



**Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP)  
12<sup>th</sup> Advisory Group Meeting  
Meeting Summary**

**16 November 2021, 15:00-17:00 (JST)  
Virtual via Webex**



## Meeting summary

On 16 November 2021, the 12<sup>th</sup> Advisory Group meeting of the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) was virtually held due to COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately twenty members from government agencies, international organisations and research institutions joined the meeting and discussed the following: 1) starting new work plan and 2) extended collaboration.

The ACP Advisory Group then agreed to:

- 1) Publish series of policy briefs including One Atmosphere Approach and co-benefits integration in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)s;
- 2) Contribute to the low cost sensor pilot projects; and
- 3) Contribute to the co-benefits webinar series

## Meeting Minutes:

**15:00 - 15:10 (10 minutes)**

### Opening and Introduction

#### **1. Opening remarks:** Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura, IGES

The ACP co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura, welcomed participants to the online Advisory Group meeting. He noted that the meeting agenda with its focus on filling out the new work plan and identifying areas of collaborative research aligns well with global trends that increasingly promote the acceleration of climate actions. Although each country and organisation will take a different approach to climate change, we all agree that there is a need for decarbonisation. At the same time, the amount of science-based data on the increased seriousness of air pollution is growing. To address the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), advancing co-benefits is fundamental. He then underlined that it is time to identify and conduct collaborative work that will help policymakers and other stakeholders work toward these integrated ends.

#### **2. Objective of the meeting:** ACP Secretariat, IGES

Dr. Eric Zusman of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the ACP Secretariat, shared the objectives of the meeting. The primary goal is to start new work plan prepared over last two years and fill in the work programme table with different activities divided into four key operational elements. Then the meeting would focus on extended collaboration in some of areas within the context of work plan, extend existing work or identify few key collaborative projects (above and beyond the existing work) for the ACP.

#### **3. Self-introduction by participants**

Co-chair Ohmura began the meeting by suggesting that participants offer a brief self-introduction. Participants followed with self-introductions. The Secretariat reported members from the Mongolia would be absent from the meeting due to the COP 26 participation.

**15:10 - 16:00 (50 minutes)**

**Discussion 1: Starting New Work Plan**

Facilitator: Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura

**1. Overview of New Work Plan and Activities**

Dr. Zusman provided a presentation that recalled the relevance and importance of translating co-benefits research into related policies. In this context, he noted that the Glasgow Climate Pact devoted particular attention to the linkages between climate change and sustainable development. He then shared that similar messages were highlighted in the ACP White Paper 2020. In particular, the ACP White Paper 2020 suggested the need for leveraging the interlinkages between air pollution and climate change to carry forward the 25 co-benefits solutions in UNEP's *Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based Solutions*. The White Paper further concluded that this requires 1) mobilising finance; 2) strengthening policies/institutions; and 3) building capacities to implement solutions at scale. He then suggested since the release of the White Paper and through consultations with advisory group members it was determined to translate these three areas in the 2020 ACP White Paper into four essential operational elements to help frame and organize ACP activities moving forward: 1) promotion of science-based policies; 2) mobilising finance to implement solutions; 3) strengthen essential capacities; and 4) enhance coordination across partners.

**2. Prospects of Work Plan 2021-2022**

Under the session facilitated by Mr. Ohmura, Ms. Kaye Patdu of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) raised two questions for the clarification on Dr. Zusman's presentation: one is about the indicated gaps that ACP attempts to address, especially the project-based funding mechanism that ACP plans to create. The other is how each organisation could fill in the four operational elements. In particular, she wanted to clarify whether details for the specific activities ACP refer to activities that organisations are already working on or whether there should be an emphasis on additional collaborative work.

On the first point, Dr. Zusman answered that the Secretariat does not anticipate creating an ACP project-based finance mechanism but rather promote ways that co-benefits through existing mechanisms or opportunities to use for small-scale types of projects. The second question was on how to explore what ACP could deliver beyond the existing members activities are already delivering. He added that the first session would spend to share what each of members activities are, then, the second hour would cover ACP-branded projects or suggestions those we could jointly contribute to in kind (with no additional financial commitment). Ms. Patdu understood the intention and suggested revisiting and revising the relevant ACP Work Plan language. (*The reference to a project mechanism in the work plan will be edited accordingly*).

Mr. Ohmura then invited Dr. Yuanyuan Li of the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE), China to share its activities. Dr. Li introduced the recent progress and improvement of Chinese law and regulations that are increasingly emphasizing co-control and co-benefits. This phenomena is not limited to research but also practical applications, including the piloting of environmental impact

assessment at the local level. In addition, she noted that the concept of co-control and co-benefits is captured in China's air pollution control law. As it is a vital phase of the 14<sup>th</sup> 5-year-plan period for China's environment, all the laws and policies consider transformation of economic and social development through co-benefits. She noted further that the co-benefits or more integrated approaches have been emphasised in many documents, including the Opinions of the Central committee and State Council on Deepening the Battle for Pollution Prevention Control. She looked forward to working with the ACP on ways to implement co-control policies and deliver trainings especially for the joint research on co-control assessment on solid waste and other areas where co-control applies.

Mr. Ittipol Pawarmart of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Thailand shared some of the activities in Thailand related to the new work plan. He noted that the Office of National Resources and Environmental Policy (under the MONRE) is in charge of the country's overarching climate policy in the form of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Thailand. It also manage co-benefits under different sectors: i.e. transport, energy, industry, and waste management sector. After COP 26, more work to evaluate and measure co-benefits is likely to take place in Thailand. He also emphasised that there is a need to evaluate potential co-benefits for the Green Port Project. In addition, a collaborative project with UNEP, SEI, CCAC on SNAP to update the emissions inventory in Thailand is moving forward. In terms of research, he expects to deliver more immediate science-based results that could help identify health and economic impacts (of relevant policies and projects), and therefore preparing data for the LEAP model is very useful.

Ms. Bulganmuran Tsevegjav from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) introduced relevant ADB projects as way to suggest possible collaboration with the ACP. The ADB has supported projects to deliver long-term sustainable improvements in air quality through a technical assistance (TA) project and policy-based loan (2.15 billion USD). The current TA project is focusing on strengthening knowledge and actions for air quality in 7 Asian cities in 5 countries; the key outcome is to assess air quality management approach with the aims of proving each city with cleaner action plan. The TA is about mid-way through the implementation process; it would be useful to assess co-benefits in the final stage when the city action plan have been formulated. She also suggested to discuss further in details on how to do so with ACP members. For the following steps, ADB is planning to bring investment in the city action plan to be implemented but potential countries and cities have yet to be identified.

Dr. Ramlal Verma of the Regional Resource Center for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP) shared the activities RRC.AP has been implementing in air pollution, climate change, and waste and resource clusters. There are three projects in the air pollution cluster, including the implementation the Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) programme with Stockholm University; support to the intergovernmental network of Malé Declaration and EANET; and capacity building projects. There are many relevant activities related to the new ACP work plan; for example, promoting science-based policies for addressing air pollution transboundary impacts in South Asia under the Malé Declaration (a co-benefits approach will likely be part of new work programme in next phase). In addition, the net zero-based solutions in the climate cluster funded by MOEJ covers webinars and other capacity building programmes to understand how to implement relevant solutions in the field. Regarding the mobilising financial resources, with member countries of the Malé Declaration, RRC.AP is seeking opportunities from funding agencies for implementation of air pollution solutions in Southeast Asia and also a mentoring for the Green Climate Fund project development for climate change adaptation and development of e-learning programmes. For the capacity building, RRC.AP organised the a 5-day workshop for Asian countries – around 30 countries participated for about 200 programmes. The workshop was

supported by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) to implement 2-year capacity development programme on Air Quality Management (AQM) and PM2.5 reduction in ASEAN countries.

Mr. Bjarne Pedersen of Clean Air Asia (CAA) started by commenting that filling in the new work plan is difficult as most of the activities CAA the integration of co-control and co-benefits. In the future, CAA will focus more on climate, especially clean air and public health. He then noted the need to promote co-benefits and co-control after the COP 26 as the linkages between air pollution and climate change were not high on the agenda. Regarding the detailed activities for the new work plan, he described CAA's support for strengthening the national policy frameworks, including coal-fired power plants and clean energy transition across countries in Southeast Asia as well as at the city level.

For the mobilising finance, CAA launched the Guidance Framework on Financing Air Quality Management, funded by MOEJ, to implement cost-benefit analysis of programmes. Regarding capacity building activities, CAA adopts a needs-based approach of local, national, and regional level (based on the Guidance Framework). Coordinating and communicating impacts has been an area that has received growing attention in China this year with large number of NGOs. Similarly-themed campaigns such as Youth for Clean Air in India, I am a +Bluer campaign in China, Care for Blue Air in the Philippines have also been launched.

Dr. Kevin Hicks of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) expressed his support for the previously mentioned comments on collaboration with UNEP as SEI was fully involved in the publication of the Solutions Report to promote science-based policy research on co-benefits. He then suggested a few ideas on how ACP could facilitate to promote more with the ACP label on it rather than loose affiliation of partners. In this connection, he presented SEI's activities on the Green Technology Centre based in Korea to seek for the regional collaboration as well as LEAP application in Thailand. The regional cooperation under the Malé Declaration with RRC.AP would be another opportunity ACP to promote progress on mobilising finances as it expands the focus from air pollution to co-benefits. Net-zero is another area of interest for SEI, especially diet integrating nutrition management. Mobilising finance is not part of SEI's activity while promoting science-based policies, building capacity using LEAP tool, and helping coordinate partnership are all relevant to SEI's work. On behalf of Dr. Chris Malley of SEI (who could not communicate due to a technical issue) Dr. Hicks noted the importance of integrating co-benefits into NDCs in relation to the science-based policies.

Ms. Kaye Patdu of UNEP also showed her support for those points raised by the previous speakers. Some specific suggestions and activities from the UNEP side would be that, above all, the Solutions Report will have the ASEAN version and will be implemented those solutions with the continued support from UNEP, In particular, she pointed out the first Clean Air Plan of Cambodia is one example of a policy that is likely to correspond with the new solutions report. She also noted a new project facilitating regional collaboration is for ASEAN on the interlinkages between climate, air quality, and health with further emphasis on the assessment of investment cost to set measures. Other continued coordination activities are the facilitation of APCAP and annual International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. Within APCAP Science Panel activities, a series of policy briefs are being developed and joint briefs with ACP would be welcomed. She added her suggestion for further discussion on new platform called, UN Regional Collaborative Platform and issue-based coalitions (IBC), for different agencies in various regions to address common issues where UN agencies could bring impact. In Asia-Pacific region, climate change mitigation and air pollution is one of the main issues through NDC implementation and regional mechanism for cooperation. This IBC is now led by UNEP and UNESCAP, so, it could be shared with ACP to find the way to collaborate.

Mr. Nathan Borgford-Parnell of Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) echoed his support for all the activities previous speakers mentioned especially those of the existing collaborations with CCAC. He introduced the newly launched methane flagship at COP26 that aims to dramatically scale up methane mitigation over the next decade. It will be working through the supporting national action planning (SNAP) initiatives turning to the national planning hub to build capacity in countries all over not only focus on the common issue of SLCPs but also quickly working with at least 18 countries next year to develop national roadmaps and action plans to convert their commitment of the national methane pledge into meaningful science-based policies and actions. The science panel of the CCAC will work hard to raise the air pollution connection to methane mitigation to help more meaningful part of policy and CCAC will be the secretariat for the ministerial component of the Global Methane Pledge to facilitate deployment of the budget of 328 million USD to support 30% reduction by 2030 for the capacity building and real action on the ground. Activities preserve consideration for ACP collaboration in depth could be the economic impacts of the SLCPs measuring implementation.

### **3. Discussion on ACP Activities and others**

After activities contributing to the ACP new work plan were shared with the advisory members, the Secretariat identified a few possible areas for collaboration moving forward. One is still a need for the promotion of co-benefits at the international level in a climate policy discussion after COP26. For this, we should work on what types of knowledge productions and promotional events would promote co-benefits more actively included. Similarly, there are on-going opportunities to promote in regional policy making processes i.e. revitalisation of the Malé Declaration, promotions at the local and national levels from ADB, CAA, UNEP etc. hence, there might be some opportunities for the ACP to help share some of these experiences.

In relation to this, Dr. Zusman presented potential collaborative activities that could be discussed further in the second session:

- The first long term activity focused more on the Sustainable Development Goals: promoting the linkages between climate change and air quality as part of the post-2030 SDGs (under a One Atmosphere approach) and produce knowledge products--i.e. policy briefs on the Post SDG 2030.
- Another medium term activity is to propose and deliver a Special IPCC Report on Co-benefits; this would require additional support from governments.
- The near term project could be the small scale co-benefits pilot project with the existing ACP resources to raise awareness with low cost sensor to monitor progress in schools, then, scale up the project to mobilise financial support.
- A final near term activity would be the contributions from ACP members to join the co-benefits tools learning webinar series to familiarise different tools to access and analyse co-benefits among stakeholders and policymakers.

**16:00 - 16:50 (50 minutes)**

#### **Discussion 2: Extended Collaboration**

Facilitator: Co-chair, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Thammasat University

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, ACP co-chair, opened the second session to discuss extended collaboration among ACP advisory group members based on the presented activities from each members as well as the potential areas the Secretariat raised.

Dr. Hicks showed his enthusiasm to contribute the webinar series from the SEI side. And he also supported the idea of a One Atmosphere Approach as he recalled the beginning of its concept and it is time to move forward beyond 2030 as no specific air pollutions mentioned in the current SDGs. He agreed to help champion an integrated approach; he also pointed out the need for action as IPCC has worked out research reports and it is time to start mobilising finance to get the solutions on the ground working. ACP has identified solutions; he therefore felt we should concentrate on how the plans could be operationalize on the ground.

Dr. Supat was pleased to hear SEI's support for both webinar series and the publication on One Atmosphere Approach. Regarding the publication, Dr. Supat emphasised the active contribution from the advisory group members, especially the IPCC Report on co-benefits might need full support. He asked the Secretariat what kind of mechanism would follow when members decide to work on IPCC Report or low-cost sensor project.

In terms of contributions for promoting in the science based policies, Dr. Zusman said the Secretariat could lead developing outline and ask members' contributions; in this context, it was noted that the members of Thailand and China already have good experiences could demonstrate on the ground actions and applications of co-benefits approach. For the Special IPCC Report, it will take time to work through the IPCC cycle with government support during IPCC meetings. Regarding a small-scale project, the possibility could be to start using small portion of ACP budget and discuss with other funding agencies how to move forward.

Dr. Supat agreed the mechanism of the production of policy briefs could be similar to the previous ACP White Papers; however, for the coordination we might need external organisations and governments. He asked for further elaboration on this matter to UNEP or CCAC.

Ms. Kaye responded that she needs to go through internal consultation with UNEP's climate colleagues in terms of the process for the Special IPCC Report publication. For the policy briefs, UNEP could offer the opportunity to be engaged in the cooperative platform and the IBC that UN coordinate with other countries as it covers key issues including climate change mitigation, just transition, and gender etc. and those could become different dimensions of a co-benefits approach. She also supported the note from Dr. Malley of SEI in the chat box to revisit the idea of how to support NDCs and work with few countries to raise their ambition.

In the chat box, Dr. Chris Malley mentioned: "In addition to Eric's summary about the Glasgow Climate Pact, I think the other significant element for ACPs Work Plan is that countries were also 'requested' to submit more ambitious NDCs before COP 27. This aligns with the timeline of the ACP Work Plan. It would be useful for this group to support countries in the region, if they will submit new NDCs, to integrate co-benefits into 2022 NDCs. In other regions we have seen a change in how countries include co-benefits in their NDCs submitted before COP 26. In Latin America we have three countries with specific targets on black carbon. In Africa we have the first ever NDCs submitted which specific state quantified health benefits from NDC implementation. SEI would be interested and happy to work with others to identify how these could be strengthened across the region.

Dr. Hicks agreed the linkage co-benefits to NDC is good place to put our efforts. In terms of the publication of Special IPCC Report, it has specific process to get through and it is labour-intensive to launch. We should seek for efficient and alternative way including publications with UNEP to fit into the UNEA process etc.

Mr. Borgford-Parnell had an experience and learnt that it would take a long process of multiple years to get published with approval from IPCC and countries involved in it. He definitely supports the webinar series. Publications like policy briefs with the UNEP's Blue Sky label would be possible and also with the NDCs to look at the implementation strategies. To include co-benefits approach into the NDCs in a more meaningful way, and thus he felt we should engage country partners who were involved in the negotiation process; that would be a long-term process. For the short-term, guidance for what should be into the NDCs for the specific country could be added and it would be useful to get the official guideline into the guidebook on NDCs for co-benefits. The idea on SDGs also would be covered within CCAC Science Advisory Panel (SAP). He highlighted the importance of the process of identifying and reporting indicators and suggested to consider how the actual functioning of reporting and monitoring for the next SDGs could facilitate co-benefits.

Dr. Verma supported the suggestion from Dr. Hicks and raised his idea to develop regional analysis on country level co-benefits cases prior to global scale of the IPCC Special Report. The scope of the region could be discussed further and publish strong evidence to put into the co-benefits related IPCC report. Regarding the One Atmosphere Approach, he agreed with Mr. Borgford-Parnell to develop the indicators for it: how to frame this approach into the workable form. He also raised a question regarding the sensor based monitoring project whether any region or country has been identified for the project. Dr. Zusman answered that there are existing low-cost sensor pilot projects in schools in the Philippines and MOEJ may have an interest in it. The projects could create multiple benefits.

According to the discussion among advisory group members, Dr. Supat identifies the Special IPCC Report would be too ambitious to publish but the regional report could be possible as the collaborative output among members. The point we should bear in mind is that the publication should come out from the international organisations for a potential impact. He asked the possibility with UNEP, then, to put the UNEA's table.

Ms. Kaye explained the regular schedule of UNEA is every February, and the next one is in two months of time, so, need to revisit timing of which UNEA we are aiming for. In the meantime, it would be useful to revisit the existing UNEA's Resolution that mentions air pollution (and possible co-benefits or interlinkages). As ministries and high-level colleagues engagements exist in UNEA, it would be a good opportunity. She proposed to find out the existing assessment already planned so that we could explore to incorporate the aspect of co-benefits into it rather than developing new separate assessment as UNEP already conduct in a regular basis i.e. Global Environment Outlook (GEO).

Mr. Ittipol shared two comments: one is the agreement to publish policy briefs on co-benefits for particular countries. Based on the Thailand experience, the outcome of Green Port Project to manage co-benefits in marine shipping could be utilized to develop policy briefs. The other point is to share his encouragement on low cost sensor pilots as Director General of the Pollution Control Department (PCD) is now considering on this project and preparing to evaluate it in the market. It could be useful to apply to the member countries as Thai has accumulated significant technical knowledge and information.

Dr. Supat summarized the session with several points raised: It is useful to publish policy briefs on One Atmosphere Approach; whereas, the IPCC Special Report on co-benefits is too ambitious for the time being. For the short-term goal, it would be better to take opportunity to present at UNEA with the ACP document to promote co-benefit approach. He requested the Secretariat to further explore the process with UNEP. If the process would be feasible, ACP should prepare the regional assessment on co-benefits to present.

Another point is the new work for the policy brief on the co-benefits integrated NDCs. Most of NDCs of the country have already some co-benefits activities in there but has not yet been assessed. We might need to prepare the assessment to indicate co-benefits in the current NDC; then, that could be elaborated further in the next NDCs. The last point involved for the low cost sensor. Since the standard method for PM2.5 monitoring is too expensive, many countries now use the low cost sensor although the quality of data is still the problematic. In the case of Thailand, the National Resource Council has funded work by universities to evaluate and standardise the low cost sensor so that the case from Thai could contribute to the development and use of low cost sensor with more reliable data. Lastly, the series of webinar is the great chance many of members could contribute further including CCAC, SEI, UNEP and more.

**16:50 - 17:00 (10 minutes)**

### **Next Steps and Wrap Up**

The Secretariat concluded with a few tasks to move forward such as series of policy briefs on different themes i.e. One Atmosphere Approach and co-benefits integration in NDCs. Rather than pushing to create the Special IPCC Report, we should highlight how co-benefits have been recognised in previous IPCC Reports and how that could contribute to other international processes. The area on low cost sensors projects could be elaborated further with many different members. The webinar series will also be conducted with members' contributions. The discussed collaborate activities will be listed and the Secretariat will plan details of how to implement them.

Mr. Ko Matsuura of Ministry of Environment, Japan (MOEJ) appreciated all the inputs from members and briefly shared a few points from the MOEJ side. One is on the recent development of EANET as it has been expanding the scope and activities and the local sensor projects could be worked with the EANET network, including the PCD, Thailand. IIASA is another important network MOEJ has and it should be utilised further for the future collaborative activities including webinars and workshops. Plus, the domestic network with National Institute for Environment Studies Japan (NIES) could be also good research source that MOEJ is willing to bring up to ACP.



## Meeting Agenda

### 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Co-benefits Partnership Advisory Group Meeting



16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 15:00-17:00 (JST)

Virtual via Webex

#### AGENDA

**15:00 – 15:10**

■ **Opening and introduction**

- 1) Opening remarks: *Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura*
- 2) Objective of the meeting: *ACP Secretariat, IGES*
- 3) Self-introduction by participants & Group photo

**15:10 – 16:00**

■ **Starting New Work Plan**

*Facilitator: Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura*

- 1) Overview of New Work Plan and Activities
- 2) Prospects of Work Plan 2021-2022
- 3) Discussion on ACP Activities and others

**16:00 – 16:50**

■ **Extended Collaboration**

*Facilitator: Co-chair, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana*

- Discussion for Future Collaborative Themes  
i.e. Post-2030 Agenda, One Atmosphere

**16:50 – 17:00**

■ **Next Steps and Wrap Up**

Summary of discussion and the next step

*Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, ACP Secretariat*

## Meeting Participants

	Organisation	Name	Title, Division
1	Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN	Ko Matsuura	Section Chief, International Cooperation Office, Environmental Management Bureau
2	Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE), Ministry of Ecology and Environment, CHINA	Li Liping	Division Director
3	PRCEE, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, CHINA	Li Yuanyuan	Senior Fellow
4	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, THAILAND	Ittipol Pawarmart	Head of Automotive Emission Laboratory, Air Quality and Noise Management Bureau
5	<b>[Co-chair]</b> Thammasat University	Supat Wangwongwatana	Senior Expert, Faculty of Public Health
6	<b>[Co-chair]</b> OECC/IGES	Takashi Ohmura	Senior Fellow
7	Regional Resource Center for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP)/AIT	Ramlal Verma	Head of Air Pollution Cluster
8	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Bulganmurun Tsevegjav	Senior Air Quality Specialist
9	Clean Air Asia (CAA)	Bjarne Pedersen	Executive Director
10	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	Kevin Hicks	Deputy Director
11	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	Chris Malley	Senior Research Fellow
12	Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)	Nathan Borgford-Parnell	Scientific Advisory Panel and Science Affairs Coordinator
13	UN Environment (UNEP)	Kaye Patdu	APCAP Coordinator
<b>ACP Secretariat</b>			
	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Eric Zusman	Research Leader
		So-Young Lee	Research Manager
		Kaoru Akahoshi	Research Manager



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### **Acknowledgements**

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The Secretariat for the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP), November 2021

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