

Concept Note

NEACAP 1st Policy Dialogue: presenting the preliminary findings from the NEACAP Policy Analysis Report

23 September 2024, Incheon, Republic of Korea (Hybrid)

Background

Established in 2018 as the flagship programme under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) is committed to addressing air pollution challenges in North-East Asia.

As outlined in the [NEACAP Terms of Reference \(TOR\)](#), the core programmes of NEACAP include: (i) sharing relevant information and data, (ii) coordinating with relevant mechanisms and synthesizing their results in accordance with NEACAP activities, and (iii) proposing potential technical and policy measures to tackle air pollution.

The TOR specifies that these core programmes are supported by (a) regular and ad-hoc meetings; (b) annual or biannual subregional review reports; (c) seminars, workshops, and training sessions; and (d) research projects. To elaborate and operationalize these core programmes, a series of consultations and discussions was conducted, and consequently, the NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025 was adopted with an indicative list of activities on “Policy and Technology Cooperation”, which is a priority area for the five-year plan. The list of activities includes organizing policy dialogues for exchanging information and policy experience, as well as conducting policy analysis in support of these policy dialogues.

NEACAP Policy Analysis Report

The report examines the progress and challenges in managing air pollution in North-East Asia in the past decade, focusing on China, Japan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea. By documenting these successes, the report supports the process of strengthening policy exchange and collaboration between countries of North-East Asia. Beyond reviewing policy progress, it discusses existing and emerging challenges in each country, underscores the importance of continued regional cooperation, and proposes a roadmap for future initiatives to ensure cleaner air and a healthier environment for the people of North-East Asia.

Facilitated by the NEASPEC Secretariat in line with the agreed work plan under NEACAP, the policy analysis report was developed by an author's group comprising of a lead consultant and nominated national experts. Mr. Zbigniew Klimont (Pollution Management Research Group Leader, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)) developed the report, supported by NEASPEC Secretariat, based on inputs received from the national experts nominated by NEASPEC member States.

NEACAP Policy Dialogue

The NEACAP First Policy Dialogue aims to: (i) present the preliminary findings of the NEACAP Policy Analysis Report to policymakers and stakeholders from member States; (ii) seek substantial insights and comments from participants to enhance the Report for submission to the 27th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-27) of NEASPEC, as advised during SOM-26 ¹.

Participants

During the Fifth Meeting of the Science and Policy Committee (SPC) of NEACAP, the Committee highlighted the importance of engaging policymakers from member States in the process of developing the report and policy dialogues.² To this end, the envisaged participants of the policy dialogue include:

- Officials from relevant government units involved in air pollution management and policies
- NEASPEC National Focal Points
- NEACAP SPC members and Technical Center (TC) representatives
- Report Authors' Group

¹ SOM-26 report (<https://neaspec.org/content/neaspec-26th-senior-officials-meeting>).

² SPC-5 report (<https://neaspec.org/content/fifth-meeting-science-and-policy-committee-north-east-asia-clean-air-partnership>).

Provisional Programme [23rd September]

Time	Agenda	Led by
10:00-10:10	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome remarks 	
Overview (Facilitator: NEASPEC Secretariat)		
10:10-10:20	A. Overview of the Joint Research Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief introduction to the joint research project including its goals, methodology, and the collaborative efforts involved. 	NEASPEC Secretariat
10:20-11:20	B. Overview of the NEACAP Policy Analysis Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive overview of the report including (1) Report outline and structure, (2) Key findings and messages, and (3) Recommendations to set the stage for detailed discussions. 	Mr. Zbigniew Klimont (IIASA) and national experts
11:20-12:00	Q&A (General feedback)	
12:00-13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
Deep-dive Sessions (Facilitator: Mr. Zbigniew Klimont)		
13:00-14:00	C. Discussions on Report's Data Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback collection: Gather detailed feedback on the data collection and methodologies, analytical approaches, and scientific rigor of the report - Discussion points: consistency of data sources, data accuracy, reliability, and applicability to policymaking. 	Participants working on environmental science and data analysis (e.g., SPC members, TC representatives) will provide their feedback on the discussion points (with guiding questions).
14:00-15:00	D. Discussions on Report's Policy Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback collection: Solicit insights on the policy analysis including completeness, relevance, effectiveness, and fitness to address future challenges. - Discussion points: policy implementation challenges, success cases and lessons learned, addressing emerging environmental challenges 	Participants working on policies (e.g., NEASPEC NFPs, officials from government units involved in air pollution management and policies) will provide their feedback on the discussion points (with guiding questions).

Time	Agenda	Led by
15:00-15:30	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>	
15:30-16:30	E. Discussions on Report's Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback collection: Assess the practicality and potential impact of the recommendations provided in the report. - Discussion points on (1) prioritization of recommendations, (2) potential barriers, and (3) strategies for effective implementation. 	All participants, with a focus on national level recommendation or regional cooperation perspectives.
16:30-17:00	F. Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recap main points from the feedback sessions, highlight consensus areas, and outline next steps for report finalization 	NEASPEC Secretariat