**WORKPLAN OF ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (APRFHE) 2022-2024 REPORT**

1. **Background**

The Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE) was established in 2004 to address the growing threat that environmental hazards pose to human health. This forum seeks to create greater synergy among relevant government departments to tackle environmental and health issues better. The APRFHE is a platform of cooperation and collaboration between the health and environment sectors in terms of 1) sharing knowledge and experiences; 2) advocating for measures, policies, and actions to protect the health and well-being caused by environmental risk factors; and 3) promoting other sectors related to implement multilateral and regional commitments and initiatives. The objectives of the Regional Forum are to:

1. identify and address priority environment and health issues that require regional action;
2. facilitate dialogue, exchange of knowledge and best practices to promote sustainable development in the areas of environment and health;
3. develop and sustain mechanisms for collaborative action; and
4. mobilize material, human and technical resources to support work on environment and health.

The chairship period will be within five years, starting from 2020 to 2024. Indonesia was selected as the 5th Chair of the Regional Forum at the 10th High-Level Official Meeting (HLOM) in September 2019 in Manila. Indonesia originally proposed a five-year workplan to strengthen the structure and effectiveness of the Regional Forum. Table 1 shows the proposed workplan of the Regional Forum.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all countries, and the Regional Forum has been significantly affected, most notably, the workplan implementation. On the other hand, it has provided opportunities for developing potential structural reforms of the Regional Forum regarding its roles and operations. The Regional Forum was in the process of restructuring by expanding its geographical coverage from 14 founding countries to all member countries and territories of UNEP ROAP, WHO SEARO, and WHO WPRO. Therefore, Indonesia as the 5th Chair of APRFHE is proposing most of the activities convened in a virtual platform to accelerate the effectiveness of workplan activities.

1. **Workplan Overview**

During the 11th High Level Official Meeting, the APRFHE workplan 2020-2024 was presented and the final draft of the APRFHE workplan 2020-2024 (Table 1.) was endorsed accordingly.

Table 1. APRFHE Workplan 2020-2024

| **No** | **Outputs** | **Timeline** | **Activities** | **Focal Point, Resource, and Partner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2022 Joint Secretariat Meeting | 20-21 October 2022 | 1. Drafting paperworks 2. Review on the governance mechanism of APRFHE and its way forward 3. APRFHE workplan 2022-2024 and chairship period 4. Strategic issues and technical areas, which are most relevant to the APRFHE 5. Mechanism or step-up and strengthen the work of the TWGs and financial resources to support activities to APRFHE 6. Draft proposal for the 11th HLOM and 5th MM hosted by Indonesia as chair, 2023 7. Producing a JSM proceeding report | Focal point:   1. Chair (Indonesia) 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)   Resource:  Chair (Indonesia) |
| 2 | The 11th High-Level Official Meeting | 22-23 November 2023 | 1. Discussing and approving the following paperworks 2. Governance of the APRFHE, financial matters, and monitoring mechanism 3. Strategic issues and technical areas relevant to the APRFHE 4. Mechanism of the TWGs 5. Workplan of APRFHE 2023-2024 and chairship period 6. Endorsement of APRFHE workplan | Focal point:   1. Chair (Indonesia) 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)   Resource:  Chair (Indonesia) |
| 3 | Monitoring, Reporting, and Hand-over Arrangement | On-going | 1. Develop and update lessons learned logs 2. Compile data and archive documents of the APRFHE 3. Undertake resource mobilization 4. Prepare hand-over note to next chair | Focal point:  Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)  Resource:  Secretariat (WHO/UNEP) |
| 4 | Thematic Working Group online meeting/webinars | February 2024 (tentative) | 1. TWGs action plan implementation 2. Identification of TWG action activities in 2024 | Focal point:   1. Chair (Indonesia) 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)   Resource:   1. Chair (Indonesia) 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP) |
| 5 | Thematic Working Groups Meeting | Before 2024 JSM | 1. TWGs action plan implementation 2. Identification of TWG action activities in 2024 | Focal point:   1. TWG’s Chairs 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)   Resource:   1. TWG’s Chairs 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)   Partners:   1. Universities 2. NGOs 3. Individual experts |
| 6 | 2024 Joint Secretariat Meeting | March 2024 (tentative) | Discussing and approving the following paperworks   1. Governance of the APRFHE, financial matters, and monitoring mechanism 2. Strategic issues and technical areas relevant to the APRFHE 3. Mechanism of the TWGs 4. Workplan APRFHE 2023-2024 and chairship period 5. Prepare the 12th HLOM and 5th MM agenda | Focal point:   1. Chair (Indonesia) 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)   Resource:  Secretariat (WHO/UNEP) |
| 7 | NEHAP Workshop | June 2024  (tentative) | 1. Development of NEHAPs 2. Review and update of NEHAPs 3. Lesson learned and best practices | Focal point:   1. Chair (Indonesia) 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)   Resource:   1. Chair (Indonesia) 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP) |
| 8 | Scientific Panel Meeting | Before HLOM 12th and MM 5th | Developing the following knowledge products   1. Conference proceeding 2. Policy paper (drafted by Secretariat) 3. Scientific panel meeting 4. Scientific panel ToR 5. Report on the current environment health issue 6. Background document for scientific meeting 7. Recommendation for the APRFHE workplan 8. Deliver presentation/training capacity development events | Focal point:  Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)  Resource:  Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)  Partners:   1. Universities 2. Individual experts |
| 9 | The 12th High-Level Official Meeting | 01-02 October 2024 | Adopting the following paperworks   1. Governance of the APRFHE, financial matters, and monitoring mechanism 2. Strategic issues and technical areas relevant to the APRFHE 3. Mechanism of the TWGs 4. Final draft of Jakarta Declaration | Focal point:   1. Chair (Indonesia) 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)   Resource:  Chair (Indonesia) |
| 10 | The 5th Ministerial Meeting | 03-04 October 2024 | Adopting the following paper works   1. Report APRFHE 2. Country statement 3. Governance of the APRFHE, financial matters, and monitoring mechanism 4. Strategic issues and technical areas relevant to the 5. Jakarta Declaration 6. Hand-over chairship | Focal point:   1. Chair (Indonesia) 2. Secretariat (WHO/UNEP)   Resource:  Chair (Indonesia) |

1. **Activities Summary**
2. **2022 Joint Secretariat Meeting (20th – 21st October 2022)**

The Joint Secretariat Meeting (JSM) of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE) was convened from October 20 to 21, 2022, in Bali, Indonesia. This meeting was conducted through a hybrid format, allowing both in-person and virtual participation. The was attended by delegates from Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, and representatives from the International Secretariat, including WHO SEARO, WHO WPRO, and UNEP ROAP. The primary objectives were to discuss the sustainability of the APRFHE, review the ongoing workplan, and strategize for future implementations in light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The key discussions of the JSM 2022 were:

* Governance: The Forum should continue with agile, flexible, and non-binding regional cooperation. The governance structure must be updated to address current challenges, and efforts should focus on reactivating the inactive TWGs.
* Financial Sustainability: Securing sustainable funding was deemed critical, and several options were proposed, including contributions from lead countries, support from dialogue partners, and organizing back-to-back meetings with major international events like the G20 and COP.
* Monitoring and Evaluation: A simple monitoring and evaluation tool should be developed to track the progress of the Forum’s activities and the achievements of the TWGs.
* Increased Visibility: The establishment of an APRFHE website and the creation of a logo were recommended to enhance the Forum’s visibility and improve communication among member states.

Key recommendations included updating governance, securing sustainable funding, developing a monitoring tool, extending Indonesia’s chairship, and enhancing visibility through an APRFHE website and logo. The meeting concluded with a plan to circulate the report for further input from member states.

1. **11th High Level Official Meeting (22nd – 23rd November 2023)**

The 11th High-Level Official Meeting (HLOM) of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE) was held on November 22-23 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format. It was attended by national delegates from Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste. Observers were present from the U.K. Health Security Agency and the U.K. Mission to ASEAN. The main objective of the meeting was to address pressing health and environmental issues in the region, review governance structures, and refine strategic priorities for APRFHE. Key discussions of the 11th HLOM were:

* Governance and Financial Sustainability: The meeting emphasized the need for revising the governance of APRFHE, particularly in light of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for stronger financial resources to support APRFHE activities was highlighted. Participants called for clearer monitoring mechanisms and streamlined operations of Thematic Working Groups (TWGs).
* Strategic Issues: Three key themes were discussed: One Health, climate change and health (with a focus on COP28), and air pollution. One Health was especially prioritized, with member countries like Japan, Philippines, and Thailand expressing strong support for capacity-building in this area.
* Workplan for 2022-2024: The meeting reviewed the proposed workplan under Indonesia’s chairship. Due to delays caused by the pandemic, participants supported extending Indonesia's chairship until 2026 to allow the completion of the workplan and smooth leadership transition.
* Strengthening TWGs: Mechanisms to strengthen TWGs were discussed, focusing on more effective management and securing dedicated resources. Recommendations were made to ensure TWGs’ work is aligned with broader regional strategies, particularly in addressing air quality, water sanitation (WASH), and waste management.

1. **2024 Joint Secretariat Meeting (21st – 22nd May 2024)**

The 2024 Joint Secretariat Meeting was held on May 21-22, 2024, in Tangerang, Indonesia, in a hybrid format. The meeting was attended by Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Thematic Working Groups, previous Chairs of the APRFHE and APRFHE Secretariat. The primary objectives were to assess the continuity of APRFHE, review the 2020-2024 Work Plan, and discuss preparations for the 12th High-Level Official Meeting (HLOM) and 5th Ministerial Meeting (MM).

* Governance and Structure: The forum revisited APRFHE’s governance structure, addressing the need to reactivate Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) and ensure better coordination among member countries.
* Workplan Review: Discussions centered around the achievements and challenges under the 2020-2024 work plan, including delays caused by the pandemic. Participants also discussed Indonesia’s upcoming handover as chair and strategies for the leadership transition to the next chair country.
* Strategic Issues: Topics such as waste management, climate change, air pollution, and the One Health approach were highlighted as key areas for future collaboration among member countries.
* TWG Strengthening: The need to secure sustainable funding and build capacity for TWGs was emphasized, with discussions on creating a structured five-year workplan and Terms of Reference (ToR) for each group.
* Preparation for 12th HLOM and 5th MM: The agenda and key deliverables for the 12th HLOM and 5th MM were discussed, with special attention to the Jakarta Declaration, which will guide future APRFHE initiatives.

1. **Thematic Working Groups Meeting and Activities**

In an effort to re-activate the TWGs, each group was encouraged to hold meetings and carry out activities according to their respective workplans to advance key health and environmental priorities within the Forum. The TWGs play a crucial role in driving the Regional Forum agenda in addressing health and environment matters and contributing to regional collaboration and capacity building.

1. **Scientific Panel**

The chair and the secretariat convene several virtual discussions in order to develop the formation and structure of the Scientific Panel. There is still a need for extensive discussions on the form, activities, and operational mechanisms of the panel.

Catatan: akan disiapkan MoM untuk masing-masing pertemuan

1. **Monitoring, Reporting, and Hand-over Arrangement**

Efforts are ongoing to update lessons learned logs, compile data, archive documents, and prepare for the handover to the next chair. Secretariat has provided the APRFHE website to accommodate data compiling and documents archives of the APRFHE. However the Secretariat needs to communicate intensively with the members to develop and update lesson learned logs and finalize the Sustainable Funding Mechanism task force. Furthermore the handover note to the next chair will be finalized at the 5th Ministerial Meeting accordingly.

1. **NEHAP Workshop**

The NEHAP Workshop was conducted on 6th September 2024 via a virtual platform. The meeting was attended by representatives from APRFHE member countries, including Malaysia, the Philippines, Mongolia, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, and Vietnam. The main objective of the workshop was to share lessons learned on the implementation and development of National Environmental Health Action Plans (NEHAPs) across member countries, fostering collaboration and capacity-building.

Presentations on lessons learned were delivered by representatives from Malaysia and the Philippines, who shared their experiences in addressing environmental health challenges, the successes and barriers they faced, and strategies for updating their respective NEHAPs. The Republic of Korea and Vietnam also shared their experiences, which, while differing from the NEHAP implementation approaches of Malaysia and the Philippines, still aligned with the same overall goals and functions as NEHAP. These experiences further enriched the discussion, demonstrating the diverse yet unified commitment of member countries to enhancing environmental health action plans.

Cross-sectoral Collaboration: One of the significant lessons highlighted in the workshop was the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration in developing and implementing NEHAPs. Both Malaysia and the Philippines emphasized how inter-agency committees, involving health, environment, and other relevant sectors, improved coordination and resource-sharing to tackle environmental health issues effectively. The key takeaways from the workshop are as follows:

* Cross-sectoral Collaboration: A key takeaway from the workshop was the importance of effective cross-sectoral collaboration. Engaging multiple government agencies, as well as health, environment, and other relevant sectors, was highlighted as essential for improving coordination and resource-sharing in addressing environmental health issues.
* Legislative and Institutional Support: The need for strong legislative frameworks to support the long-term sustainability of NEHAPs was emphasized. Such frameworks ensure structured approaches to addressing environmental health challenges and integrating NEHAP objectives into national policies.
* Capacity Building and Preparedness: Strengthening capacity in areas such as air quality, waste management, and climate change was identified as a priority. Additionally, the development of preparedness measures, such as training first responders in environmental health emergencies, was highlighted as crucial for effective implementation.
* Monitoring and Evaluation: Continuous monitoring and evaluation were deemed vital to ensure that NEHAPs remain effective and adaptable to emerging challenges. Health Impact Assessments (HIA) were discussed as valuable tools for aligning environmental health action plans with national environmental and health policies.
* Adaptability and Integration: The adaptability of NEHAPs was emphasized, especially in integrating global commitments and emerging environmental challenges. The ability to continuously evolve NEHAPs to address new risks, such as climate change, was seen as crucial for maintaining their relevance and impact.

1. **12th High Level Official Meeting**

As part of the preparations for the 12th High-Level Official Meeting (HLOM), the 2024 Joint Secretariat Meeting (JSM) was held to lay the groundwork for the event. Regular online meetings were conducted between the Chair and the APRFHE Secretariat to discuss key elements, including the agenda, working documents, participant list, side events, and other logistical details.   
  
In addition to the online coordination meetings, logistical meetings were organized to ensure all operational aspects of the 12th HLOM were well-managed. These meetings involved key stakeholders such as the Public Health Office of DKI Jakarta Province, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), as well as airport authorities, customs, and immigration services. The discussions focused on health services, airport handling procedures, venue arrangements, social programs, and accommodation for the participants.

The 12th HLOM is scheduled to take place over two days, on 24th and 25th September 2024, with a comprehensive agenda. The tentative agenda includes a review and assessment of the Regional Forum, progress updates on the APRFHE 2020-2024 workplan, a Scientific Session led by Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), finalization of the Revision of the Framework for Cooperation, and the Jakarta Declaration. Discussions will also cover the Task Force for sustainable finance and the discussion of the 6th Chair of APRFHE.

To facilitate participation, letters of invitation to the 12th HLOM were signed by the Minister of Health and circulated in mid-July to APRFHE member countries. The invitations were also extended to other Asia-Pacific countries under the jurisdiction of WHO WPRO, WHO SEARO, and UNEP ROAP.

1. **5th Ministerial Meeting**

In preparation for the 5th Ministerial Meeting (MM), which will be held back-to-back with the 12th High-Level Official Meeting (HLOM), the 2024 Joint Secretariat Meeting (JSM) also played a critical role. Regular online coordination meetings and logistics meetings were conducted with the APRFHE Secretariat to ensure a seamless preparation process for the 5th MM.

The 5th MM is scheduled for 26th September 2024, following the conclusion of the 12th HLOM. The agenda for the one-day meeting includes the report of the 12th HLOM, the presentation of the Thematic Working Groups (TWG) report, and the adoption of the revised Framework for Cooperation. Additionally, the meeting will focus on the adoption of the Jakarta Declaration, which marks a significant step in shaping the future of regional collaboration on health and environmental issues. Finally, the meeting will conclude with the handover of the 6th Chair of APRFHE, setting the stage for the next phase of leadership and strategic direction for the Forum.

Letters of invitation to the 5th MM were signed by the Minister of Health and circulated in mid-July to APRFHE member countries. It was also sent to Asia-Pacific countries under the jurisdiction of WHO WPRO, WHO SEARO, and UNEP ROAP. This unified invitation ensured that all participants were well-informed and able to plan for their attendance at both the 12th HLOM and the 5th MM.

1. **Recommendations and Conclusions**
2. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Secretariat and the next Chair continue the APRFHE 2020-2024 workplan initiated under Indonesia’s chairship, ensuring that the progress made so far is maintained and that ongoing initiatives reach completion. Furthermore, the Secretariat is requested to finalize the formation and structure of the Scientific Panel, which will play a pivotal role in supporting evidence-based decision-making within the Forum. To sustain momentum, the Secretariat and member countries are encouraged to actively follow up on the way forward for APRFHE activities, ensuring alignment with regional health and environmental goals. Additionally, it is important for the Secretariat to disseminate the results of APRFHE activities in relevant regional and international forums, highlighting the Forum's achievements and fostering greater collaboration.

1. **Conclusions**

Indonesia, as the 5th Chair of APRFHE, with the support of the Secretariat and the active participation of member countries, has successfully conveyed the APRFHE 2020-2024 workplan. While the COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges, and some activities were not executed as planned, the overall objectives were addressed, and substantial progress was made. Indonesia took note of the need for further development of financial mechanisms and governance structures within APRFHE to strengthen the Forum’s future operations and effectiveness. Therefore, Indonesia strongly encourages the Secretariat and the next Chair to continue the ongoing efforts of APRFHE, ensuring continuity in the workplan’s initiatives.