

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

Raising Awareness of Co-benefits from Solar Energy at Commonwealth High School in Quezon, The Philippines



Administration, Teachers, and Staff
Commonwealth High School, Quezon, the Philippines

On January 24th, members of the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) met with the administration, teachers and staff from Commonwealth High School in Quezon, Philippines to learn about solar panels that have been installed on the top of their school. Our conversation focused on the history of the solar project, its co-benefits, and possible follow-up activities that can raise awareness of the project's benefits.

Can you tell us a little about the history of the pilot solar project in your school?

The project was strongly supported by the mayor of Quezon as well as one of our former principals. With that backing, the decision was made to install the solar panels on the top of our school. Following that decision, the construction and installation moved quickly. The panels were set up over a two-month period and were operable just before COVID-19 forced lockdowns and shifts to online sessions.

What do you see as the benefits of the solar project?

The project is, of course, first and foremost an engineering project, and we need to be careful about issues like direct access to the panels for the students. At the same time, the project has helped the school advance its educational objectives.

One way it has supported those objectives is by providing energy when there are shortages from the grid. The panels have batteries that allow it to store energy. This is important, for instance, because we need a steady supply of energy for our computer

room and classes run from that room.

Another way that the project has offered benefits for the students involve environmental education. Commonwealth high school has woven the study of the environment into different areas of its curriculum, including not only the natural but also the social sciences. There is a growing recognition among teachers and staff that learning about the resources that the environment provides is essential to becoming a global citizen. In this connection, the solar panel project is a clear and visible reminder of how the school is helping to protect the climate and deliver other environmental benefits.



What could be future plans to strengthen understanding of the benefits of the solar project?

We have several clubs and activities that focus on the environment at the school. For instance, we have a waste separation campaign that is intended to promote more efficient resource use. We also have worked on international exchanges with other schools in Asia on environmental educational activities through Southeast Asia Ministers of Education

Organization (SEAMEO). The links between these activities and the solar project could be strengthened moving forward.

We also have learned a little about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are used to frame the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Working with students to better understand how the solar project contributes to multiple SDGs or multiple co-

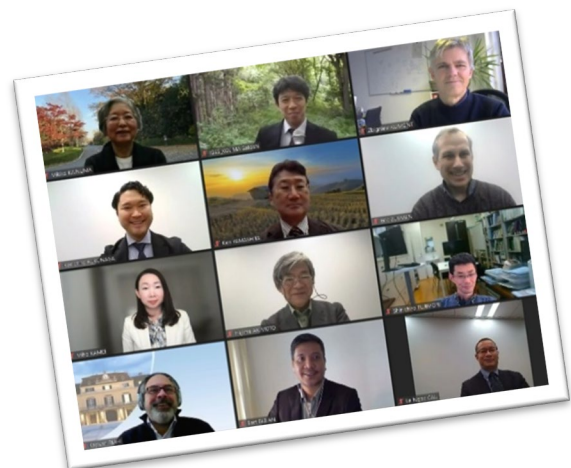
benefits would be interesting in the future.



Updates

EANET-IIASA Webinar held on December 2022

IGES and IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) co-organised, with ACP collaboration, a webinar entitled "Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface for Clean Air and a Sustainable Future in Asia" on the 19th of December. The first session covered 'Multiple Development Benefits of Coordinated Actions to Tackle Air Pollution' and presented ongoing collaborative research projects between IIASA and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) as well as the modelling analysis employed by a project activity of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Networks in East Asia (EANET). The second session highlighted progress on another ongoing collaborative research project between IIASA and MOEJ on synergies of achieving SDGs. The last session discussed how we could design science-policy dialogue to reflect implications from modelling analysis to policy development and to co-design models by incorporating social and institutional dimensions of feasibility. All presentation materials can be downloaded at: www.iges.or.jp/en/events/20221219



Asia Summit on Global Environmental Measurement & Monitoring

On December 5-6 2022, a wide range of stakeholders convened in person and online from across Asia for summit as part of the Global Environmental Measurement and Monitoring (GEMM) Initiative. The GEMM is an initiative hosted at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law. The summit aimed to create a dialogue between scientists and policymakers on environmental crises facing cities in Asia. The meeting included several sessions and presentations that focused specifically on the linkages between air pollution and climate change in cities. The ACP was promoted during a presentation on co-benefits solutions in Southeast Asia.

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