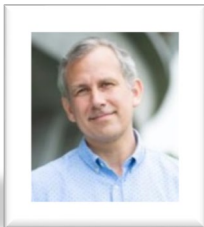


The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) serves as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. The ACP was launched with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2010 to help mainstream climate and environmental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



Highlights

Putting Health at Centre of Climate Actions at COP28 and Beyond



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Climate change not only poses a threat to the planet but the health of its people. In fact, health is not only important in its own right but because it can have multiplier effects on other dimensions of sustainable development. The growing realization of this multidimensional threat has led to the decision to hold the first-ever Health Day at COP28. This much-welcomed decision nonetheless raises the question about what decision-makers should do to position health more centrally in international climate negotiations and related policies. Here, we review the links between climate and health and recommend steps to leverage those connections for a healthier planet and people at COP28 and beyond.

Protecting health and health systems from climate change

Much of the world faces a growing threat from climate-related extreme weather events as well as other climate-related stressors such as droughts and sea-level rise. Both these events and stressors have implications for health. More concretely, they have direct impacts on health (e.g., injury or the loss of life) while also giving rise to indirect effects (e.g., changes in vector-borne disease risk) and diffuse impacts (e.g., security concerns). One of the ironies is that economic development has enabled access to

services that improve health and wellbeing, but also come at a cost: namely, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions¹ that can exacerbate climate change and threaten health in other ways, especially among the most vulnerable.

The close links between climate and health suggests some actions should focus on building resilience. While all sectors should build this resilience, the health sector in developing countries warrants particular attention. In resource-poor settings in the Asia-Pacific, for example, health care facilities often struggle to provide basic services, including water, sanitation and hygiene services, a situation that is further exacerbated by climate change.² It is therefore imperative that countries and international institutions implement infrastructure projects to enhance and maintain access to basic services as the climate warms. By the same token, capacity-building such initiatives as the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) can partner with the health community to demonstrate how to mainstream health into national adaptation plans.

Maximising the health co-benefits of climate change mitigation

Another set of actions involves the links between

¹ A related point is that the health sector also contributes to these emissions, accounting for 4-5% of emissions.

² See, for example, <https://www.who.int/laos/our-work/protecting-health-amid-a-changing-climate>.

health and mitigation. Many interventions that mitigate climate change, such as those involving clean energy and sustainable transport, also improve air quality and health. Research has convincingly demonstrated that these health co-benefits can offset mitigation costs, boost climate ambitions and improve many areas of well-being. There nevertheless remains scope for better recognizing and creating incentives for incorporating health in climate policies. One possible step forward would be for the international community to work together on mainstreaming health benefits into nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term net zero strategies with, for instance, estimates of reductions in fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and disability adjusted life years (DALYs) from pledged

actions. A related step would be for health professionals to offer insights to those engaged in efforts to assess sustainable development benefits for a new Article 6.4 financing mechanisms.

From reactive to proactive

The upcoming COP28 marks a potentially important milestone for health and climate experts to join forces in a way that can yield benefits for both communities. It is imperative that those working on health play a proactive—rather than reactive—at COP28. Through implementing some of our suggestions, the health and other related sectors may be able to position that agenda more centrally at discussions in Dubai and beyond.

Updates

Wellcome Trust Workshop: Leveraging Co-benefits for a Healthy Net-Zero Transitions in Japanese and other G7 Cities - A Scalable Approach for Transformative Change

On the 20th of September, about 60 participants attended a full-day Workshop on a project funded by the Wellcome Trust that aims to help local governments in Japan, France, and the USA reflect health co-benefits in their climate planning. The first session introduced relevant climate policies from Kawasaki, Hachinohe, and Nigata in Japan as well as Paris in France, and Austin, Texas in the USA. The second session highlighted the types of analytical tools that could be used to assess the health and other benefits of urban climate policies. And the discussion in the last session shared insights of how those analyses could be made useful and relevant for city climate planning.



Commemoration of the 4th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2023

The Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate (HTAPC) of Thailand at the Faculty of Public Health, Thammasat University jointly organised with APCAP, CCAC, GIZ, UNESCAP, Ministry of Environment of the Rep. of Korea the conference entitled "**Together for Clean Air: Air Pollution and Climate Solutions in Southeast Asia**" in September 2023. It focused on recent developments in Southeast Asia concerning efforts to combat air pollution and address climate issues in an integrated manner. The same meeting also featured the review of transregional haze pollution issue in Southeast Asia, 15 science-based clean air and climate solutions for ASEAN, and the promotion of national and sub-national initiatives related to integrated air quality management and climate change mitigation.