 policy makers and other stakeholders to discuss “Air Quality and Climate Change: scaling up win-win solutions for Asia”. This provides a tremendous opportunity for the private sector with an interest in air quality, climate change and energy to reach out to its stakeholders. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, the Pollution Control Department of the Thailand Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the CAI-Asia Center held an information meeting with over twenty private sector organizations based in Thailand to explain sponsorship opportunities and various benefits, from the inclusion of the company logo on BAQ publications and website, an exhibition booth at the workshop, and free admission tickets. Information on diamond, platinum and gold sponsorship packages can be found at www.baq2008.org.