



2026 Blue Sky Symposium

September 7, 2026

Le Ciel 31 (31st Floor), Seoul Dragon City Hotel

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Background

Air pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental and public health challenges in North-East Asia. Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and ground-level ozone continue to pose significant risks to human health, ecosystems, agricultural productivity, and climate resilience. Despite important progress made by countries in the region through strengthened regulations, monitoring systems, and technological advancements, PM and ozone pollution remain persistent challenges requiring coordinated regional responses.

The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, observed annually on 7 September pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/212, provides an important opportunity to raise awareness, promote international cooperation, and accelerate action toward cleaner air.

In this context, the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership ([NEACAP](#)), National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center ([NAIR](#)) of the Republic of Korea, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia ([EANET](#)) and United Nations Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)) will jointly organize the “2026 Blue Sky Symposium” to promote knowledge exchange, strengthen regional cooperation, and highlight emerging policy and technological approaches to address PM and ozone pollution.

The symposium will bring together policymakers, researchers, technical experts, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to discuss integrated air quality management approaches, advances in monitoring and modelling, and innovative solutions including artificial intelligence (AI)-based applications for air pollution

analysis and forecasting.

Objectives

The symposium aims to

- Promote regional dialogue and cooperation on PM and ozone pollution;
- Share recent policy developments, scientific findings, and best practices;
- Explore innovative approaches including AI applications for air quality analysis and forecasting; and
- Strengthen science-policy linkages among governments, experts, and international organizations.

Organizers

- ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia, serving as the Secretariat for NEACAP
- National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center (NAIR), Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Republic of Korea
- United Nations Environment Programme, serving as the Secretariat for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

Expected Outcomes

The symposium is expected to strengthen regional dialogue for cooperation, facilitate knowledge exchange on PM and ozone management, and promote innovative and science-based approaches toward cleaner air in North-East Asia.

Contact, Registration and More Information

- E-mail: mzkim@korea.kr
- Website: <https://blueskies.kr>

Provisional Programme

Time	Programme
09:00-09:30	Opening Session • Ms. Heun-jin Oh, Head, National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center (NAIR) • Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Deputy Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office • Ms. Yujeong Kim, Senior Programme Management Officer, UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office • Congratulatory Remarks: Ms. Soyun Kim, Executive Director, Coolimate (Youth Climate Action Bridge)
09:30-11:00	Session 1 - Towards Coordinated and Integrated Air Quality Management: Addressing PM and Ozone Interlinkages Lead Organizer: ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office (serving as the Secretariat for NEACAP) • Mr. Josselyn Mothe, Technical Officer, WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health • Mr. ZENG Jinghai, Division Director, Department of Atmospheric Environment, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China • Ms. LEE Nayoung, Senior Deputy Director, Air Quality Policy Division, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Republic of Korea • Ms. Nidhi Malik, Senior Associate on Air Quality, Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) • Mr. Eric Zusman, Programme Director/Director of Integrated Sustainability Centre, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) • Q&A
11:00-11:10	Coffee break
11:10-12:10	Session 2 - Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI): Strengthening PM2.5 and Ozone Analysis Lead organizer: National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center • Mr. Soontae Kim, Professor, Ajou University • Ms. Minyoung Song, Research Fellow, The Seoul Institute • Mr. Kyung-Hwan Kwak, Professor, Kangwon National University • Q&A

Time	Programme
12:10-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:30	International Day of Clean Air for blue skies Commemoration ceremony Hosted by: Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment of the Republic of Korea
14:30-15:00	Coffee break
15:00-16:30	Session 3 – From Science to Governance: Building Effective Policy Responses to PM2.5 and Ozone Lead organizer: UNEP (serving as the Secretariat for the EANET) • Secretariat for the EANET • Dr. Yangxi Chu, Research Professor, Institute of Atmospheric Environment, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES), China • Dr. Jun-ichi Kurokawa, Head, Data Management Department, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), Japan • Ms. Nurul Syazreen Razali, Environmental Control Officer, Air Division, Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Malaysia • Prof. Enkhdul Tuuguu, Associate Professor in the Department of Environment and Forest Engineering, National University of Mongolia • Ms. Renée Gift, Legal Officer, Law Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) • Q&A • Ms. Yujeong Kim, Senior Programme Management Officer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Ad Interim Coordinator, Secretariat for the EANET
16:30-17:00	Closing Session • Mr. Sergey Gromov, Chair, 8th Meeting of the NEACAP Science and Policy Committee • Dr. Joonyoung Ahn, Senior Researcher, Air Quality Research Division, Air Quality Research Department, National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) / Chair, EANET Scientific Advisory Committee