

The First Regional Coordination Meeting

PROCEEDINGS

The first regional coordination meeting under the Malé Declaration was held in Delhi, India on 15 October 2005. The main aims of the stakeholders forum are: to review the air pollution related initiatives in South Asia by the intergovernmental meeting of the Malé Declaration; and to enhance coordination and information sharing among the ongoing initiatives on air in the region as well as from other regions

The coordination meeting was participated by National Focal Points and National Implementing Agencies of Malé Declaration as well as representatives from ongoing initiatives on air pollution. A list of participants is enclosed in Attachment I.

The Regional Coordination Meeting opened with introductory remark from Mr. Rajamani, regional facilitator of Malé Declaration. He opened up the session mentioning that the regional coordination meeting was a valuable forum for exchange of views on the experiences in other regions and also for promoting greater cooperation on air pollution and impacts issues between organizations like Global Forum and UNECE and among stakeholders and experts. Then a presentation was given by Dr. B. Sengupta of CPCB, India on success stories in India, chiefly on the efforts of CPCB to ensure adoption of cleaner technologies in polluting units and areas in India in order to improve air quality. His presentation is attached as Attachment II. Mr. Sagar Dhara gave details of the international workshop held in June in Mumbai on asthma in children and air pollution causing it. The lesson from the workshop was that interventions by people and civil society to ensure that the problem was tackled was as important, if not more important, than the technological initiatives. The presentation is given in Attachment III. Mr. Bull from UNECE presented details of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution in Europe and related issues. The presentation is attached as attachment IV. UNEP briefly mentioned other initiatives (attachment VI) such as Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABC) and Dust and Sandstorms in Northeast Asia. Ms. Adelaid Roman of EANET presented the activities under that programme concentrating on acidic depositions in East Asia as summarised in Attachment V. Mr. Richard Mills spoke about the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum and issues of coordination, funding and exchange of views among regions. Major discussions and conclusions include:

1. The process initiated by this first coordination meeting under the Malé Declaration needs to be continued.
2. Other initiatives on air pollution such as CAI-Asia need to be encouraged to participate in this regional forum
3. Apart from the regional coordination, coordination of ongoing activities within countries should also be encouraged. National Advisory Committees and national

stakeholders meetings under the Malé Declaration could provide the forum for the coordination of national level activities.

4. Sharing of newsletters among the participating initiatives needs to be encouraged.

The meeting concluded with a summary from Mr. Rajamani. He said the Malé Declaration has progressed step by step and there are reasons for optimism. Now the time has come to ensure the sustainability of this activity with the NIAs and Focal Points taking ownership. It will help in the whole process, whether pursuing scientific studies, taking policy measures or exchanging views if the faces of the victims of air pollution were constantly kept before us.