

MALE DECLARATION ON CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION AND ITS LIKELY TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS FOR SOUTH ASIA



This is the first regional agreement of its kind not only in the South Asia but also in the developing world

On 22 April 1998 the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia was discussed and signed by Ministers of the Environment at the seventh meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Malé, Republic of Maldives. “

THE AIM OF THE DECLARATION

“ achieve intergovernmental cooperation to address the increasing threat of transboundary air pollution and consequential impacts due to concentrations of pollutant gases and acid deposition on human health, ecosystem function and corrosion of materials”



Impact assessment training



Air pollution

PHASE I

- Network was established
- Baseline studies were completed and action plans drawn up



6th Networking Meeting of Male Declaration held in Teheran

PHASE II (2001 – 2003)

- A capacity building programme and gap filling exercise, was initiated in February 2002 and they made a significant impact at the national and regional level.
- The first transboundary air pollution monitoring station was set up in Rampur Nepal in March 2003.
- And during the 2003 monitoring stations were put up in other countries
 - Bhutan – Gelephu
 - Sri Lanka – Dutuwewa
 - Maldives – Hanimaadhu
 - Bangladesh – Shatkhira District
 - India – Canning town
 - Iran – Chamsari
 - Pakistan – Bahawalnagar

THE DECLARATION : SALIENT FEATURES

- We declare that countries of this region will initiate and/or carry forward programmes in each country to
- Assess and analyse the origin and causes, nature, extent and effects of local and regional air pollution, using the in-house in identified institutions, universities, colleges etc., building up or enhancing
- Develop and/or adopt strategies to prevent and minimize air pollution;
- Work in co-operation with each other to set up monitoring arrangements beginning with the study of sulphur and nitrogen and volatile organic compounds emissions
- Co-operate in building up standardized methodologies to monitor phenomena like acid depositions and analyse their impacts without prejudice to the national activities in such fields;
- Take up the aforesaid programmes and training programmes which involves then transfer of financial resources and technology and work towards securing incremental assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources;
- Encourage economic analysis that will help arriving at optimal results
- Engage other key stakeholders for example industry, academic institutions, NGOs, communities and media etc. in the effort and activities.

Implementing Structure

- Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) participates in the technology transfer from Europe to south Asia from the conceptualization of the Male Declaration.
- SACEP as an Intergovernmental Organization in South Asia is assisting the linkages between Male Declaration and SACEP's Programmes in South Asia while also providing the required political process and support
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA through its programme called Regional Air Pollution in Developing countries (RAPIDC) provides financial support for the implementation of the Male Declaration Project.
- UNEP serves as the Secretariat of the Sida supported Malé Declaration project

National Implementing Agencies

National focal points in each of the eight South Asian countries were identified as the initial step to carry out the process. In collaboration with the national focal points, a National Implementing Agency (NIA) for each country was also selected to carry out the scientific work at the national level



Field training

Phase III

- Strengthening regional cooperation and stakeholder 's participation Through - Intergovernmental meeting, regional stakeholders cum coordination meeting (The first stakeholders meeting was held in 2003 at Dhaka Bangladesh and second was held in 2005 at Delhi, India.) and National Stakeholders meeting, (National Stakeholders meetings have been convened in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Pakistan and Sri Lanka)
- Strengthening capacity building programmes initiated during the phase II Through Regional training in programme on monitoring, Implementation of inter-laboratory comparison, Passive sampler inter comparison, Establishment of new monitoring sites



During the training



Element of the Declaration	Progress made so far	Future steps/gap areas
Assessment of local and regional air pollution	Done through baseline continuing studies	Need to continue
Build capacity for assessment	MoC involved in training for monitoring	Need to bring in more centres for training
Strategies to prevent air pollution	So far base on country efforts	Need for regional effort and transfer of abatement/prevention technologies
Co-operation to setup a) Monitoring arrangements b) Impact studies	a) One monitoring station in each country so far b) Not many studies	a) Need for more stations b) Need to study more
Compounds yet to be studied	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀ to lead and other smaller particles to follow
Training programmes a) Transfer of technology b) Finances	Done in all countries from Sida, SEI, NEP Country support weak	Country support to take over
Economic analysis	Not begun	To be done when results come in
Engagement of key stakeholders	Most countries have engaged but information not reaching more people	Need to widen awareness and publicise more

