



Expert Group Meeting on NEASPEC Project

“Development of the Technical and Policy Frameworks for Transboundary Air Pollution Assessment and Abatement in North-East Asia”

1 May 2014, Incheon, Republic of Korea

I. Background

In 2012, NEASPEC implemented a project on the “Review of existing and required capacities for addressing adverse environmental impact of transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia”. The project conducted a comprehensive review of existing regional and multilateral mechanisms and scientific studies on air quality monitoring and management, which include the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), the Joint Research Project on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants in North-East Asia (LTP Project), Model Inter-comparison Study in Asia (MICS-Asia) and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP). The project also reviewed results from national studies on environmental impacts of air pollution, national policies and the linkages between domestic measures and regional/subregional mechanisms. This review showed strong potential for further improvement of national and subregional capacity on air pollution issue both on technical and policy levels, and identified existing gaps and possible steps forward.

The review recognized the various aspects of monitoring and assessment of transboundary air pollution under the existing regional and multilateral mechanisms. However, it also noted the lack of subregional frameworks to provide a holistic approach covering all components of transboundary air pollution management, including science-to-policy mechanisms in North-East Asia. Based on this assessment, the review highlighted some common recommendations that haven been identified among different countries:

- Develop a regional strategy addressing transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia;

- Develop a regional mechanism (framework) for cooperation that would take into account the identified gaps, building on experience and capacity of existing mechanisms;
- Address the air pollution-climate interaction while tackling short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs);
- Implement a holistic program of transboundary air pollution regulation including control of all main pollutants, air quality monitoring and emissions data gathering, atmospheric modeling, impact assessment on health and ecosystems, and an effective emissions abatement strategy;
- Strengthen connection between research and policy, using CLRTAP and its EMEP as a model; and
- Provide a channel for open and effective exchange of knowledge and data among members.

As a follow-up to the review, the Russian Government presented a new project proposal entitled “the Development of Technical and Policy Framework for Transboundary Air Pollution Assessment and Abatement” to the 17th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held in 2012. The proposed project aims to enhance cooperation on assessment and mitigation of transboundary air pollution in the subregion through the promotion of common methodologies and establishment of a framework which would function on a continual basis. In this regard, it proposed data and technology assessment, modeling study, formulation of a conceptual approach to the development of the framework, and extensive expert discussions. Subsequent to the SOM-17, member governments had further consultations on the proposal to clarify and resolve different views and questions on proposed approaches and activities, and finally endorsed the proposal during the SOM-18 in November 2013¹.

II. Goals and Activities

This project is aimed to facilitate joint scientific assessment and consultations among member States on a potential subregional framework for addressing transboundary air pollution. In this regard, this project plans to have the following activities:

¹ The SOM also noted a number of views and recommendations from member States, which include the need for a comprehensive framework on transboundary air pollution in the subregion (Republic of Korea); the need for capacity training and emphasis on information exchange, as well as taking into account subregion-specific situation and consulting member States with regard to utilizing experiences from other mechanisms, notably, CLRTAP (China); the importance of the efficient use of resources and close collaboration with existing programmes within the subregion (Japan); and the relevance of this proposal on the bilateral cooperation between Mongolia and Japan in developing inventory guidelines and training workshops (Mongolia).

- (1) Assess data and technical approaches, and prepare a modelling methodology of transboundary air pollution across the NEASPEC subregion that complements existing modelling activities in the subregion;
- (2) Carry out modelling of transboundary air pollution in the subregion; and
- (3) Formulate the concept of a subregional framework on assessment and mitigation of transboundary air pollution, including draft mandate, aims and objectives/tasks, short and long-term work plans, science-policy links and institutional structure

II. Organization of the meeting

The meeting will be held on 1 May 2014 in Incheon, Republic of Korea at the premises of the UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office, located at the following address:

UN ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office
6th Fl. G-Tower, 175 Art Center-daero, Yeonsu-gu
Incheon 406-840 Republic of Korea
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Objective of the Expert Group Meeting

- Discuss technical approaches and activities in line with the overall project goal and views of member governments expressed during the SOM-18;
- Discuss the overall implementation plan for assessing data and technical approaches, developing a modelling methodology of transboundary air pollution, carrying out a modelling and formulating the concept of a subregional framework;
- Discuss the role of each national implementing body and experts in project implementation

Organizer

- UNESCAP-ENEA (NEASPEC secretariat)

Expected Participants

- National experts nominated by each NEASPEC member State

Provisional Programme

1 May 2014	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:15	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome address and opening speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Director, UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office</i> • Introduction to goals and objectives of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Sangmin Nam, Secretariat of NEASPEC</i>
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee/tea break
10:45 – 12:30	<p>Session 1: Planning Project Implementation – review of approaches and activities</p> <p><i>Discuss technical approaches and activities in line with the overall project goal and views of member governments expressed during the SOM-18; and the overall implementation plan for assessing data and technical approaches, developing a modelling methodology of transboundary air pollution, carrying out a modelling and formulating the concept of a subregional framework</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:45	Session 1 (continued)
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee/tea break
15:00 – 17:30	<p>Session 2: Planning Project Implementation – role of national implementing body and experts</p> <p><i>Discuss the role of each national implementing body and experts in project implementation</i></p>
17:30 – 18:00	Wrap-up of the meeting