

# **Review and Assessment of the APRFHE**

**12<sup>th</sup> High Level Official Meeting of the  
Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment  
24 September 2024, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**WHO WPRO**

# Objective of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE)

- strengthen cooperation among member countries' environmental and health ministries
- provides a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences, improving policy frameworks, and promoting integrated environmental health strategies
- envisions a development model that safeguards and enhances health and environmental quality while reducing poverty



# Relevance of the APRFHE



Health and the environment are critical components of the development 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals



APRFHE is integrated into a broader framework that includes the economic, social, and environmental aspects of human well-being and planetary sustainability



APRFHE stands out as a key international platform poised to address urgent health and environmental issues

# Recap of previous HLOM & MM Outcomes (1)

2004	2005	2006	2007
------	------	------	------

<b>Original RF Member countries</b>
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Indonesia
Japan
Republic of Korea
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

**1<sup>st</sup> High-Level Officials' Meeting (HLOM)**  
**Manila, Philippines**  
**24-26 Nov 2004**



**2<sup>nd</sup> HLOM, Bangkok, Thailand**  
**12-13 Dec 2005**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Meeting (MM) in Environment & Health**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> HLOM**  
**Bangkok, Thailand**  
**8-9 Aug 2007**

- Charter of the RF
- Bangkok Declaration



**AQ TWG Meeting**  
**Seoul, Republic of Korea**  
**7 May 2007**



# Recap of previous HLOM & MM Outcomes (2)

	2008	2009	2010
--	------	------	------

Original RF Member countries
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Indonesia
Japan
Republic of Korea
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam



4<sup>th</sup> HLOM, Beijing, P.R. China  
24-25 March 2009



Joint TWG Meeting – side event at the the 3rd WHO International Conference on Children's Health & the Environment Busan, Republic of Korea, 8-10 June 2009

Pre-event workshop on BAQ – AQ & Health, Bangkok, Thailand, 11 November 2008

2<sup>nd</sup> MM  
5<sup>th</sup> HLOM  
Jeju, Republic of Korea  
14-15 July 2010



- Addition of HIA TWG
- Jeju Declaration

The Evolution of the APRFHE

# Recap of previous HLOM & MM Outcomes (3)

2011	2012	2013
------	------	------

Original RF Member countries
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Indonesia
Japan
Republic of Korea
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

Joint meeting with TWG HIA & Air TWG in Seoul, Republic of Korea  
27-28 July 2011

6<sup>th</sup> HLOM, Bandung, Indonesia  
23-24 Oct 2012



3<sup>rd</sup> MM  
7<sup>th</sup> HLOM  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
9-10 Sept 2013



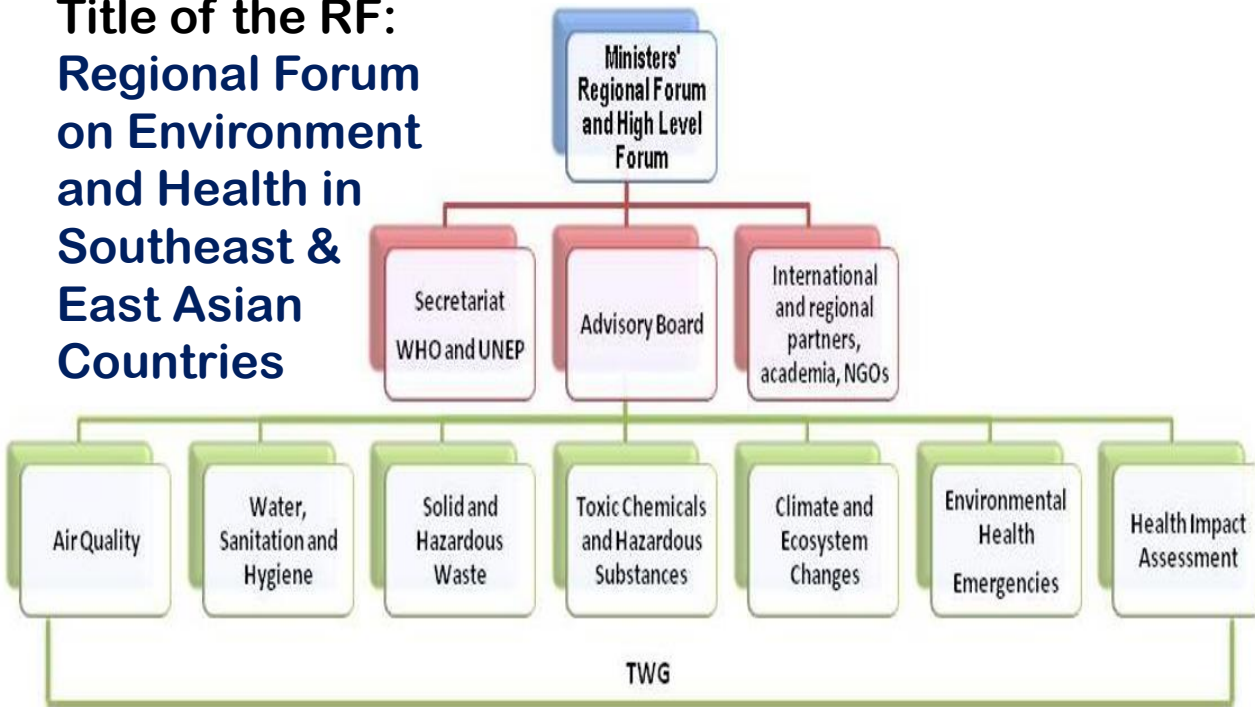
- Framework for Cooperation of the RF
- Kuala Lumpur Declaration

The Evolution of the APRFHE

# APRFHE Structure

## 2007-2013

**Title of the RF:  
Regional Forum  
on Environment  
and Health in  
Southeast &  
East Asian  
Countries**

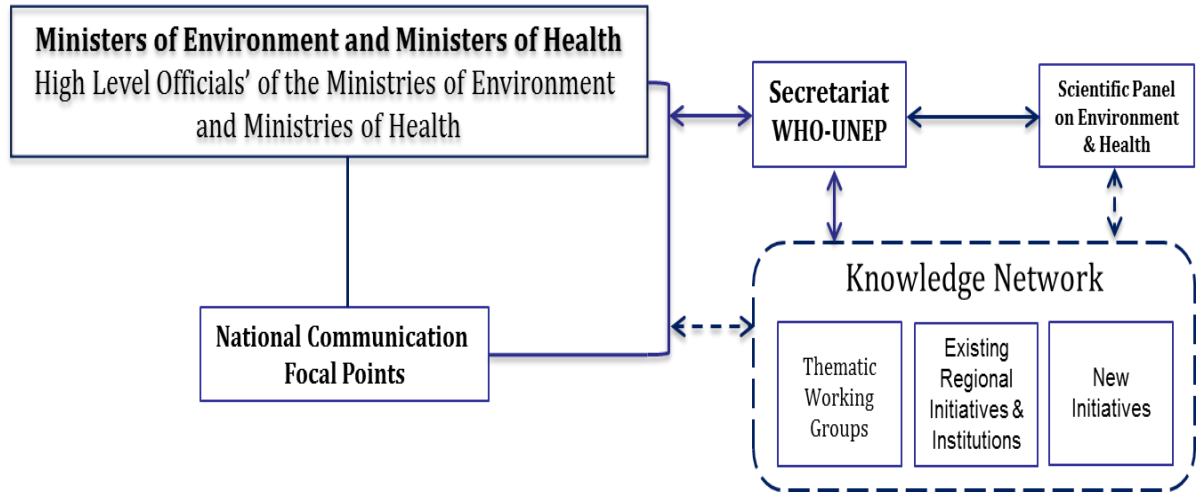


Southeast Asian countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

East Asian countries: China, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea

1. Ministerial Meeting: Every 3 years, Ministers from MOE, MOH
2. High-Level meeting: Every 18 months, High-Level officers
3. Advisory Board: Every year (Board members and Secretariat)
4. Secretariat: UNEP and WHO

## 2013-2024



**Title of the RF is revised: *Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment***

**Note: Outcome of the 10<sup>th</sup> HLOM, section 53 “It was agreed that the TWGs would be more closely governed by the APRFHE”**

# Recap of previous HLOM & MM Outcomes (4)

2014

2015

2016



Extraordinary HLOM  
Bangkok, Thailand  
20-21 Aug 2014

1<sup>st</sup> bi-regional training on  
climate change and health,  
Jogjakarta, Indonesia  
26-30 January 2015

1<sup>st</sup> Regional Training on Health,  
Environment & Development  
Incheon, ROK, December 2015

8<sup>th</sup> HLOM  
Video Conference  
21 June 2016

4<sup>th</sup> MM on APRFHE  
9<sup>th</sup> HLOM  
Manila, Philippines  
6-8 Oct 2016



- Expanded to Asia & Pacific Countries
- Manila Declaration

The Evolution of the APRFHE



# Recap of previous HLOM & MM Outcomes (5)

2017



Task Force (TF) Meeting to update the **governance mechanisms** of the APRFHE  
Manila, Philippines  
13-15 Sept 2017

Strategic Planning Workshop (Chaired by Philippines & participated by Task Force member countries) of the APRFHE, Manila, Philippines, 26-28 April 2017



2018

TF Meeting for Reforming the Functions of the TWGs in alignment with the SDGs  
Manila, Philippines  
13-14 June 2018



2019

## 10<sup>th</sup> HLOM

Manila, Philippines

27-28 September 2019

- Reviewed & discussed the Regional Implementation Plan 2017-2019 and Manila Declaration
- Reviewed and approved the recommendations of the Task Force to review the governance mechanism
  - Title to APRFHE – given the expanded membership
  - Membership & structural mechanisms of APRFHE
  - Framework for Cooperation
  - TWGs
- Discussed the 5<sup>th</sup> MM of APREFHE

The Evolution of the APRFHE

# Recap of previous HLOM & MM Outcomes (6)

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
------	------	------	------	------

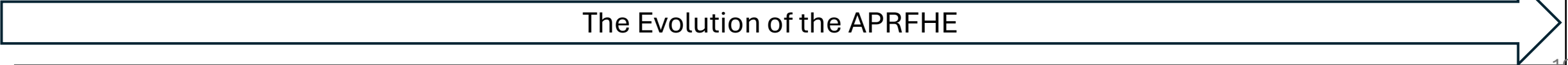
**Asia & Pacific Countries**

**Due to COVID Pandemic, Virtual Meetings were held**

## 11<sup>th</sup> HLOM

Jakarta, Indonesia  
22-23 November 2023

- Strategic Focus and Operational Framework
  - Governance of the APRFHE, Financial Matters and Monitoring Mechanism
  - Strategic Issues and Technical Areas Relevant to the APRFHE
  - Mechanisms of the TWGs
  
- APRFHE Workplan and Chairship Time Period, 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting & 12<sup>th</sup> HLOM preparation



## Declarations and Features of the APRFHE (1)

Feature/Declaration	Bangkok (2007)	Jeju (2010)	Kuala Lumpur (2013)	Manila (2016)
<b>Agreements/associated workplans</b>	<p>Adoption of the Charter and approval of the composition &amp; work plans of TWGs.</p> <p>Priorities for 2007-2010 are:</p> <p>i) governments should address health impacts and implications on priority areas of environmental concern at the local, national, and global levels;</p> <p>ii) multisectoral planning and community mobilization; and</p> <p>iii) capacity building, information dissemination, education training and further studies.</p>	<p>Addition of health impact assessment as a new regional priority for 2010-2013.</p> <p>Agreement to</p> <p>i) cooperate to develop and implement national environmental health action plans;</p> <p>ii) study ways and mean to create within the region an environmental health capacity-strengthening programme; and</p> <p>iii) resolve to strengthen cooperation to improve inter-agency, multi-sectoral, regional and international cooperation, coordination and planning.</p> <p>Endorsement of the cooperation established by the TWGs.</p> <p>Approval of a Task Force report to the RF Advisory Board to review governance, institutional &amp; partnership issues.</p>	<p>Adoption of the Framework for Cooperation with the vision of “Health and environment at the center of development”</p> <p>Workplan for 2014-2016:</p> <p>i) strengthen the NEHAP;</p> <p>ii) develop EHCP and EHDS;</p> <p>iii) enhance and strengthen environmental health capacity of member countries; and</p> <p>iv) improve regional and international cooperation, coordination, fellowships, and partnerships.</p>	<p>Implementation Plan for 2017-2019:</p> <p>i) Review of the Regional Forum;</p> <p>ii) identify national priority sustainable development goal (SDG);</p> <p>iii) setting of national SDG targets;</p> <p>iv) collective target setting for the Regional Forum countries;</p> <p>v) implementation of workplans on priority SDG targets; and vi) monitoring and evaluation.</p>

## Declarations and Features of the APRFHE (2)

Feature/Declaration	Bangkok (2007)	Jeju (2010)	Kuala Lumpur (2013)	Manila (2016)
<b>Focus</b>	Establishing the Regional Forum and setting initial priorities	Adding health impact assessment; enhancing cooperation	Integrating global frameworks; establishing EHCPs and EHDS	Emphasizing urgent action against climate change and environmental health risks  Expansion of the RF  Creation of Task Force for measurable targets  Transboundary issues
<b>Priority areas</b>	Air and water quality, waste management, toxic chemicals, climate change, emergency response	Reinforces previous thematic areas; introduces health impact assessment	Puts sustainable environment at development's center; emphasizes information sharing and technological sharing	Climate resilience, air quality improvement, water and sanitation, waste management, reducing chemical exposure
<b>Collaboration and cooperation</b>	Calls for multi-sectoral cooperation and capacity building	Stresses international cooperation and thematic working group activities	Fosters technical cooperation through a Scientific Panel and Knowledge Network	Highlights need for closer collaboration between health and environment sectors; calls for WHO and UNEP support

## Declarations and Features of the APRFHE (3)

Feature/Declaration	Bangkok (2007)	Jeju (2010)	Kuala Lumpur (2013)	Manila (2016)
<b>Global and Regional Integration</b>		Endorses cooperation with ASEAN and SAICM among others	Aligns with Agenda 21, MDGs, and discussions on the post-2015 agenda	Aligns closely with SDGs, Paris Agreement, and calls for international support for identified policy priorities
<b>Future Directions</b>	Agreement to meet in three years for progress review	Similar to Bangkok declaration, with added emphasis on thematic working group outcomes	Plans to review progress in building environmental health capacity and to discuss new priorities	Stresses on addressing emerging environment and health priorities and calls for ongoing dialogue and collaboration
<b>Action calls</b>	Inter-agency, private sector, civil society involvement	Same as Bangkok declaration, with emphasis on integrating efforts across sectors	Encourages creation of regional environmental health capacity-strengthening programmes	Urgent actions to mitigate and adapt to environmental health threats, including climate change
<b>Institutional and Financial Mechanisms</b>	Requests UNEP and WHO to serve as joint Secretariat	Establishes a Task Force to review governance, institutional and financial mechanisms	Approves mechanisms for better sharing between health and environment sectors	Encourages WHO to seek accreditation for mobilizing resources against environmental risks

## Status/Progress/Achievements of the APRFHE

Bangkok (2007)	Jeju (2010)	Kuala Lumpur (2013)	Manila (2016)
<p>Seven TWGs were established.</p> <p>Guidance document on the mechanisms for conducting meetings.</p> <p>Scientific conferences have been convened</p>	<p>Report of the Chair and Vice-chair of the Regional Forum on the governance, impact, partnerships, and sustainable mechanism (2010-2013). The report discussed specific findings and recommendations (2) on governance, partnerships, achievements, and sustainable financial mechanisms.</p> <p>6TWGs Policy Briefs</p> <p>Cooperation has been established between TWGs and other national and international initiatives.</p> <p>Workplans were prepared in the succeeding ministerial meetings.</p>	<p>Twelve of the 14 Regional Forum countries have produced NEHAP.</p> <p>Synthesis report of Environment health country profiles was presented in October 2016.</p> <p>Scientific Dialogue was conducted in October 2016.</p> <p>Number of workshops and trainings have been held among member countries on climate change, health, and environment and development.</p>	<p>Strategic planning workshop was conducted in April 2017 in Manila, Philippines to review the overall progress of the APRFHE.</p> <p>A Task Force were created with 10 volunteered member countries. 2 TF Meetings convened.</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> HLOM and 11<sup>th</sup> HLOM were convened, in 2019 and 2023, respectively.</p> <p>Member States Consultation on Addressing the Health Impact of Air Pollution; progress among TWG activities</p> <p>Endorsement of the Regional Plan of Action of WHO SEARO</p> <p>67th RCM adopted the Regional Framework for Action on Health and Environment on a Changing Planet in 2016 for WHO WPRO</p> <p>A resolution adopted at the UNEA for the recognition of APRFHE</p>

> *Five scientific conferences have been convened from 2005 to 2016.*

> *6 AB meetings were held*

**From 2004 to date, 12 HLOMs including the Extraordinary Meeting and four Ministerial Meetings has been held**

## Challenges of the APRFHE

Bangkok (2007)	Jeju (2010)	Kuala Lumpur (2013)	Manila (2016)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for resources</li> <li>• Governance complexity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource mobilization;</li> <li>• Governance enhancement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective sharing of information;</li> <li>• sustainable financing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial sustainability, Resource mobilization; addressing emerging environmental health threats;</li> <li>• Need for effective communication</li> <li>• COVID-19 pandemic had significantly disrupted the momentum of the APRFHE, affecting planned activities</li> </ul>

# Identification of Continuity Strategies for Enhanced Regional Cooperation on Health and Environment



## 1. Funding and Resource Mobilization

- *Establish a dedicated Funding Mechanism on Health and Environment*: Create a multi-donor trust fund to secure financial support from various stakeholders, including UN agencies, governments, private sector, and development organizations.
- *Establish a permanent and or outreach secretariat to support the International Joint Secretariat* - with dedicated funding and resources to facilitate and coordinate closely with the APRFHE's activities.
- *Innovative Financing Models*: Explore innovative financing solutions in the implementation of the APRFHE workplan 2025-2030 such as attaching to the existing global and regional conventions/frameworks activities e.g., capacity building through training on Climate Change and Health, Air and Health, Chemicals and Waste, One Health, and public-private partnerships to generate sustainable funding for environmental health projects. And in reference to the TWG TOR – Resource Mobilization.



# Identification of Continuity Strategies for Enhanced Regional Cooperation on Health and Environment

## 2. Governance and Coordination

- *Streamline Governance Structures*: Simplify the governance structure to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring clear roles and responsibilities TWGs, among member countries and partner organizations as well as APRFHE International Secretariat (WHO WPRO, WHO SEARO and UNEP ROAP).
- *Enhance Coordination Mechanisms*: Establish a central coordination body within the Regional Forum (Coordination Centre that will serve as an arm of the APRFHE taking into consideration the EU Health and Environment model) to oversee the implementation of initiatives, ensuring alignment with global frameworks and regional priorities.



## 3. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

- *Regional Capacity Building Programs*: Develop inclusive capacity building programs focused on environmental health thematic priorities, tailored to the needs of member countries.
- *Knowledge Sharing Platform*: Launch an online platform to facilitate the exchange of best practices, innovations, and technologies among member countries and partners.



# Identification of Continuity Strategies for Enhanced Regional Cooperation on Health and Environment

## 4. Engagement and Partnerships

- *Strengthen Multi-Sectoral Partnerships*: Foster closer collaboration among governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector to leverage expertise and resources related to SDGs environmental health.
- *Enhance International Collaboration*: Strengthen ties with global initiatives and frameworks, such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, to align regional efforts with global goals related to health and environment nexus.



## 5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (MER)

- *Develop and implement an inclusive MER framework* to track progress, measure impact, & identify areas for improvement, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- *Encourage research and innovation of member countries* through awards for outstanding contributions to environmental health.



## References

1. Meeting Report of the Eleventh High-Level Officials' Meeting. Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment, 22-23 November 2023, Jakarta, Indonesia.
2. Report of the Tenth High-Level Officials' Meeting. Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment, 27-28 September 2019.
3. Meeting Report of the Task Force for Reforming the functions of the TWGs in Alignment with the SDGs, September 2017
4. Implementation Plan of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment. Strategic Planning Workshop, April 2017, Manila, the Philippines.
5. Manila Declaration, 2016.
6. Kuala Lumpur Declaration, 2013
7. Jeju Declaration on Environment and Health, 2010.
8. Bangkok Declaration on Environment and Health, 2007.
9. Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries – Framework for Cooperation, Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health, 9 August 2007, Bangkok, Thailand.
10. Communication Guidelines, Regional Forum on Environment and Health.
11. Implementation Plan of the Regional Forum 2017-2019, Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment. 6-8 October 2016, Manila, the Philippines.
12. Expansion of Regional Forum Membership, Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries
13. Framework for Cooperation of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries, Third Ministerial Regional Forum, 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
14. Guidance document on the mechanism for conducting meetings of the Regional Forum
15. Meeting Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment. 6-8 October 2016, Manila, the Philippines.
16. Progress Report of the Regional Forum in Environment and Health 2013-2016, Draft 4.0.
17. Report of the Eight High Level Officials' Meeting of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries.
18. Report of the Seventh HLOM Meeting. Third Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health. 9 September 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
19. Report of the Third Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health. 10-13 September 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
20. Report on the Governance, Impact, Partnerships and Sustainable Financial Mechanisms of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health by Chair and Vice-chair of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health (2010-2013).
21. Scientific Panel. Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries. For Discussion in the 8<sup>th</sup> HLOM Meeting.
22. Updates on the operation of the Knowledge Network including Thematic Working Groups. Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries. For discussion in the 8<sup>th</sup> HLOM Meeting

# Guiding questions

- 1. What have been the major challenges or obstacles faced by APRFHE in achieving its objectives?*
- 2. What areas where APRFHE's efforts have been insufficient or where additional support and focus are needed?*
- 3. What key areas or issues should APRFHE prioritize in its future work plan to better address the current and emerging health and environment challenges in the region?*
- 4. How can member countries contribute to strengthening the governance, funding, and operational mechanisms of APRFHE?*