



**Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP)
14th Advisory Group Meeting
Meeting Summary**

19 January 2023, 15:00-17:00 (JST)

Virtual via Zoom



Meeting summary

On 19 January 2024, the 14th Advisory Group meeting of the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) was held online. Approximately twenty members from government agencies, international organisations, and research institutions joined the meeting and discussed the following: comments on Flagship Report focusing on integrating co-benefits into the nationally determined contributions (NDCs); and the ACP Work Plan 2024-2025.

The ACP Advisory Group then supported the idea in principle to:

- 1) Finalising the process for publishing a joint Flagship Report on integrating co-benefits into NDCs reflecting comments based the meeting discussion; and,
- 2) Complete the work plan 2023-2025 and proceed with implementing its proposed actions

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 began by introducing the two main aims of the meeting: one is to collect comments and feedback on the drafted Flagship Report; and the other is to report ongoing activities of each members learn about ongoing activities of each members that would support the overall objective of the ACP. He shared the expectation from the meeting to learn about the progress of activities, exchange views and insights, and extend opportunities to further collaborate.

2. Objective of the meeting & Self-introduction¹ by participants: ACP Secretariat, IGES

As the objectives of the meeting were explained by Mr. Ohmura, Dr. Eric Zusman of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the ACP Secretariat asked participants to offer a brief self-introduction.² New attendees included the following observers: Dr. Meelan Thondoo from the World Health Organisation Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health (WHO-ACE) and Mr. Bert Fabian and Ms. Aurelia Lemoine from the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET).

¹ The Secretariat received notice from Nathan Borgford-Parnell at the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and Yeora Chae at the Korea Environment Institute absent from the meeting due to other obligations. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) was invited as the observer based on the co-chair's recommendation but was unable to participate in the meeting.

² During self-introduction, Bulganmurun Tsevegjav of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) shared her activities (due to the early leave) those achieved several progresses: one is the National Climate Action Plan for Pakistan with the collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan and this February there is a workshop in Islamabad on this. The other is the collaboration with the Clean Air Asia (CAA) at the Better Air Quality Conference.

15:10 - 16:00 (50 minutes)

Discussion 1: Feedback on Flagship Report draft

Facilitator: Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura

1. Briefing of Flagship draft

Dr. Eric Zusman provided a presentation of background on the origins of the report entitled integrating co-benefits into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), climate policies and air pollution policies in Asia. He reported that the feedback on the title from Dr. Ramlal Verma was reflected – adding in the air pollution policies into the title and the currently missing chapter for the case of China due to the progress of the official approval for publication. The brief background of the Flagship Report was that proposed by the advisory group during the 12th Advisory Group meeting. Based upon that recommendation during the 13th meeting, presentations on how co-benefits were being reflected in NDCs and other sectoral policies from Dr. Davgadorj Damdin, Mr. Ittipol Pawarmart, Dr. Li Liping as well as Dr. Chris Malley were shared and incorporated into the draft report on the country level chapters.

Highlighting some of the key messages of the report, the first chapter set the context on what has been happening with the co-benefits and underlined the fact that there was the huge progress both in terms of the concept and actual implementation of co-benefits, especially since the ACP was created. At the same time, the opportunity to leverage co-benefits to strengthen NDCs and other relevant policies has become even stronger. There also has been continuing amount of important research in this area both in terms of conventional modelling studies and new emerging areas that are getting more attention in the work on co-benefits (including linkages with biodiversity and social equity). Also, several initiatives that are moving forward the concept of co-benefits. Hence, the introductory chapter attempted to cover a triangle among these different developments – the NDCs and co-benefits, the research continuing to push the envelope on co-benefits. The other important opportunities for finances especially through the Article 6 was also mentioned. To take advantage and to sit in the centre of these three developments, the report suggested that it would be increasingly important to see how countries are working to bring co-benefits into their NDCs and climate, air pollution and other sectoral policies. The report set the objectives is to showcase the progress and the efforts to integrate co-benefits and to NDCs and how to strengthen implementation of key actions as well as strengthen the integration between the research, policy, and action on co-benefits.

The second chapter was from the case of Thailand conducted by Mr. Ittipol Pawarmart of the Pollution Control Department (PCD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and providing developments in terms of Thailand's NDCs and its key sectoral policies including PM2.5 Control Plan. The chapter highlighted the Thai case that could be strengthened, leveraged, and also be shared with other countries. In terms of institutional development, Thailand has the National Committee on Climate Change overseeing the national climate change policy and working on integration, especially the quantitative evidence on co-benefits. Another important development in Thailand that was this advent of the bio circular green economy model that offers the opportunity to link with some of the interest in co-benefits and the nature-based solutions (NBS).

The Mongolia chapter, prepared by Dr. Dagvadorj Damdin, Climate Change Development Academy

Mongolia, also underlined the growing attention to co-benefits in Mongolia as well at the NDC. There has been efforts and provisions that link into the co-benefit arguments, for instance, in renewable energy, also efforts on the air pollution side, especially in Ulaanbaatar, in terms of restrictions on coal. The chapter draws attention to the fact that Mongolia has not only upgraded opportunities for working on co-benefits in the NDC but also in its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) namely, the Voluntary National Review (VNR). The Mongolia's first VNR places a significant emphasis on air pollution and linkage with climate change, health, and many of the other SDGs. This would be a good example that other countries could learn from, especially given the fact that there is no separate SDG for air pollution. The Mongolia case is important for what it shows about opportunities and challenges as well as that other countries could learn from Mongolia's experience.

The last chapter is the China chapter prepared by the ACP Advisory Group member from the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE), Ministry of Ecology and Environment; but, as mentioned, the draft chapter is on the formal approval process to be shared and published. China in fact has made the most progress in terms of mainstreaming co-benefits into their policymaking systems and tackled challenges with air pollution and the ambition levels of the government's targets. The targets are well represented in the 14th Five Year Plan last year, since then, increasingly integrated in the different sectoral policies, especially in energy and industry. There are sufficient references to co-benefits or co-control, the terminology in the China and supported by a huge amount of research in terms of publications on co-control and co-benefits, both in English and Chinese language literature, highlighted in the chapter. The chapter provided cases in terms of the sectoral level and also demonstrate the localization of co-benefits, such as Zhejiang Province, one of the wealthier provinces in China as well as several of the cities set up special committees to work on co-benefits. Moreover, there is a high-tech park that set up a special committee to work directly on co-benefits. In short, China is not only mainstreaming co-benefit approach at the national level but moving down to the local level; there are scope to refining the research to make it even more policy relevant by bringing in some of the work on governance; and paying attention to sectors that have not received much attention when it comes to co-benefits such as waste management or agriculture.

The timeline for the publication is that, beyond comments and feedback verbally shared at the advisory group meeting, the Secretariat expect receiving the written form by next week; then, the revised draft could move forward with the publisher for formatting and galley proofs from the beginning of February. Some of the key messages based upon the comments and revisions could to be promoted and shared at the key meetings from the end of February. The report itself would officially be released around March 11, the end of the Japanese fiscal year.

2. Discussion: Suggestions and comments

After the briefing of the draft report, Mr. Takashi Ohmura opened the discussion for comments on the draft. He first invited authors of chapters for additional explanations or anything to stress further.

Mr. Ittipol Pawarmart, the author of the Thailand chapter, appreciated the editorial work done for the early version of the chapter. He briefly mentioned two key topics he is in charge of: the BCG initiative and carbon credit market to integrate air pollution and climate change. He also underlined the current Thailand situation under the Ministry of Environment that now has the new Department of Climate Change and Environment working on how to lead together air pollution in the climate change issues. It could have much clearer structure coming year so that he could support the integration of air pollution

and climate change together and link to those two topics mentioned previously.

Dr. Dagvadorj Damdin, who authored the chapter for Mongolia, also expressed his appreciation for the edited chapter. He said Mongolia has policies including NDC in the climate mitigation issues and also challenging issues in environmental pollution in the urban areas; therefore, the goal was to integrate the activities to mitigate GHG emissions and also to reduce air pollution issues as well as to solve the problems by implementing actions. In this regard, he tried to show the co-benefits of these activities at the government level and recommend the integration of these activities as Mongolia plans to update its NDC actions now. For city governments, especially Ulaanbaatar, are trying to speed up the process to reduce air pollution issues. So, the chapter mentioned the policymakers to include the integration of climate change and pollution issues in the policy documents. This collaboration work with the Flagship Report would help the Government of Mongolia to improve policy framework of this activity.

Mr. Mushtaq Memon of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), first shared his feedback to the forthcoming Flagship Report regarding the utility of the report. His suggestion was that it could be seen by the proponents of the UNEA Resolution as there are various co-sponsors including USA, Canada, Morocco etc. The other suggestion is to plan to organise events on this. As he organises a workshop on bankable plastic pollution there could also offer insights in the development of bankable projects on the air pollution focusing on the co-benefits. He argued how we see the report could be useful to inspire people to come up with the bankable projects for air pollution on co-benefits.

Mr. Curt Garrigan of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) agreed this report is very interesting and robust report. As it is about 40 pages lengthy report with chapters on different countries, it might be useful to have an executive summary highlighting key messages from each of the chapters as well as some of the commonalities that come through. The other point was that the table of the recent research, with some key areas, could be useful to have the links with each chapters; for instance, some of the research highlighted in Chapter 1 could be referenced more within the individual chapters. And, if some of the research could come into the common recommendations, that might also be reflected in an executive summary.

Dr. Kevin Hicks of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) congratulated having the draft report and promised to send the written comments after the meeting. His observation for the chapter one is that it shows the link between the awareness on co-benefits and ACP but not much the attribution to the ACP. It could be done by presenting all the years that the ACP has been active, all the institutions ACP worked with over the years as it definitely has grown and widened. Along those lines, having the graphs would be the suggestion as that could be popularized by people using your graphics. Those could be illustrated over time by, for instance, pointing to the number of NDCs in Asia which have co-benefits. One other suggestion is to have the Way Forward chapter at the end including what the plans are for the way forward - it would be good to get an action plan in there. Finally, in the table 1.2, nitrogen pollution should be included by adding the UNEA Resolution on sustainable nitrogen management because the nitrogen cycle and the nitrogen cascade in the environment is very closely linked to air pollution i.e. ammonia in China as well as the synergies and trade-offs like methane. Those are important examples of how co-benefits could be useful to tackle large environmental problems.

After some of the suggestions were shared by members, Mr. Ohmura invited the ACP Secretariat to

respond. Dr. Eric Zusman provided responses to comments: first, regarding the comment on influence strategy i.e. how to use the report more impactful and the option to share the report with the countries sponsoring the UNEA Resolution on air quality. This is a good place to share the report and other places could be consider is that Japan sponsoring a Resolution on synergies between climate, biodiversity, and pollution control where the report could be disseminated. Another key policy processes the report could be shared is, with the help of Mr. Virender Kumar Duggal of ADB, IGES accommodates new centre works on Article 6 under the Paris Agreement and colleagues are now discussing how to operationalise a mandatory assessment of co-benefits for climate finance under the Article 6.4 Mechanism. The report has relevance to that space. Moreover, there are plenty of organisations promoting co-benefits within Asia and trying to do concrete implementation of co-benefits approach such as GIZ working actively on this issue in the next year or so where the report also could be shared. Hence, the point is well noted that this Flagship Report should be disseminated as much as possible and all the members should make an effort to share the key messages from the report when attending meetings and workshops.

For the comments from Mr. Curt Garrigan of UNESCAP, developing the executive summary is very helpful. Given some of the key messages already prepared for each chapters this is feasible to reflect into the final draft. In terms of weaving through some of the literature back into the other chapters, that would also be helpful; for instance, literature on NBS could link to the BCG model and agreed that some part of report has a bit stand-alone at present.

In response to the suggestions from Dr. Kevin Hicks of SEI, showing attributions of what the ACPs achieved is challenging but maybe some references to the increase in membership could be added. It is because ACP is part of larger push to make this idea of co-benefits operational and most of members have been working towards that end. Having said that, there could be a try to demonstrate it more systematically to provide some visuals to illustrate the above point. For the point on the nitrogen issue, as Kevin is the expert on it, contributions from him would help illustrate more clearly.

Dr. Ramlal Verma of the Regional Resource Center for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP) shared his written comments prior to the meeting i.e. to include the air pollution in the main title of the report, as well as in the content and those were already incorporated. During the meeting, he shared his second comment on the Table 1.2 to add two main initiatives further: one was the this Malé Declaration, an intergovernmental agreement in South Asia, addressing the pollution as well as part of the climate change like SLCPs in the strategy and work programme. The other initiative missing in the Table was the Northeast Asia Clean Air Partnership, the UN task initiative. Dr. Verma also brought attention by suggesting to cover the case from India, a big player in Asia, at least in the next report.

Mr. Virender Kumar Duggal of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) noted this Flagship Report is timely and great initiative because there is a significant amount of momentum in the globally and also within the region on the identification reporting of the co-benefits of sustainable development impacts. The next step moving forward is to focus on implementation and mainstreaming of this would work. And it could only be done either sufficient amount of regulations is in place or capacities and incentives for their implementation exist. One of the common barriers implementing it is the lack of tools and methodologies, so the ADB is trying to address it by developing a toolkit as there is a value in the quantification of benefits to provide reliable information to put incentives around it. The second is the capacity to conduct this assessment; the work being done by the Article 6 implementation partnership where he would like to contribute to that. While the capacity building or technical support could be one element to help countries overcome, the third element is how to build incentives; carbon markets is one possibility but one of the

many options. On his previous experience, ADB tried to value the carbon assets based on the co-benefits being delivered by the project for local communities and it was possible to build the incentives and even provide the incentives, simply because those projects were able to demonstrate not only in the qualitative basis but also the quantitative basis. He suggested to work with various ministries and try to build the assessment and reporting of co-benefits that are still quantified in their approval mechanisms.

To echo Dr. Verma about the possibilities to include a chapter on India in the next edition of the report, he agreed with the huge amount of diversity in the scale and size about the climate actions within India, which could provide a good amount of experience for other countries to pursue, and was pleased to support the idea. Dr. Zusman briefly responded for the suggestion of the next report by saying that the Secretariat could discuss the prospects of doing another report with a focus on South Asia and he also suggested members initiate the report in India given the diversity within India.

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, co-chair of ACP added his comment for the revised title that included the wording of air pollution to reflect Dr. Verma's opinion. He emphasised that this report should not limit only air pollution issues but cover other sectors unless the report focuses on only air pollution issues.

Regarding the point raised by Mr. Duggal of ADB, Dr. Zusman agreed that the operationalisation of the co-benefits and creating the incentives is needed to work on. There is progress but the key issue is once quantified how to reward in a carbon markets case and who pays for the co-benefits is still challenging and unclear. So, this is the point to continue to work on and to talk about in terms of implementation. He also agreed to mainstream in this to carbon finances and implementation on the ground as the ADB's reports on co-benefits have helped demonstrate concrete cases of how to be implemented on the ground. There should be more of further work to push forward the implementation story as much as possible. In response to the Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana's comment, he explained that there was a very strong emphasis on NDCs when started the Flagship Report; however, one of the lessons learned especially from hearing the country level experts is that the entry points for co-benefits vary a lot and there are multiple entry points even within a given country – NDC is one of them; in the case of Mongolia, the SDG is another one. Also, many of local actions that are quite important such as cities are moving forward with the co-benefit idea. At any rate, the key point of the report is making the linkage between climate, and then air pollution, health or other development priorities; therefore, the finalised title to some extent will cover both of where it started and also how to make those linkages.

Dr. Meelan Thondoo of WHO-ACE expressed her appreciation to be invited the meeting first time and also to have a chance to look at the hard work in collecting all those data for the report. She shared a few points that need to be elaborated further: one is to specify a target audience. The report spoke about that largely but not identify clearly whether it is a report for government stakeholders, ACP partners, people that are at the entry points, or whether it is an internal document for technical people particularly in environmental health, or whether it is to be used as an awareness document. The second point, related to the first one, is that the missing section on the overall problem that the report addresses. It is good that in each section the gaps those country related are mentioned; then, the report itself also should identify whether responding to a problem of lack of knowledge as an awareness report, or, responding to a skills gap as the upskill report that people could use to upskill their status, or, it is an implementation report so people have a theoretical understanding of co-benefits, therefore, this report is to give them practical actions that they could apply to their own individual entry points.

Mr. Takashi Ohmura concluded the first discussion with the reminder of the due date for the additional

comments. He encouraged participants to send written feedback to the Secretariat by end of next week to improve the report further.

16:00 - 16:55 (55 minutes)

Discussion 2: Feedback on Work Plan for the 2nd Phase

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

- 1. Achievement of Work Plan 2023-2024**
- 2. Discussion on future Work Plan**

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, ACP co-chair, opened the second session to understand recent activities promoting co-benefits among ACP advisory group members as well as the update the ACP work plan. He firstly invited the Secretariat to provide a review of the achievement of work plan in 2023 and also future activities.

From the ACP Secretariat, Dr. Eric Zusman reported that the main effort has gone into development of the Flagship Report. At the same time, the Secretariat continue to host the ACP website including Good Practice Map case studies on co-benefits. The Map, approximately 50 cases as of today, continue to populate with good practices, especially at the local or city level cases. Also, the ACP is continuing to issue Newsletters on the co-benefits and how it is being moved forward from different experts' perspectives. In addition to that, sharing and disseminating the concept of co-benefits under the ACP in many different place and further try to make stronger connections to different policymaking processes i.e. the regional action programme where the ACP is part of, or the COP process, or the UNEA process targeting for the next year. Last point he underlined is the possibility to discuss a plan to prepare another version of the Flagship Report if there is a strong interest from the members, for instance, on India for next year or the year after.

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana kindly explained the work plan that all the members have filled in in previous years. As the ACP is a gathering of any organisation those work at promoting co-benefits and most of the ACP work are being conducted by the participants attending this meeting. So, the ACP's role is to connect those activities, projects and collect and put them in the Work Plan; then, circulate to the partners to share together. He once again opened the floor to participants for updating their work plan.

Firstly, Dr. Kevin Hicks of SEI shared the work closely has been carried out with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) over the years that helped coordinate a series of assessments including on the Asian co-benefits assessment, namely, the Asian Solutions Report – air pollution focus but very strongly had climate change co-benefits in it. Recently, the science advisory panel of CCAC put the ideas to the board having new assessments; and SEI starts three new assessments this year. The first assessment, relevant to what Dr. Zusman and Mr. Virender Kumar mentioned, is about how to incentivise actions on co-benefits, that is, the economic assessment called the cost of inaction to investigate how much it costs society and governments to not act on air pollution and climate change. It will be starting that process shortly and already began discussions. It will be the first time to show what the feedback of the impacts of climate change and air pollution are on the economy. Furthermore, SEI is linking closely to work with National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) in Japan, those running global models, economic models and integrated assessment models, in this area with IIASA. On ongoing activities cover building on the work in Thailand on barriers to implementation for measures in different countries. He emphasised that this

would be a useful product; looking for the contributions for authors of chapters from ACP partners. Another is the agricultural assessments SEI worked on over the time and that will look at, air pollution, climate change co-benefits, and linked to development in the agricultural sector, strongly linked to food production, food security, and the issue of waste. The third one is that the US, in particular, as a member of the CCAC is interested in looking at the nitrous oxide issue in more detail and it is going to be a third nitrous oxide assessment, closely related to agriculture. He expected to be able to work with ACP partners on the aforementioned assessments and reach out to the ACP Secretariat for contributions on that.

Dr. Chris Malley of SEI pointed out that those written details in the previous ACP work plan are still current and relevant for their activities and also for the future tasks in 2024: those include works in Lao PDR, an assessment undertaken last year on air pollution mitigation and CCAC are currently funding MONRE to turn that into a Clean Air Plan for Lao PDR. In Cambodia, CCAC also funding the Ministry of Environment to implement actions within their Clean Air Plan working with Dang and colleagues at CAA and IGES. SEI also has been supporting the development of a national SLCP action plan in the Philippines. Working with CAA, the Ministry of Climate Change in Pakistan and provincial organisations to develop the Clean Air Plans to support the implementation of Pakistan's clean air policy that was agreed at the beginning of 2023 and the projects continuing in 2024 related to air pollution and co-benefits working in Asia.

Ms. Kaye Patdu of UNEP reported the implementing activities of the regional project for ASEAN on assessing the cost of inaction and the lessons from the project have hopefully been taken up within the new assessment that will be undertaken supported by CCAC and other partners; partly SEI supported the national assessments on the cost of inaction in three to four ASEAN countries. UNEP might be able to support follow up work on a guidance developed by IASA and SEI on undertaking the cost of inaction and hope to be able to provide workshops to increase national government's capacity to be able to undertake similar types of assessments; no schedules have been confirmed yet for these workshops but it is plan for the following year. In response to Dr. Supat's request to share additional activities and plans besides the work on cost in action, Ms. Patdu agreed to share more detailed updates with the Secretariat on the table. For the future work, the developments with the proposed resolution would occupy her work over the next two years as there has been a stronger push this year and coming years for air quality with the co-benefits. Plus, various events are being discussed for this year that will contribute to these discussions, looking at the co-benefits between environment and health as well. UNEP together with WHO will be supporting the government of Indonesia, hosting of the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on health and environment in September of this year that covers nexus issues on environmental health including on air quality, water, sanitation, climate change, and others. It could be one of the opportunities to be able to disseminate some of the messaging that have been developed in the Flagship Report.

Dr. Ramlal Verma of the Regional Resource Center for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP) confirmed that most of the activities in the current Work Plan are still relevant and elaborated the activities RRC.AP has been implementing with updates. For instance, there is no more APN subordinate Air Quality Management work building capacities; however, continue promoting science-based policies through the Malé Declaration as well as promoting a three cluster such as air pollution, climate change, and waste resource management those have the co-benefit elements in all the activities. The climate change cluster is promoting the nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation, providing the free dynamic climate change data downscaling, using the software to policymakers for decision making in Southeast Asia. Also using the downscale tool and flood tool to support the climate change adaptation planning. The raising awareness and a city resilience activities are related to climate disaster management. RRC.AP also has been hosting a series of workshops and webinars for local governments and cities and strengthening the

partnerships through the regional cooperation. He added that RRC.AP is supporting to develop the GCF projects for countries for climate change adaptation and mitigation and establishing the collaboration with different partner organisations for the resource mobilisation.

Dr. Supat invited Mr. Bert Fabian of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) whether EANET has co-benefits related activities and plans to report; but, Mr. Bert found none to share as the work programme and budget of the EANET approved a year before i.e. approval completed in November. He responded that no explicit co-benefits related activities from EANET side. If quantify co-benefits of specific projects and policies, then, there will be substantial co-benefits especially for air pollution and climate change measures although no specific reference to it. He hoped the idea of co-benefits and co-control start to be discussed in EANET and if so it would be shared with ACP.

Mr. Virender Kumar Duggal of ADB shared the activities ADB conducted, beginning with the currently compiling the results of co-benefit study from the projects ADB supported through the Future Carbon Fund and outcome of those co-benefits would be shared later this year - 20 projects are already assessed and the results are very comforting and encouraging. In terms of looking at new set of projects in this year, ADB is trying to see a couple of projects supported through Japan fund for joint crediting mechanism. He is also currently contemplating to pick a few projects for the sustainable development impact assessment and will share the outcome from the toolkit later. He encouraged members to be involved in that process.

Mr. Mushtaq Memon of UNEP briefly reported that, under APCAP, the activity in 2024 would be targeting for the air pollution focused on the co-benefits as well as working with the countries on the bankable projects to achieve that target. The other task is organising the major event at the World Environment Day in June and the APCAP Forum will emphasise on the air pollution in the context of co-benefits. Dr. Supat asked the specific date of the meeting and Mr. Mushtaq responded that the date itself has not been confirmed and it would be the back to back with other international agenda due to the financial situation; still exploring of possibly with the ESCAP. There would be also the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on environment and health in Indonesia in September and under that the thematic Working Group on the air pollution and working group on climate change are happening. He asked further suggestions to link with other events and Mr. Virender Kumar Duggal shared the idea of having the Asia Pacific climate week as one the options.

Mr. Curt Garrigan of ESCAP explained that none of the activities specifically focusing on co-benefits among number of activities to air pollution been conducted in ESCAP. ESCAP has working groups highlighting air quality standards under the operationalising the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution project. A new project undertaking on airsheds is looking at a common approach to airsheds and transboundary potential so that possibly generate co-benefits. Mr. Garrigan is planning to bring any co-benefits identified outcomes from those initiatives forward into ACP. There will be the ESCAP Committee on environment and development, 16th-18th of October 2024, and sessions on the various priority areas of the Committee including clean air. Also, the Regional Action Program is on evolution, established by the committee in December 2022 and now convening again for the first time since then.

Mr. Ittipol Pawarmart of MONRE, Thailand followed to update his work at the Pollution Control Department (PCD). In terms of air pollution co-benefits, PCD has been waiting for the approval for the projects as it is the topic that requires actions from the government that now has the new Department of

Climate Change and Environmental. He believes this new organisation under the new department is great opportunity to work with on co-benefits issue. He also recalled the important initiatives that mentioned early this meeting: both circular economy and carbon market initiative. Dr. Supat asked him to add into the work plan that Thailand government worked together with Lao PDR and Myanmar on the Clear Sky Strategy. This special activity would be related to mainly transboundary and haze issues, but, deliver co-benefits in. He anticipated that this Clear Sky Strategy would be expanded to Cambodia as well.

Ms. Dang Espita-Casanova of Clean Air Asia (CAA) shared the plans and activities those came out from the Better Air Quality (BAQ) Conference in November where all the ACP partners were able to identify several projects that are ready for roll out as well as the tasks to match with applicable financing mechanisms; therefore, CAA is planning to focus on those identified from the conference. In terms of supporting national governments, currently in the Philippines and Pakistan, CAA encouraged to highlight on how national level legal frameworks are there to enforce that to local and sub national level and also continued to focus on cities as avenues to raise awareness on co-benefits and implement concrete projects on co-benefit in different sectors. There are also several projects within the work plan to support the interpreting capacity building both on the technical aspect and also finance planning aspects to escalator the role of on the ground projects on air pollution and highlight co-benefits in actives. In response to Dr. Supat's question on whether there would be the extended plan for other countries as CAA helped Cambodia on the implementation of emission standard, Ms. Espita-Casanova said the guidelines would be added to them in March and continue discussions how to help support the implementation each other. Dr. Supat also asked whether any capacity building programme on co-benefits to share and promote the Flagship Report and Ms. Espita-Casanova answered by saying that CAA plans to conduct next phases of current projects on planning ways to support national and local governments with guidelines and strategies.

Ms. Kayoko Gomi of the Ministry of Environment, Japan (MOEJ) expressed her application for all the members active contributions to the meeting. She emphasized her consideration to expand the ACP activities in Asia and expectation to collect further suggestions and opinions from the members for the next years work. Ms. Yumi Yasuda of MOEJ brought out the attention on two upcoming events that MOEJ involved in: one is the online seminar with CAA on 6th of February on co-benefits in India and she encouraged members participation. The other is a set of workshops in Japan on 30th of March that would be mainly with national governments working for co-benefits approach – air pollution and climate change. She is contacting each country and those would be countries MOEJ would focus and proceed next year onwards as long as they propose good project sheet. Dr. Supat added that those two events would be in line with the ACP activities and appropriate place where the Flagship Report could be distributed.

After all the updates from the participants, Dr. Supat concluded the second section of the meeting, noting the activities of last year but also mentioned about those in the coming year. He again requested all to fill in the work plan table and the Secretariat would work on finalising.

16:55 - 17:00 (5 minutes)

Next Steps and Wrap Up

The Secretariat summarised the conclusion of the meeting including a few tasks to move forward. One of the suggestions highlighted was the next report on India as a possibility. Another one underlined is from the advisory group in providing comments on the Flagship Report. Regarding the other funding opportunities, the Secretariat have keep trying to secure funding for implementation along with different organisations that are working on co-benefits to help implement concrete projects. Further ideas on this

issue will be shared after the finalisation of the report. Dr. Supat supported the extended invitation to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) that happened prior to the meeting. The reason of the invitation was it conducts the project in Asia on the integration of air quality management and the climate change mitigation in line with co-benefits concept. He shared his idea to collect their activities to fill in the ACP work plan and Dr. Zusman said he would inquire on this point.

Dr. Supat recalled that the forthcoming important Flagship Report should not sit on the shelf but put in action to make co-benefits into NDCs and other policies to be realised and implemented on the ground and encouraged all the ACP Advisory Group members try to prompt it together. He closed the meeting offering his appreciation to the participants for their inputs and wished all well.

Meeting Photo



Meeting Agenda

14th Asian Co-benefits Partnership Advisory Group Meeting

19 January 2024 15:00-17:00 (JST)

Virtual via Zoom

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 15:00 –
15:10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 |
|------------------|---|

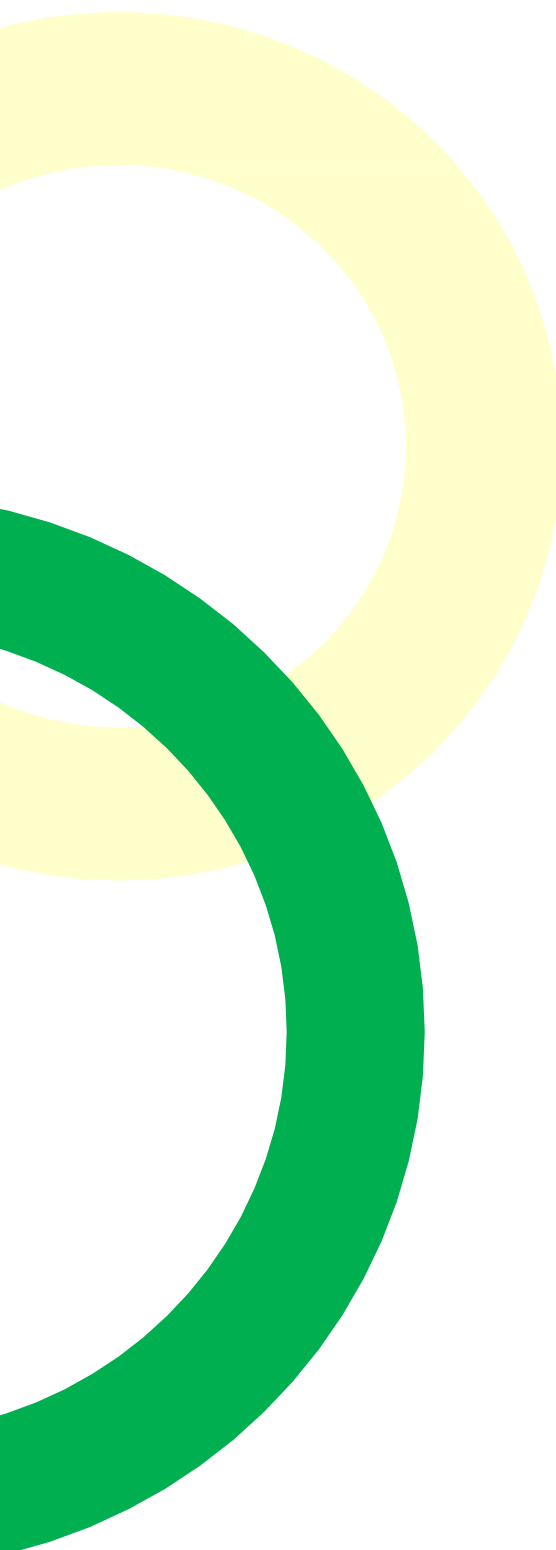
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| 15:10 –
16:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <u>Feedback on Flagship Report draft</u> <i>Facilitator: Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura</i> 1) Briefing of Flagship draft 2) Discussion: Suggestions and comments |
|------------------|---|

<p>16:00 – 16:55</p>	<p>■ Feedback on Work Plan for the 2nd Phase <i>Facilitator: Co-chair, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana</i> 1) Achievement of Work Plan 2023-2024 2) Discussion on future Work Plan and ACP</p>
<p>16:55 – 17:00</p>	<p>■ Next steps and wrap up <i>Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, ACP Secretariat</i> Summary of discussion and the next step</p>

Meeting Participants

	Organisation	Name	Title, Division
1	Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN	Kayoko Gomi	Deputy Director, International Cooperation Office, Environmental Management Bureau
2	Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN	Yumi Yasuda	Section Chief, International Cooperation Office, Environmental Management Bureau
3	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, THAILAND	Ittipol Pawarmart	Head of Automotive Emission Laboratory, Air Quality and Noise Management Bureau
4	[Co-chair] Thammasat University	Supat Wangwongwatana	Senior Expert, Faculty of Public Health
5	[Co-chair] OECC/IGES	Takashi Ohmura	Senior Fellow
6	Regional Resource Center for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP)/AIT	Ramlal Verma	Head of Air Pollution Cluster
7	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Virender Kumar Duggal	Principal Climate Change Specialist
8	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Bulganmurun Tsevegjav	Senior Air Quality Specialist
9	Clean Air Asia (CAA)	Dang Espita-Casanova	Programme Manager
10	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	Kevin Hicks	Senior Research Fellow
11	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	Chris Malley	Senior Research Fellow
12	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	Mushtaq Memon	Regional Coordinator for Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme
13	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	Kaye Patdu	APCAP Coordinator
14	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)	Curt Garrigan	Chief, Environment and Development Division
Observer			
15	Climate Change Development Academy Mongolia	Davgadorj Damdin	Director
16	Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)	Bert Fabian	Coordinator of the Secretariat
17	Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)	Aurelia Lemoine	Consultant

18	WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health (WHO-ACE)	Meelan Thondoo	Technical Officer for Climate Change and Health
ACP Secretariat			
	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Eric Zusman	Research Leader
		So-Young Lee	Research Manager
		Ayako Hongo	Senior Programme Coordinator



Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) 14th Advisory Group Meeting - Meeting Summary

Acknowledgements

This proceeding is the summary of main discussions of the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) 14th Advisory Group Meeting held on 19 January 2024 via Zoom. The Secretariat appreciates all the active supports and participation of the Advisory Group members, as well as financial support from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

The Secretariat for the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP), January 2024

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