



Unlocking and Future-Proofing Air Quality Management in Asia

Multi-stakeholder consultation workshop for improved multilateral and international cooperation on air pollution

27-29 May 2024 | Conference Room 4, UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

In-Person participation: register [HERE](#)

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CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Air pollution is one of the most pressing environmental health crises globally. It is responsible for more than 6.5 million deaths annually, the bulk of which – 70 percent – occur in the Asia Pacific. In addition to health hazards, air pollution threatens the region’s economy, food and water security, and climate systems. This hampers the region’s efforts to grow sustainably and alleviate poverty. Urbanization has been identified as one of the main drivers of environmental change¹ with many cities having seen high – and in some areas, rising – levels of air pollution over the past decade.² Everyone is affected, but women, children, the elderly, and people living in poverty are bearing the brunt of its impact. It is infringing on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.³

Many efforts and initiatives have been implemented over the past decades to tackle air pollution but have not been able to fully address the problem and need to be responsive to emerging global and regional challenges. At the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) in February 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya, member states underscored the need to elevate efforts on addressing the significant impacts of air pollution, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and adopted a new resolution on *Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally*.

Application of foresight and futures thinking in addressing air pollution could help improve approaches for air quality management. UNEP is putting in place an institutionalized approach to strategic foresight and horizon scanning to develop anticipatory and future-oriented culture and to help navigate current and future uncertainty to strengthen the delivery of its mandate.⁴

Within the context of this workshop, futureproofing refers to anticipating future challenges that will impact air quality management and identify solutions, for example, weather and meteorological conditions driving frequency of forest and wildfires, or increasing dust and sandstorms, driving haze and severe air pollution episodes. Unlocking refers to examining and identifying key policies and solutions leading to measurable improvement on air quality.

These can help inform implementation of the new resolution which requests UNEP to “form and facilitate a cooperation network on air quality” working with relevant stakeholders and regional initiatives such as the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), the Malé Declaration, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, the Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) and the Thematic Working Group on Air Quality and Health.

¹ <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/geo-cities-towards-green-and-just-cities>

² <https://www.stateofglobalair.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-08/2022-soga-cities-report.pdf>

³ <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/landmark-un-resolution-confirms-healthy-environment-human-right>

⁴ <https://www.unep.org/ocs/strategicforesightatunep>

The resolution also requests UNEP to provide an “updated global online platform for network-wide information sharing and communication”. At the regional level, after the adoption of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP) in 2022, ESCAP is initiating the development of an online RAPAP Partnership and Coordination Platform. The Platform aims to facilitate complementarities among multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation mechanisms as well as countries to provide a repository of collaborative work and scale up the impact of joint actions.

Objective

This workshop is jointly organized by UNEP, ESCAP, and EANET to support regional implementation of the UNEA resolution on promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally and support discussions to “unlock” and “future-proof” air quality management in the region.

This workshop serves as EANET’s Regional Awareness Workshop in 2024 to inform its Participating Countries on the key challenges and emerging issues on air quality management and provide inputs to its Medium-Term Plan for 2026-2030. This workshop also serves as an important opportunity for ESCAP to inform stakeholders about the development of the RAPAP Partnership and Coordination Platform, map out activities of potential partners, and obtain feedback and suggestions on the Platform as a shared resource for information exchange and coordination, thus facilitating multilateral and international cooperation in support of RAPAP.

About Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

The [Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia \(EANET\)](#) was established in 2001 as an intergovernmental initiative to create a common understanding on the state of acid deposition and air pollution in East Asia, provide useful inputs for decision making, and promote cooperation among countries.

About the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP)

The [Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution \(RAPAP\)](#) was adopted in 2022 during ESCAP’s Seventh Session of the Committee on Environment and Development as the first region-wide action programme negotiated and agreed by Member States.

About the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP)

The [Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership \(APCAP\)](#) is a voluntary partnership launched by UNEP and partners in 2015 as a response to the call for action on air quality at the First Session of UNEA in 2014 (Resolution 1/7 on Air Quality) and 2017 (Resolution on Preventing and Reducing Air pollution).

AGENDA

27 May 2024 – Day 1

Time (ICT)	Agenda	Proposed Speaker/s
Opening session		
9.00-9.15	Opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maria Cristina Zucca, Head of Pollution and Health Unit, UNEP • Mr. Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP • Mr. Le Ngoc Cau, Deputy Director General of the Viet Nam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam
9.15-9.35	Keynote presentation: Using strategic foresight for improving air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Andrea Hinwood, Chief Scientist, UNEP
9.35-9.40	<i>Group Photo</i>	
9.40-10.00	<i>Coffee and networking</i>	
Horizon scanning for air quality management		
10.00-11.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging challenges on air quality and health • Impact of extreme weather and changing climate on air quality • Harnessing digital technologies for air quality management • Applying human rights-based approach for air quality management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Enkhtsetseg Shinee, Air Quality, Energy and Health, WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region • Ms. Leilani Dulguerov, Associate Scientific Officer, World Meteorological Organization • Mr. Pakorn Petchprayoon, Director of Geo-Informatics Product Innovation, GISTDA • Ms. Diane Archer, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute
Panel discussion on understanding the transboundary haze issue		
11.00-12.00	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Senior Advisor of Thailand Environmental Institute • Mr. Brett Shields, Chief Technical Advisor, AFFIRM Project, Forestry Division, FAO • Mr. Alexander Baklanov, Professor, WMO/University of Copenhagen • Ms. Bounmany Soulideth, Deputy Head of Modelling Division, Natural Resource and Environment Research Institute, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment of Lao PDR • Ms. Itsuki (Suki) Kuroda, Deputy Director, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan 	
12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch and networking</i>	
Unlocking finance for clean air in cities		
13.00-13.05	Setting the scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Jihyun Lee, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP
13.05-13.20	Financing for clean air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shirish Sinha, Executive Director of Programmes, Clean Air Fund
13.20-13.25	Video: Achieving clean air for blue skies in Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi, Republic of Korea	

Time (ICT)	Agenda	Proposed Speaker/s
13.25-14.25	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Seo Hyun Lee, Director, International Development Cooperation Division, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea • Ms. Yumi Yasuda, Deputy Director for International Cooperating Office Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan • Ms. Selenge Badrakh, Advisor for the Deputy Governor in charge of Social Policy, Green Development, Air and Environmental Pollution, Ulaanbaatar City Government • Mr. In-Chang Hwang, Research Fellow, The Seoul Institute • Mr. Daniel Mira Salama, Lead Environmental Specialist, World Bank • Mr. Shailesh Vickram Singh, Director and Founder, Massive Earth Foundation 	
14.25-14.45	Q&A and discussion	Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chandath Him, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment Cambodia • Mr. Taegon Song, Director, Policy Support Team, National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center
Presentation on a global knowledge platform on air quality management		
14.45-15.00	Air Quality Management Exchange Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Juliette Laurent, Air Quality Knowledge Platform Manager, Climate and Clean Air Coalition
15.00-15.30	<i>Coffee and networking</i>	
Panel discussion on future challenges and solutions on air quality management		
15.30-17:00	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maria Cristina Zucca, Head of Pollution and Health Unit, UNEP • Ms. Sojung You, International Cooperation Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea • Mr. Yu Kamei, Director, Office for International Cooperation, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan • Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon, Specialised Expert on Air Quality and Noise Management, Inspector, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand • Mr. Matthew Perkins, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP 	
17.00-17.30	Launch of the 2024 LowCarbon.Earth Accelerator	
17.30-18.30	Cocktail Reception	

Time (ICT)	Agenda	Proposed Speaker/s
9.00-9.10	Summary of first day and overview of second day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bert Fabian, Coordinator EANET • Mr. Anshuman Varma, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
9.10-9.30	Video on RAPAP RAPAP and Overview of Partnership and Coordination Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Anshuman Varma, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP planning Officer
RAPAP as a Collective Action Programme		
9.30-10.30	(a) Air Quality Management Presentations Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Patrick Bükér, Planning Officer, GIZ (<i>Integrated Approaches for Air Quality Management in Southeast Asia</i>) • Mr. Liu Xin, Director, Energy Foundation China (<i>Cooperation on air quality management</i>) • Mr. Eric Zusman, Research Director, IGES (<i>Asian Co-benefits Partnership</i>) • Ms. Warnika Ranawaka Arachchi, Director, Air Resource Management and Monitoring Unit, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka (<i>country perspective</i>)
10.30-10.50	<i>Coffee and networking</i>	
10.50-11.50	(b) Air Quality Monitoring and Data Sharing Presentations Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gabriel Lim, Executive Meteorologist, ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (<i>Monitoring and data sharing on transboundary haze</i>) • Mr. Peeranan Towashiraporn, Director, ADPC (<i>Mekong Air Quality Explorer</i>) • Mr. Bhupesh Adhikary, Climate Action Lead & Senior Air Quality Specialist, ICIMOD (<i>Monitoring Air Quality over Hindu Kush Himalaya region</i>) • Mr. Lim-Seok Chang, Senior Researcher, National Institute of Environmental Research, Republic of Korea (<i>Pandora Asia Network</i>) • Mr. Meng Fan, Deputy Director General in charge of Network Center for EANET, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (<i>Long-term air quality and meteorological data sets</i>)
11.50-12.30	(c) Exchange of Best Practices and Outreach Presentations Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maria Glynda Bathan-Baterina, Deputy Executive Director, Clean Air Asia (<i>Better Air Quality</i>) • Ms. Maria Katherina Patdu, Associate Programme Officer - Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership, UNEP (<i>Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership</i>) • Mr. Young Sunwoo, Director General, International Union of Air Pollution

Time (ICT)	Agenda	Proposed Speaker/s
		Prevention & Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA) (<i>Information exchange and advocacy for clean air</i>)
12.30-13.30	Working Lunch: <i>Regional Approaches to Reduce Pollution in Transboundary Airsheds at the Reception Hall</i>	
13.30-15.30	<p>(d) Capacity Building and Technical Support for National Action</p> <p>Presentations Q&A</p> <p>Moderated discussion on opportunities for technical cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Karma Yangzom, Principal Environment Specialist, ADB (<i>Asia Clean Blue Skies Program</i>) • Ms. Napak Tesprasith, Project Management Specialist, USAID (<i>SERVIR-Southeast Asia</i>) • Mr. Hiroaki Takiguchi, Senior Advisor, JICA (<i>Technical Support for Air Quality Management in Asia</i>) • Ms. Nujpanit Narkpitaks, Director, Environment and Climate Change, Asia Pacific, FHI360 (<i>Data-driven solutions to address air pollution</i>) • Mr. Aibek Karabaev, Project Preparation Facility Expert, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Kyrgyzstan (<i>country perspective</i>) • Mr. Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP • Ms. Seungmin Lee, Director, Division for Atmospheric Environment, Korea Environment Institute, Republic of Korea
15.30-15.50	<i>Coffee and networking</i>	
15.50-16.50	<p>Moderated discussion on RAPAP Partnership and Coordination Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key partnership and coordination gaps? • How can the Platform help fill these gaps? • How can the Platform enhance participation of national stakeholders in multilateral initiatives? • What can be the modalities to optimize information sharing through the Platform? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, ESCAP • Mr. Anshuman Varma, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP • Ms. Maria Cristina Zucca, Head of Pollution and Health Unit, UNEP
16.50–17.00	Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP • Mr. Mushtaq Memon, Regional Coordinator, Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme, UNEP

29 May 2024 – Day 3

- **Informal Meeting on the Initial Preparation of the Draft Medium Term Plan (2026-2030) for the EANET,**
9.00-12.30
(by invitation only - for EANET Participating Countries, Meeting Room B, UNCC)
- **Working Lunch: Regional Approaches to Reduce Pollution in Transboundary Airsheds,**
12.30 - 13.30
(by invitation only, Asia-Pacific foyer, UNCC)
- **Meeting of the Project: “Stocktaking and Methodological Assessment of Emissions Inventories and Source Apportionment of Air Pollution in Southeast Asia”**
13:30-17:00
(by invitation only, Meeting Room B, UNCC)