

Concept Note

Consultation Meeting on the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP)

13 October 2017, Busan, Republic of Korea,

Background

In 2012, NEASPEC member States jointly conducted the “Review of existing and required capacities for addressing adverse environmental impact of transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia”. The Review identified existing gaps and possible steps forward, and in particular, recommended the development of a subregional framework that covers all components of transboundary air pollution, strengthens connections between science and policy, and provides channels for exchange of knowledge and information, etc.

As a follow-up to the Review, in 2014-2016 NEASPEC carried out the Project “Development of Technical and Policy Framework for Transboundary Air Pollution Assessment and Abatement”. It involved a series of expert consultations, modeling of Source-Receptor Relationship (SRR) of transboundary air pollution, and technical assessment on a new framework. As a key outcome of the Project, the Secretariat presented the proposal of launching the “North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP)” to the 21ST Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-21) of NEASPEC held in March 2017. While recognizing the value of the proposed NEACAP, SOM-21 suggested the Secretariat to conduct further consultation with member Governments and relevant mechanisms for its development.

The proposal contained a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of NEACAP as a voluntary and science-based, policy-oriented programme under NEASPEC. Key elements of the TOR are as follows.

- **Objectives:** (i) promotes environmental cooperation, including its science, policy and technical aspects; (ii) enhances and further develop information and experience exchange; (iii) acts as the key voluntary framework addressing transboundary air pollution issues in North-East Asia; (iv) contributes to the development of relevant national and subregional policies; and (v) promotes knowledge on environmental and human health aspects of air pollution.
- **Target pollutants:** Focus on pollutants of national and subregional concern, namely Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) and Ozone, and other relevant pollutants, including

Sulfur Oxides (SO_x), Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Black Carbon, Ammonia (NH₃) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

- **Core Programmes:** (i) exchanges available and relevant information to extent possible; (ii) engages in common research activity development; and (iii) proposes potential technical and policy measures. These programmes would be supported by regular meetings, review reports, technical projects, open forums and outreach.
- **Organizational structure:** Proposed bodies include the Science and Policy Committee, and Technical Centers, which will be operated under the broad guidance of the Senior Officials Meetings of NEASPEC.

Considering the proposed nature of NEACAP as a comprehensive and open platform, the TOR thus underlines the significance of harnessing processes and products of relevant mechanisms and programmes including the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), the Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants in Northeast Asia (LTP), the Model Inter-Comparison Study for Asia (MICS Asia) and its MIX Asian Emission Inventory, and Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP).

Goals

- To discuss the proposed objectives, core programmes and organizational structures as well as other matters relevant to the effective working of NEACAP
- To develop the modality of collaboration with relevant mechanisms and programmes including EANET, LTP, MICS-Asia, MIX Asian emission inventory, etc.
- To revise the draft NEACAP Terms of Reference for consideration of the 22nd Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-22) in 2018

Participants

- NEASPEC national focal points
- Representatives of ministries concerned
- National experts
- Representatives of relevant mechanisms and programmes

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Proposed objectives, core programme and organizational structures of NEACAP
3. Modality of collaboration with relevant mechanisms and programmes
4. NEACAP Terms of Reference
5. Closing