

URBAN AIR POLLUTION PROJECT

ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP

Date: 31 May 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

This note outlines the concept for an action planning workshop focused on identifying evidence-based interventions and actions to address air pollution.

Background

The Asia-Pacific region is rapidly urbanising. Predictably, the region will become mostly urban within the next decades. The exponential urban expansion increases infrastructure development and energy consumption, high demands for fossil fuel in the transport sector and improper waste management, all of which unavoidably contribute to increased air pollution. As a result, air pollution is a significant public health hazard for many cities in the region, leading to a rise in premature deaths, threatening livelihoods and overall progress on sustainable development. Furthermore, ESCAP research has shown that air pollution results in damages that disproportionately impact low-income and marginalised communities, further intensifying income inequalities.

In response to this need, cities must take urgent action to address air pollution. Ambitious targets can be met if local action is accelerated through evidence-based plans and improved vertical and horizontal collaboration.

Urban Air Pollution Mitigation Project

The Urban Air Pollution Mitigation project seeks to fight air pollution by identifying ways to apply science-based clean air measures to identify sources of pollution. The overall project objectives are to:

- Increase knowledge base of air pollution in the region
- Build capacity to mitigate air pollution at the city level
- Enhance policies to mitigate air pollution at the city level

ESCAP will provide tools and a methodology to use innovative data, machine learning and forecasting to identify the primary sources of air pollution. The project will also provide a draft manual and approach to developing city-level, science-based, air-pollution mitigation policy action plans. To disseminate results, ESCAP will organise a regional knowledge exchange workshop to validate the methodology, share the plans, and to enhance regional cooperation in tackling air pollution.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this planning workshop is to bring together key urban air pollution stakeholders from different cities throughout the region to exchange knowledge, learn how to create air pollution Action Plans, and to find solutions for their own city.

The primary workshop objectives are to:

- **Share** information and knowledge from the project and selected cities in the region on their air quality management issues and priorities

- **Present** a process for creating a city level air pollution action plan¹;
- **Define** city-specific thematic areas and/or interventions. Working-groups will be formed to match the evidence with the interventions from the *25 Clean Air Measures for Asia and the Pacific*²;
- **List** priority actions and instruments and begin to complete elements of a draft Action Plan which will mature with the ESCAP's support and be used as an example for cities across the Asia-Pacific region.

Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this event include:

- Identification of cities interested in continuing to develop and refine their action plans with ESCAP's support.
- Improved understanding of air pollution sources, pathways and possible hotspots both within and outside the City.
- Enhanced knowledge of how to mitigate air pollution within the City
- Increased capacity to act to determine policies and activities to combat air pollution
- Better understanding of the City's role in national/regional advocacy efforts

Stakeholders and Participants

The action planning workshop aims to bring together key local and provincial stakeholders to review past work and identify critical gaps.

Interpretation

The workshop content will feature live interpretation in Bahasa, Khmer, Malay, Russian, Thai and Viet Nameese.

Agenda

See below.

¹ Integrated Programme for Better Air Quality (IBAQ) in Asia will be used as a reference. https://learning-cleanairasia.org/wp-content/themes/caa/pdf/IBAQ%20City%20Solutions_CAAP%20General.pdf

² <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/resources/25-clean-air-measures-asia-and-pacific>

URBAN AIR POLLUTION ACTION PLANS

Date: 31 May 2022
14:00 – 17:00 - 3 hours (180mins) (Bangkok Time, GMT +7)

Time (mins)	Topic	Description	Who
5	Technical Notes	Welcome to Zoom, interpretations	Lucie Trotin, Intern, ESCAP
5	Welcome	Remarks from ESCAP	Sangmin Nam, Director of EDD, ESCAP
5	Welcome	Video Remarks from the Pilot City	Mayor of Chiang Mai, Thailand
5	Introduction Workshop Overview	Presentation of Urban Air Pollution Project by UNESCAP (KECF) General presentation on today's agenda, outcomes, and the goals of the 'Plenary'	Matthew Perkins, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP
15	Action Planning	Creating an Air Pollution Action Plan	Andrew Charles, UCLG ASPAC
15	Proposed Interventions	25 Clean Air Measures	Maria Katherina Patdu, UNEP, Associate Programme Officer, Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP)
15	Sharing Experiences	Chiang Mai, Thailand – Creating an Action Plan	Nopadol Sawat, Sanitary Researcher, Chiang Mai City
5	Working Group Directions	Transition to break-out rooms	Lucie Trotin, ESCAP (technical assist)
5	BREAK		
45	Working Groups to begin to Populate their Action Plan Matrix	Groups: By Language 5min – Intro 30mins – Group Work on Matrix 10mins – Prepare Speaking Notes for Plenary	Moderated by ESCAP

50	Plenary	Each Working Group presents what they came up with in their groups (about 5 mins each, with brief QA)	Each working group, moderated by ESCAP (Abigail Smith)
10	Closing of Workshop	Next Steps (5min) Closing Remarks (5min)	Matthew Perkins, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP