

Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia



Proceedings of the Network Meeting 2001

**29 June 2001
Colombo, Sri Lanka**



PROCEEDINGS
NETWORK MEETING ON MALÉ DECLARATION

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C O N T E N T S

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Proceedings

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABC	Asian Brown Clouds
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
EANET	East Asia Network on Acid Deposition
EAP	Environment Assessment Programme
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
INDOEX	Indian Ocean Experiment
MoFE	Ministry of Forestry and Environment
MoC	Monitoring Committee
NIA	National Implementing Agency
SACEP	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
Sida	Swedish International Cooperative Development Agency
UNEP/RRC.AP	United Nations Environment Programme / Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific

PROCEEDINGS

The network meeting (2001) on the Malé Declaration on the Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia was held in Colombo on 29 June 2001. The meeting forms a continuation of the process which began in Bangkok in March 1998 where a policy dialogue concerning regional air pollution in South Asia was held at AIT followed by the inception workshop meeting held in Kathmandu during 22-23 February 1999, where in an implementation plan for phase I activities was agreed upon. National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) were nominated by the ministries of environment for each country in South Asia for follow-up activities and implementation of the Malé Declaration on the Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects in South Asia. Baseline studies and national action plans to monitor air pollution and its transboundary effects were prepared during the phase I activities and a plan for establishing the monitoring network was also agreed at the phase I final workshop held during 01-03 March 2000 in Kathmandu.

The meeting was attended by the Ministries of Environment and National Implementing Agencies (NIA) of the eight South Asian countries, Members of Monitoring Committee (MoC), ICIMOD, SACEP, SEI, UNEP, and an independent facilitator. A list of the participants is enclosed in Attachment 1.

The meeting was organised by UNEP/RRC.AP, in collaboration with MoFE, Sri Lanka, SACEP and SEI. The meeting was funded by Sida as a part of the Programme on Atmospheric Environment Issues in Developing Countries.

1. Opening Session

The meeting was inaugurated on 26 June together with other two meetings on State of Environment reporting jointly organized MoFE (Sri Lanka), SACEP and UNEP. The inauguration was addressed by Dr. Ananda Raj Joshi, Director General, SACEP; Marion Cheatle, Chief, GEO, UNEP; H.E. Börje Mattson, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden, Sri Lanka; Surendra Shrestha, Director UNEP RRC.AP; and Thosapala Hewage, Additional Secretary, MoFE (Sri Lanka).

On 29th the meeting started with the opening remarks by SACEP, UNEP and SEI. Dr. Ananda Raj Joshi, SACEP, in his opening remarks said that the phase I achievements were a milestone in South Asia in providing information on air pollution. He thanked the member countries of SACEP for active participation and thanked UNEP and SEI for continued support.

Mr. Surendra Shrestha, UNEP, identified Malé' Declaration as an example in environmental cooperation and mentioned that the process is being replicated in other regions of Asia, Latin America and Africa. He also highlighted that the ownership in the region and strong collaboration from the partners made the Malé Declaration a success so far and empathise the need for continuation of this process.

Dr. Johan Kuylenstierna, Director, Stockholm Environment Institute at York (SEI-Y) in his opening remarks mentioned that SEI is very happy to provide the technical support needed in implementing the Malé Declaration. He also indicated that part of the

financial support is approved by Sida for the Phase II activities of Malé Declaration. He also thanked UNEP RRC.AP for co-ordinating the implementation activities

Dr. Govinda Raj Bhatta, former Secretary of Ministry of Population and Environment of Nepal, assisted the meeting as the facilitator. Dr. Bhatta in his introductory remarks emphasised the importance of controlling the air pollution and requested for monitoring and research on this area.

2. Review of Progress

M. Iyngararasan of UNEP-RRC.AP presented a brief on the project initiation and status and outlined the activities carried out during the interim period between phase I and Phase II. (Attachment 2.)

3. Presentation on the establishing the monitoring network for Malé Declaration

Sagar Dhara, the lead MoC member presented the report prepared for establishing the monitoring network for Malé Declaration. The report was prepared following the discussions through the visits to the national implementing agencies of all the participating countries. The report is a detailed proposal which highlights all relevant findings and recommendations--monitoring sites & methodologies, equipment specs, budgets, requirements for capacity building, networking, institutional involvement, time frame, future activities, etc.

Discussions on the report:

Extensive discussion was held on the proposed report, with the aim of collecting maximum possible feedback from NIAs and others on the priorities and the modalities of establishing the monitoring network. The report (Attachment 3) was adopted as the basis for implementing the Malé Declaration. The following observations were made during the discussions:

1. Countries, which have no information on their emissions need to be supported to generate information.
2. In case there are recommendations from countries for additional stations, they may be forwarded to UNEP for consideration.
3. Accessing the remote stations will be a difficult task and costs more. This needs to be considered while revising the report.
4. Responsibility of establishing the monitoring network at national level could be the responsibility of NIAs.
5. Sustainability of the station is very important. Therefore, the monitoring stations should be established with the existing infrastructure.
6. All criteria for site selection are difficult to follow. Some judicious flexibility needs to be exercised. However fundamental criteria, eg. remoteness, should be adhered to.
7. In order to minimize the transport costs of samples, facilities for basic analysis could be developed at the site or closer to it.

8. Analysing several parameters involves expenses. If the entire budget is not immediately available, parameters may be prioritised and the monitoring programme could start with the most important ones.
9. Institutional arrangement: it is the responsibility of NIAs to form the National Advisory Committee.
10. Methods for sampling and analysis would be developed before initiating the monitoring. It will facilitate to harmonise the monitoring across the participating countries.
11. Quality control programme should be implemented.
12. Inventory of available expertise, monitoring equipments, spare parts etc. in each country may be developed as a database for use by member countries.
13. Prioritizing the stations: NIAs need to prioritise the proposed list of monitoring stations and send the list to UNEP RRC.AP and SACEP
14. Training for NGOs should not go independently. It should be organized together with NIAs.
15. Budget: estimated cost of consumables may be examined and increased if necessary.
16. In order to make the monitoring network sustainable, National governments could consider supporting the network at national level. Contributions in kind from the national agencies should also be identified in the report.
17. Implementation plan (page 30 of the MoC Report) need to be expanded by explaining the detail activities involved in purchasing and installing the monitoring equipments.
18. Surface windroses data for the suggested stations should be exchanged between countries with common borders.
19. Technicians should also be trained under the capacity building programme.
20. Mixing heights and solar radiation may also be monitored.

Final report will be prepared with the above inputs and circulated to NIAs. .

4. Outline of Technical manual for monitoring transboundary air pollution for Malé Declaration

Agreed monitoring methods need to be explained with the technical detail. An outline of the technical manual (attachment 4) was presented by the lead MoC member Sagar Dhara and agreed as the basis for preparing the manual. The following suggestions were made for the consideration while preparing the manual.

1. Manual should be developed in details. Details like sampling time, temperature, analyzing the soil samples need to be explained.
2. Ecosystem monitoring is a complex issue. There is a need to have a clear idea on what is going to be monitored in the ecosystem monitoring.
3. Some participants felt that use of passive samplers could be avoided.

The manual will be made available for the NIAs by the end of August.

5. Update on the Asian Brown Clouds (ABC)

Surendra Shrestha, Director, UNEP-RRC.AP briefed the activities being undertaken in South Asia through the study ABC. The network meeting held on 2000 requested for more collaboration with INDOEX activities. Mr. Shrestha outlined the collaboration with INDOEX Scientists and the progress so far. The presentation is provided in the Attachment 5. He also briefed the activities being undertaken through similar efforts on the transboundary air pollution in other sub-regions of Asia.

Mr. Shrestha also announced that EAP.AP has been promoted to Regional Resource Center (RRC.AP) and commence the functions of EANET Secretariats from January 2002.

6. Information exchange

Realizing the importance of information exchange in implementing the Malé Declaration, the meeting discussed the issue in detail. Following major points were discussed during this session:

1. Vision for information exchange could be included in the MoC report.
2. A common format for exchange of information could be developed
3. e-mail mailing list could be developed to encourage the exchange of information
4. National reports relevant to the transboundary air pollution could be collected by the countries and circulated to all other participating countries.
5. Some of the literature collected during the MoC's visit to various countries should be circulated to all the countries.
6. The problem of acidification requires to be highlighted by each NIA in their country.
7. Newsletter on Malé Declaration could be published to increase the exchange of information and create awareness.
8. Relevant information with NIAs, eg, NIA urls, etc may be exchanged immediately.

7. Closing Session

Dr. Govinda Raj Bhatta, facilitator, summarized the meeting; the participant from Iran thanked all the participants and organizers for making the meeting a success. The meeting ended with the representatives from MoC, SEI, SACEP and UNEP thanking the facilitator, participants and organizers.