CAI-Asia Center Learns New Approaches to Teamwork

The CAI-Asia Center invited organizational expert Mr. Peter Malvicini to facilitate a two-day management meeting on June 6 and 7 at the Astoria Plaza Hotel. Through a series of creative discussions and group work activities, the CAI-Asia Center team was able to take positive steps to better formulate and appreciate its strategic direction for the next five years. Starting from a framework of identifying what aspects in the current set-up that may need to be dropped, kept, or created, teammates soon learned that most organizations tend to fall within a spectrum of institutional characteristics ranging from a hierarchical, centralized bureaucracy to a more horizontal, open democracy. With 21st century issues like globalization and climate change shaping the international agenda, the Center came to a consensus that it will need to adapt its work model to be more effective in promoting AQM.

A follow-up scoping meeting is planned within the year.
Air Quality and Climate Change Go Hand-in-Hand at A&WMA Conference

The Air and Waste Management Association (A&WMA) held its 101st Annual Conference and Exhibition in Portland, Oregon, USA from 24-27 June 2008. The event was impressive, with a few thousand participants, over 600 presentations and panel discussions, and almost 200 exhibition booths showcasing a vast range of air quality monitoring equipment and services. While continuing with a strong emphasis on air pollution, an increasing number of sessions focused on climate change and greenhouse gas management, reflecting the link between the two issues. The growing relevance of Asia in future air pollution and climate change management was apparent in various sessions and in heated debates on the contribution by Asian countries in a post-Kyoto agreement. Sophie Punte, CAI-Asia Center's deputy director, participated in a panel which discussed the Asian perspective on climate change, including science, economy, power supply, strategies and policies. We look forward to seeing A&WMA and the participants of this conference at BAQ 2008 in Bangkok in November, to share their experiences.

For more information see www.awma.org/ACE2008

CAI-Asia’s Local Network Coordinators Plan Strategy for 2009-2010 at Yearly Summit

Coordinators from CAI-Asia’s local networks drafted the mission, objectives, and action plan for 2009-2010 at the Local Network Summit 2008 in Bangkok on 9 June 2008. The CAI-Asia Center and the Local Networks agreed to continue to focus on these priorities:

- strengthening the collective branding of and increasing cooperation between Local Networks,
- providing information on air quality status, impacts, projects, and solutions to stakeholders,
- linking different sectors to ensure concerted efforts and synergy,
- upgrading skills of stakeholders to provide solutions to air quality problems, and
- taking action to improve air quality in cities.

The Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2008 workshop will provide a plethora of opportunities for Local Networks. The coordinators agreed to maximize the learning, networking, and fundraising opportunities at BAQ 2008 by taking the lead in organizing Country Roundtables, preparing Local Network booths, and distributing brochures. So, come to BAQ 2008 and see the Local Networks in action!

CAI-Asia “Walks the Talk”

CAI-Asia Center staff and local network representatives attended a workshop on “Walkability: Walk the Talk” last 10 June at the World Bank Office in Bangkok. The participants conducted the walkability survey for selected “soi” or streets near the Siam area to assess whether Bangkok was a walkable city. The verdict - Bangkok is walkable on average but can improve further. Participants' request to Bangkok authorities: Please reduce the number of telephone booths lining the sidewalks. Aside from taking already a relevant percentage of space, they are almost always empty, anyway. Participants of this workshop committed to implement the survey and raise awareness on walkability in their respective cities.
Simple Interactive Model for Air (SIM-Air)

The World Bank and CAI-Asia Center organized a training session on Simple Interactive Model for Air (SIM-AIR) last June 11 in Bangkok. Nineteen (19) participants from different Asian cities were able to experience hands-on training on the SIM-AIR tool.

The SIM-AIR is a Microsoft Excel-based program which aims to assist in the rapid assessment of the environmental, economic and health impacts of various air quality management options by making use of the best available information at hand.

The participants are encouraged to study the SIM-AIR tool further and estimate the impacts of various options towards improving air quality in their cities. Progress and challenges in using the tool shall be discussed during BAQ 2008. For more information about the SIM-AIR, please visit www.sim-air.org

Philippine Businesses Embark on Accounting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Developed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol, www.ghgprotocol.org) is the most widely used international accounting tool for government and business leaders to understand, quantify, and manage GHG emissions. The Philippine Business for Environment (PBE) is leading the way for Philippine businesses to come to grips with a carbon-constrained future by GHG accounting using the GHG Protocol. Sophie Punte, May Ajero and Alvin Mejia are building on their experience in GHG accounting, verification, inventories and emission factors gained prior to joining the CAI-Asia Center, by give lectures and facilitate workshops together with PBE for some of the largest Philippine businesses. The Center is now exploring how GHG accounting could be expanded with accounting and reporting of energy-related air pollutants, most importantly particulates (PM10, PM2.5), sulfur-oxides (SOx), and nitrogen oxides (NOx). Aside from business’ enhanced ability to show the public that GHG management also has local air quality benefits, determining reduced air pollutants could be important for future projects under the Clean Development Mechanism.

Developing Integrated Emission Strategies for Existing Land Transport for Bangkok

About 100 participants from the government, academe, private sector and representatives from other Asian countries, attended the culminating workshop of the DIESEL project, one of CAI-Asia’s programs/ projects led by the World Bank (12 June 2008). The DIESEL project has resulted to substantial improvement in the processes and knowledge of the Pollution Control Department in addressing emissions from mobile sources. One of the most important achievements in this project is the development of a comprehensive database for Bangkok consisting of vehicle numbers and activity, emissions, air quality, among others. This also included the development of emission factors and drive cycles for various types of vehicles in Bangkok enabling a more accurate assessment of emissions in the city as compared to just simply adapting emission factors and drive cycles from Europe, U.S. and/or
Japan. These data were then used in coming up with emission reduction estimates considering different policy packages for existing land transport and correlating this to expected benefits on air quality and health, providing policy makers with a tool for informed decision-making.

The full report of the DIESEL project and workshop presentations are found on www.cleanairnet.org/diesel and www.pcd.go.th/info_serv/en_air_diesel.html

Mr. Peñalosa Meets with Local Mayors and Senior Officials in the Philippines

"Transport is a peculiar problem: it gets worse as a society gets richer!" said Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogota, Colombia, before a spellbound audience during the Roundtable Discussion on Sustainable Cities Through Better Transportation Planning held at ADB Headquarters on 4 June 2008.

This quote set the tone for his hour long presentation. What makes a good city? How much space should be given to different road users? How can we restructure the city by making use of Non-Motorized Transport (NMT)? How can public transport help our cities?

These questions were passionately answered by Peñalosa who concluded that a great city is the one where children can bicycle safely without any fear of being run over by a car!

The GTZ and ADB Cities Development Initiative made this event possible. The Partnership for Clean Air (PCA), CAI-Asia's local network in the Philippines and the League of Cities in the Philippines organized the participation of the Philippine Mayors and senior officials.

Sudhir: New CAI-Asia Center Staff

Sudhir Gota – Transport Researcher, Transport Unit
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The CAI-Asia Center continues to expand its staff expertise. Sudhir, an Indian national, comes with a strong engineering background and land transport experience. He was recruited by the CAI-Asia Center in May 2008. Sudhir earned his Civil Engineering degree from the Bangalore University (Kamataka) and he holds a Masters in Transportation Engineering from the National Institute of Technology (Warangal). Sudhir has five years of extensive experience consulting in international and national infrastructure projects including urban and rural roads/highways. As a highway engineer and a transport researcher, he has also published papers in international and national journals and websites.