



Symposium 2024 Climate Change and Air Quality Management

Seoul, Republic of Korea, September 10, 2024

Draft Concept Note

Background

Air pollution is a major environmental issue that adversely affects human health and ecosystems, underscoring the importance of clean air for quality of life and environmental sustainability. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution is responsible for approximately 7 million premature deaths annually, with the majority occurring in the Asia-Pacific region.

Over the past few decades, numerous efforts have been made to tackle air pollution, leading to the establishment of cooperation mechanisms at subregional, regional, and global levels. Notable among these are the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP), launched in 2018, and the Asia Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP), initiated in 2022.

Emphasizing the importance of science-based policymaking for air quality management, NEACAP organized a symposium in 2023 in partnership with the National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center (NAIR), Republic of Korea. The event highlighted scientific approaches in addressing air pollution and presented findings on the effectiveness of air quality improvement policies, which are fundamental to air quality management. This symposium inaugurated an annual commitment to facilitate information exchange and enhance international cooperation in air quality management.

Objective

Building on the success of the first NEACAP Symposium in 2023, the Symposium 2024 is being organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), and the NAIR, Republic of Korea. Its goal is to further strengthen regional cooperation and dialogue among various stakeholders not only from North-East Asia but also across the Asia-Pacific region.

The Symposium 2024 will focus on the critical nexus between climate change and air quality management. As urbanization and industrialization accelerate in the Asia-Pacific, the combined threats of air pollution and climate change are becoming increasingly severe. The Symposium 2024 aims to catalyze regional collaboration in addressing these intertwined issues, providing a valuable platform for stakeholders throughout Asia-Pacific to share insights and enhance regional efforts against climate change and air pollution.

The sessions will focus on: (1) Climate Change and Air Quality Management; (2) Reduction Goals of Air Pollutant Emission Management Policy, and (3) The impact of air quality management policies on climate change.

TIME	Programme
09:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:30	Opening Session
	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jiwon Seong, Head of NAIR, Republic of Korea ○ Ganbold Baasanjav, Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office Congratulatory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wansup Kim, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea (Video message) ○ Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Video message)
10:30-10:50	Keynote Speech
	Keynote: Climate Change and Air Quality Management – a mid-to long-term perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
10:50-12:20	Session 1. Climate Change and Air Quality Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yunhwa Jeong, Deputy Director, Air Quality Policy Division, MOE, ROK ○ Kayla McCauley, Physical Scientist, Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards, EPA, US ○ Ekbordin Winijkul, Associate Professor, Environmental Engineering and Management, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand ○ Sara Basart, Scientific Officer, Science and Innovation Department, WMO
12:20-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Session 2. Reduction Goals of Air Pollutant Emission Management Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taegon Song, Director, NAIR, Republic of Korea ○ Di Wang, Deputy director, CRAES, China ○ TBD ○ Sophie Moukhtar, Head of the Air Pollution Team, Citepa, France
15:30-15:50	Break
15:50-17:20	Session 3. The Impact of Air Quality Management Policies on Climate Change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rokjin Park, Professor, Seoul National University, ROK ○ Everlyn Tamayo, Air Quality and Climate Change Science Lead, Clean Air Asia ○ Sarav Arunachalam, Research Professor, Institute for the Environment, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA ○ John Salter, Head of International Air Quality, Air Quality and Industrial Emissions, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ○ Canan Esin Köksal, Senior Environmental Expert, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye
17:20-17:30	Closing
	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Il-Young Oh, Director General of Air Quality Policy, MOE, ROK ○ Ganbold Baasanjav, Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office

※ There will be a Q&A session at the end of each session.