



Sustainable Financing Mechanism Discussed During the Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting



The Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG11) for the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 20-21 January 2010. This is the first IG Meeting under the Phase IV implementation of the Malé Declaration.

The meeting was attended by the Ministries of Environment National Focal Points (NFPs) and National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) of the participating countries, South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Stockholm Environment Institute

(SEI), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (AIT-UNEP RRC.AP), a resource person and an independent facilitator.

The highlight of the event was the discussion on the future development of Malé Declaration, specifically the proposal for the establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism which calls for the countries to make contributions to the financing of the regional level activities

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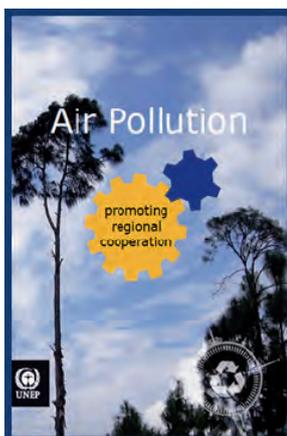
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Featuring the Book on Air Pollution - Promoting Regional Cooperation.

A Tribute to Mr. C.K. Amaratunga, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka

under the Malé Declaration. In addition, the progress of the Malé Declaration implementation during 2008/2009 and the data report for 2008/2009 were reviewed; the work programme for 2010 was adopted; and the implementation of the activities of the Task Force for Future Development (TFFD) of the Malé Declaration, as well as the Joint Action Plan on Air Pollution Networks in Asia and the Pacific were discussed.



The book on "Air Pollution – promoting regional cooperation", is one of the contributions of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to the regional and global air pollution challenge. The book distills the knowledge and experience of close to four decades of evolving policies aimed at reducing emissions. The book was compiled by Mr. Lars Nordberg of ScandEnvironment Advisory Services, Stockholm, Sweden, in collaboration with UNEP and the Secretariat and Network Center (NC) for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) as a contribution to the "Capacity Building Workshops for Policy Makers of the Participating Countries of EANET. Financial support was provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as part of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum activities through UNEP. The book provides insight into the scientific and technical aspects of multilateral cooperation and negotiations as well as guidance on practical science-based development of regional environmental law with the aim of assisting negotiations. It also highlights the achievements of existing conventions, protocols and agreements and offers guidance on how to adapt this experience and tailor it to specific regional circumstances. It also underlines the links between air pollution and climate change, economic development and poverty outlining the multiple, Green Economy benefits of integrating air pollution programmes. with those of greenhouse gases.

Capacity Building

Participation in the Special Session on Corrosion Exposures in Asia, Africa and Other Parts of the World, Garston, United Kingdom

Representatives from Malé Declaration countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, attended the “Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Programme Task Force of the International Co-operative Programme on the Effects on Materials Including Historic and Cultural Monuments”, which was held in Garston, United Kingdom on April 14-16, 2010. The Meeting, hosted by the Building Research Establishment Ltd., was also attended by representatives from the Parties to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), Air Pollution Information Network for Africa (APINA), Corrosion Network (CORNET), Argentina, UNEP, and the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum (GAP Forum).

The Meeting included a special session on corrosion exposures where the representatives from Malé Declaration presented their experience and possibilities for future development in each country level.

Conclusions from the Meeting included a) corrosion as a real problem in many countries and there is interest to continue the work initiated; b) main challenge in many parts of the world is the funding and it is necessary to have a framework, such as CLRTAP, Malé Declaration and APINA in order to secure long-term national funding; c) identification and support for sub-centres responsible for evaluation of corrosion attack is especially important; d) trend exposures is considered a core

activity; e) both climate and pollution effect corrosion and therefore the works on corrosion impact assessments are important both for assessing effects of climate change as well as of pollution.

The opportunity to collaborate on the corrosion impact studies on stock at risk and cost with health studies (rapid urban assessment) was explored. There is also an opportunity to benefit from co-operation between different parts of the world. Exchange of data and information are very valuable and activities in all countries should establish, or strengthen, the link between policy and science.

Regional Workshop on Cleaning Up Transport in South Asia



The Regional Workshop on Cleaning Up Transport for South Asia, organised by SACEP and Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), UNEP under the framework of Malé Declaration, was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka during 22-23 March 2010. The objectives of the workshop were to support the development of air pollution reduction policies, to promote the adoption of clean fuels and vehicle policies and to introduce 50 parts per million low sulphur fuel and clean vehicle standards. Participants were drawn from Ministries

of Environment, Transport and other relevant Ministries from South Asian countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as relevant organizations from the region namely SACEP, PCFV, AIT-UNEP RRC.AP, Clean Air Initiative for Asia (CAI-Asia) and Center for Science and Environment (CSE) India.

A set of recommendations were drafted, covering public and non-motorised transport, sulphur levels in fuels, regional

harmonisation of vehicle standards, inspection programmes and second-hand vehicle importations.

These recommendations will be presented for approval at the SACEP Ministerial Meeting in August 2010.

For more information on this meeting, please visit the following website/s: <http://www.unep.org/transport/pcfvl/regions/Asiaregional.asp>; and <http://www.sacep.org/>

Workshop on Co-Benefits Approach: Emerging Trends and Needs

A Seminar entitled the “Co-benefits Approach: Emerging Trends and Needs”, organised by the Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in collaboration with UNEP and funded by the Ministry of Environment, Japan (MoE-J), was held on 11-12 March 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand.

The seminar was attended by more than 80 participants (government officials and representatives from international organizations, resource persons from several research institutes,

local governments and universities), including representatives from the Malé Declaration countries. The goals of the seminar were to a) disseminate the concept and the usefulness of a co-benefits approach in Asia; b) share the latest information on co-benefits technologies and experiences on co-benefits projects in Asia; and c) receive feedback and comments on a possible co-benefits network for Asia.

The seminar had two substantive sessions, followed by discussions. An

overview and four case studies on ongoing co-benefits projects (air pollution, waste and waste water, urban planning and transport sectors) in Asia were presented. A presentation on a map of co-benefits technologies followed. Seven international organizations and the MOE-J made presentations on their co-benefits-related activities. More information on this is available at the following

website: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/cpl/activity20100311cb.html>

First Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration



The First Meeting of the TFFD of Malé Declaration was held on 2-3 August 2010, at Pathumthani Thailand. The Meeting was attended by the Task Force members from the participating countries of Malé Declaration (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), resource persons from different organizations including the Asia Centre for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), AIT, SACER, and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Representatives

from UNEP- Nairobi, ROAP and AIT-UNEP RRC.AP also attended the Meeting.

The meeting discussed the establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism, development of a feasibility report on establishing regional centres as well as on developing a regional framework for air pollution reduction in South Asia.

The Meeting agreed that 1) a mechanism for sustainable financing will be developed; 2) the feasibility study on

establishing regional centres will be conducted according to the meeting discussions and will be developed in a phased manner; 3) a feasibility report on developing a regional framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia will be conducted based on the discussions during the meeting to strengthen the Malé Declaration framework.

After the meeting, the participants had a tour on the laboratory of the AIT Environmental Engineering.

Meeting of the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific

A Meeting of the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific (herein referred to as Joint Forum) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 10-11 March 2010.

The meeting forms a continuation of the process which began in Bangkok in March 2009 where a Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental Networks on Regional Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific Region was held. It was agreed that the initiative could be continued as the “Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environmental Issues in Asia and the Pacific”.

The meeting also requested the secretariat to develop the future plan for the activities of the Joint Forum.

The following member countries of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia and the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) participated in the Meeting of the Joint Forum: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, Central Asian Environment Convention Secretariat, Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Secretariat, SACEP Secretariat, CAI-Asia, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI-York), GAP Forum and UNEP RRC.AP were also represented. Resource persons and observers from various institutions also attended the Meeting.

The representatives of each participating country of Malé Declaration made short presentations on the implementation of activities related to air pollution at the national level, and their views on the draft Joint Plan. The Meeting discussed the Joint Plan for joint activities on air pollution in Asia and the Pacific.



To Our Beloved C.K. Amarathunga: A Tribute

The Malé Declaration is deeply saddened to hear about the recent death of Mr. C.K. Amarathunga, Director, Central Environment Authority, Sri Lanka. He was a key founding member of the Malé Declaration network and his enthusiasm and good humour were a cornerstone of the Declaration's successful development in the South Asian region. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and our condolences go to his family at this sad time.



Upcoming Events

Second Task Force Meeting

The second meeting of the task force on future development of Male Declaration will be held on November 2010 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Workshop on Crop Impact Assessment

The workshop on crop impact assessment will be held on 15-17 November 2010 New Delhi, India.

Emission Inventory Training

The emission inventory training will be held back to back with the crop impact assessment workshop on 16-17 November 2010 New Delhi, India.

8th Regional Refresher Training Programme

The 8th regional refresher training programme will be held on 18-20 November 2010, in New Delhi, India after the emission inventory training.

12th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting

The 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held during first quarter of 2011.

Crop Impact Assessment

Assessment of the impacts of air pollution on crops will be continued during the Phase IV implementation of Malé Declaration. Assessment studies will be conducted in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Health Impact Assessment

Assessment studies on the health impacts of air pollution will be conducted in Nepal and Pakistan.

National Focal Points (NFP) and National Implementing Agencies (NIA)

Bangladesh

NFP: Ministry of Environment & Forest

NIA: Department of Environment, Dhaka

Bhutan

NFP & NIA: National Environment Commission, Thimpu

India

NFP: Ministry of Environment and Forests

NIA: Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi

Iran

NFP & NIA: Department of Environment, Tehran

Maldives

NFP: Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water

NIA: Department of Meteorology, Malé

Nepal

NFP: Ministry of Environment Science and Technology

NIA: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu

Pakistan

NFP: Ministry of Environment

NIA: Pakistan Environment Protection Agency, Islamabad

Sri Lanka

NFP: Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

NIA: Central Environment Authority, Colombo

Coordinating Agencies

UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP) Bangkok, Thailand



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) Colombo, Sri Lanka



Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Stockholm, Sweden



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WWW.RAPIDC.ORG

Malé Declaration Newsletter

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