

The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) serves as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. The ACP was launched with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2010 to help mainstream climate and environmental co-benefits into decision-making processes in Asia. Learn more about us at our website. <http://www.cobenefit.org/>



Highlights

Webinar: Co-benefits of Addressing Climate Change and Air Pollution

In the past Asian Co-benefits Partnership newsletters, the secretariat interviewed a leading thinker or practitioner who could offer their insights into advancing co-benefits in Asia. Since the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, many virtual meetings have been organised on themes related to the virus and its impact on the environment. For this issue, the secretariat decided to share the ACP involved webinar along with a brief note from the main organiser rather than summarising responses to interview questions.

The webinar entitled *Co-benefits of Addressing Climate Change and Air Pollution* was held on 12th October and co-hosted by Asian Development Bank (ADB) with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP). This is the fourth event of a series of knowledge events on air quality that is being held over September to October this year and the series has been organised by ADB—the Environment Thematic Group has led in partnership with Urban Sector Group, Health Sector Group, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Thematic Group and Transport Sector Group within ADB.

The Co-benefits of Addressing Climate Change and Air Pollution was the featured theme of this webinar as many decision-makers in Asia are becoming more interested in policies and technologies that control air pollution while mitigating climate change. The cleaner air, improved health, and stable climate resulting from these policies and technologies are known as “co-benefits.”

Part of the reason co-benefits are drawing attention is they can offset the costs of mitigating climate change. Another reason for the rise in interest is that some interventions with co-benefits can bring carbon finance to improve public health and address other development concerns. With climate change as a clear policy priority across Asia, guidance on how decision makers can factor co-benefits into investment projects and policy decisions is therefore a pressing need.

The webinar focused on the three themes related to

meeting this need.

1. The development of policies and investment projects that can address both climate change and air pollution qualify for climate financing.
2. The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for measuring greenhouse gas emission reductions and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including improvement in air quality and health, from such policies and projects.
3. The institutional coordination mechanisms and multilevel governance arrangements that can help deliver air quality, climate change, health and other development benefits.

Ms. Karma Yangzom, Principal Environment Specialist from the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department at ADB introduced the focus of the webinar would be the linkages between climate change and air quality and role of co-benefits in strengthening the integration between these two priorities. Hence, the first part of the webinar began to introduce co-benefits as a concept that link these two policy areas. Dr. Eric Zusman, Research Director from Center for Sustainability Governance at IGES shared the latest and on-going research on potential links between climate change, air pollution and short-lived climate pollutants. In so doing, he suggested that air pollution in Asia and improved air quality as an additional measure to help reduce the burden placed on healthcare system and bring other social and economic benefits. He also introduced the relationship between an air pollution and climate change

perspective on co-benefits. Dr. Joni Jupesta, Senior Researcher from the Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth (RITE), Japan shared the view of the climate community regarding the linkages between climate change and sustainable development. He emphasised the role of SDGs in driving the climate change agenda as well as highlighted the sectors and SDGs that have the biggest opportunities to meet the 1.5°C climate target as well as barriers to reaching that target.

The second part of the webinar focused on carbon finance projects. Mr. Virender K. Duggal, Principal Climate Change Specialist from Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department at ADB presented the opportunities and challenges for ADB in factoring co-benefits into climate investment decisions as well as those actions taken by ADB to expand the opportunities for finance and build local ownership. Ms. Ania Grobicki, Deputy Director of External Affairs at Green Climate Fund (GCF) shared the requirements to qualify for GCF climate financing. She explained key criteria for approval of GCF projects include economic, social and environmental co-benefits. She also shared the types and countries of approved GCF projects with a special focus on projects from Asia.

The final section of the webinar consisted of a panel discussion that aimed to reconcile an air pollution and climate views on co-benefits and integrated co-benefits into policies in Asia. That session featured inputs from Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Member of Pollution Control Board of Thailand and of Senate Sub-Commission on Environment as well as Co-chair of the Advisory Group of Asian Co-benefit Partnership (ACP). Panelists suggested how co-benefits could bring together different policymaking processes; for example, how the government in Thailand considered climate change issues when making decisions on policies related to air quality and the types of coordination between environmental agencies regulating air quality and mitigating climate change. Panelists emphasised the importance of institutional coordination mechanisms to bring together different views on co-benefits achieve sustainability in Asia.



Note from the Organiser Ms. Karma Yangzom, Principal Environment Specialist from the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB: This webinar was the fourth of a series of six air quality webinars being organised by ADB over September–November 2020. The webinar highlighted climate, social and economic co-benefits generated from actions to address air pollution. However, there is a need for improvement in quantification and monitoring of co-benefits in project design. ADB looks forward to future opportunities to promote integration of co-benefits in projects. ADB is thankful to IGES and ACP for co-hosting this event. Visit and enjoy the recorded Webinar at: <https://events.development.asia/learning-events/co-benefits-addressing-climate-change-and-air-pollution>



Publications

Sustainable wastewater management in Indonesia’s fish processing industry: Bringing governance into scenario analysis in *Journal of Environmental Management* vol.275

This journal article analysed seven wastewater treatment scenarios for the fish processing industry in Indonesia to understand the potential impacts of greenhouse gases and chemical oxygen demand when the key governance variables are integrated into the scenarios. IIASA, IGES and Kyushu University co-authored this analysis based on the commissioned project to promote co-benefits measures from the Ministry of Environment Japan. Download article from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2020.111241>



Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) Secretariat
The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan
✉ [acp\[at\]iges.or.jp](mailto:acp[at]iges.or.jp) ☎ +81-(0)46-855-3709
Copyright © 2015 Asian Co-benefits Partnership. All rights reserved.

 **ACP Website**
<http://www.cobenefit.org/>

IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies

 **Ministry of the Environment**