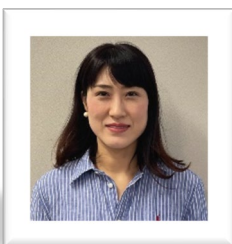


**The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP)** serves as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. The ACP was launched with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2010 to help mainstream climate and environmental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



## Highlights



### Working on Co-benefits in Niigata and Beyond

**Meihua ZHU**

Chief Senior Researcher  
Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)

#### Can you provide a brief overview of your background and how the ACAP is working on co-benefits?

I am Chief Senior Researcher in the Planning and Training Department and Atmospheric Research Department at ACAP. Much of my research focuses on how to facilitate regional environmental cooperation as well as strengthen air pollution regulations in and beyond Asia. Last year, ACAP was part of a consortium of research institutions that was awarded a research project from the Wellcome Trust entitled "Leveraging Co-benefits for Healthy Net Zero Transition in Japan and other G7 Countries." That project aims to work with Hachinohe, Kawasaki, and Niigata to reflect health co-benefits in their climate policies. ACAP is supporting some of the modelling work for this project while also serving as the focal point for the engagement with Niigata.

#### Can you describe some of the work that you have done to support the engagement with Niigata city?

To help better understand where there might be opportunities for incorporating co-benefits into Niigata's climate and other policies, I performed a preliminary scoping of the city's policy landscape. That scoping focused on nine areas, including the city's overall mitigation target as well as interventions in key sectors (transport, energy, industry etc.). In reviewing the above policies, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Niigata has already made efforts to make links between its climate plans and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). This is evident in its most recent city's Global Warming

Action Plan that outlines five broad areas for action and then illustrates their alignment with key SDGs. There are also several more focused policies and measures in Niigata that offer potential for co-benefits—for instance, transport plans that promote non-motorized and public transport near the city centre.

#### What have been some of the other findings you have generated through this project?

In addition to seeing the connections between climate and other development needs, I have also observed why a more systematic analysis of co-benefits could be useful for Niigata. For instance, when talking to city policymakers, we have learned that one of the areas we they are working involves communicating to the citizens about city's climate strategy. I have also discovered that in the co-benefit argument can potentially serve as a useful frame for making some of the gains from climate actions locally relevant. To illustrate, an analysis of co-benefits can show how many people will live longer and healthier lives or how many people can access new jobs from efforts to achieve Niigata's GHG mitigation target.

#### Can you comment more generally on why you think co-benefits is important to the work you are doing at ACAP outside the Wellcome Project?

Much of the work that I do at ACAP involves helping to strengthen the interface between atmospheric science and policy. For example, we frequently host workshops or seminars where we aim to explain to policymakers how they can base their policies on the

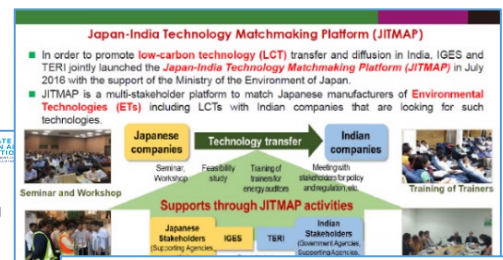
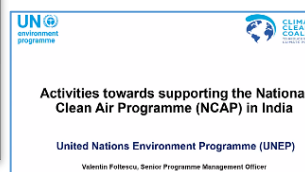
most recent science on air pollution. An analysis of co-benefits, in my view, can assist in making that explanation clearer and more persuasive. I feel this way because much of the work on co-benefits involves taking a rather abstract concept such as health benefits and putting it into a language such as

lives and money saved that can resonate with policymakers. In effect, co-benefits can help to make the gains from acting to curb air pollution more visible and tangible to decision makers. Increasing that visibility is also critical to bridging the gap between science and policy.

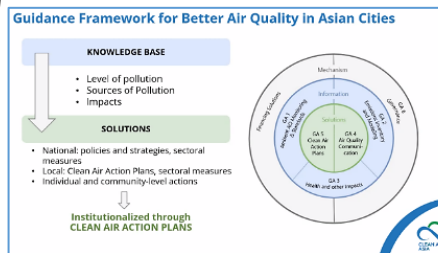
## Updates

### India-Japan Co-benefits Knowledge Sharing Event, Feb 2024

India and Japan have an expanding geopolitical and economic relationship. Both countries are also exposed to the effects of climate change and acknowledge that a long-term environmental sustainability strategy requires reducing GHGs while curbing air pollution. To maximise the co-benefits from tackling these often-related problems, Clean Air Asia (CAA) hosted a hybrid co-benefits knowledge exchange in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Japan (MOEJ). At the knowledge exchange, the Embassy of Japan in India delivered welcome remarks with a focus on investing in green technology and the MOEJ presented on recent development with the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). This was followed by presentations on opportunities and challenges for co-benefits in India from experts in the Climate Group India, Environmental Design Solutions Ltd, CAA and UNEP. The event also featured case studies, projects, activities on co-benefits in different sectors, including waste incineration, rice husk briquette technologies, and low-cost compact sensors etc. This important kick-off event will bring a series of discussions and awareness on this valuable subject in following years.



Equipping the industry with "co-benefit", Air Pollution and GHG emission mitigation technology,  
 > has a very much positive message, from the aspect of the industry beautifully aligning with Prime Minister Modi's commitment to reduction of GHGs and simultaneously contributing to the well-being of the surrounding community in mitigating air pollution,  
 and  
 > If and when the Indian Government and the Japanese Government conclude Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), the Japanese companies, given subsidy from the Japanese Government, will explore possibilities to introduce energy efficiency or fuel conversion technology to Indian companies,  
 therefore, in conclusion,  
 > In the future, we would like to seek the Indian industries and other stake holders' kind support in finding/creating projects which have good co-benefit aspects.



JCM Partner Countries (28 countries)											
Jan. 8, 2013 (Sustainable)	Nov. 30, 2013 (Japan)	May 27, 2013 (India)	Jun. 21, 2013 (Sustainable)	Jan. 26, 2013 (Sustainable)	Apr. 2, 2013 (Japan)	Aug. 7, 2013 (Sustainable)	Aug. 20, 2013 (Sustainable)	Dec. 9, 2013 (Japan)	Jan. 13, 2014 (Japan-India)	Apr. 11, 2014 (Sustainable)	Jul. 25, 2014 (Sustainable)
May 13, 2015	May 26, 2015 (Japan)	Jun. 16, 2015 (New York)	Nov. 30, 2015 (Japan)	Jan. 12, 2017 (Sustainable)	Aug. 23, 2017 (Japan)	Aug. 24, 2017 (Japan)	Sept. 5, 2017 (Japan)	Sept. 16, 2017 (Japan)	Sept. 18, 2017 (Japan)	Oct. 26, 2017 (Sustainable)	Oct. 26, 2017 (Japan)
Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)	Nov. 16, 2017 (Sustainable)

## Publications

- Botong Xian, Yalin Xu, Wei Chen, Yanan Wang, Lu Qiu (2024) Co-benefits of policies to reduce air pollution and carbon emissions in China. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 104: 107301
- Enayat A. Moallemi, Michael Battaglia, Jody Bruce, Stephen Craig, et al. (2024) Coupling net-zero modeling with sustainability transitions can reveal co-benefits and risks. *One Earth* 7(2): 175-170
- Xinyu Zheng & Ka Lam (2024) An overview of environmental co-benefits and trade-offs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in municipal wastewater management. *Sustainable Production and Consumption* 46: 1-10

Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) Secretariat  
 The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)  
 2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan  
 ✉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