

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

Capturing Co-benefits in Asia's Waste Management Sector



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The United Nations Environment Programmes (UNEP) International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) was instituted with the explicit purpose of promoting the application of environmentally sound technologies and improving waste management in developing countries. The External Expert Committee in Japan recommended the establishment of a collaborating centre to provide technical support and assist IETC in its role as a global centre of excellence on waste management in line with national and international expectations. As a result, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Centre Collaborating on Environmental Technologies (CCET) was established as a unit within IGES. The ACP interviewed Mr. Matthew Hengesbaugh, Policy Researcher and Task Manager for the CCET, on the role of CCET in promoting co-benefits, specifically in the waste management sector.

What are the main roles of the CCET?

The IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET) was formed to support governments in Asia with the development of waste management strategies, policies and pilot projects; it was also created to assist in developing tools and guidelines toward that end. At present, CCET is working on the design, development and implementation of waste management strategies at the national and city levels. Much of that current work is centred in Cambodia (Phnom Penh) and Myanmar (Mandalay). Additional countries and cities—several of which belong to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) members—are now being considered for support.

In June 2016, CCET successfully delivered its first waste management strategy development workshops in Mandalay, Myanmar for approximately 40 national and 100 city level participants, respectively. The workshop consisted of a series of training sessions and interactive discussions that will provide inputs into an initial set of waste management strategies. The discussions also focused on analysing existing gaps and challenges for

solid, liquid and gaseous waste management in Myanmar and assessing the roles of key stakeholders (i.e. public, private, informal sector) to help identify appropriate targets and options for future strategy development. CCET is now planning a second round of consultations to strengthen the strategies that will feed into a subsequent workshop scheduled for later this year.

How have you and CCET integrated co-benefits into your work?

On a professional level, I used to work with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on green jobs related issues, which is directly linked with a co-benefits approach by way of its emphasis on sustainable livelihoods. For instance, one project I was involved in supported co-benefits from waste management, renewable energy, sustainable tourism among other sectors. This project was not only aimed at creating jobs *per se* but decent working conditions through training and policy support, recognizing social inclusion as fundamental precondition for securing co-benefits.

As for my current position at CCET, we see co-benefits as part and parcel of holistic waste management. Holistic waste management envisages the waste stream

as part of a larger production and consumption system. By designing this system well, it is possible to not only improve waste management but protect public health, create jobs and reduce material flows. Co-benefits generation is thus seen as integral to a broader holistic waste management perspective and underlines all the work CCET is conducting in terms of strategy and pilot project development.

What do you see as some of the keys to promote co-benefits in the waste management sector in Asia?

In terms of waste management, the gap between health and safety needs to be seriously considered. This will necessitate changing the behaviour of waste management workers. Due to restrictions on mobility, waste management workers often reject wearing equipment that would protect from exposure to

poisonous gases or liquids. There is a need to demonstrate clearly the benefits of that protection.

On the more technical side, we need to get better at measuring co-benefits. This will require a concerted effort to improve the quality and quantity of data related to waste. Quantifying potential impacts of our interventions and activities can help convince policymakers to implement those interventions and activities.

IGES recently helped develop a tool to help quantify short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) and GHGs to support better evaluation of different waste management solutions. The tool is likely to be used by the CCAC municipal waste management initiative (MSWI). We look forward to working with the CCAC and other partners to mainstream the tool into waste management decisions both in and beyond Asia.

Updates

Second Guidance Framework for Better Air Quality in Asian Cities Workshop held in Beijing, China: The workshop, hosted by Clean Air Asia in collaboration with China's Ministry of Environmental Protection from June 1-3, involved representatives from national and local environment ministries in the Philippines, China, Mongolia and Viet Nam, and was designed to support countries and cities in improving their air-quality management capabilities. More information can be found here: <http://cleanairasia.org/gf-workshop-2/>.

Publications

OECD (2016) *The Economic Consequences of Outdoor Air Pollution*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264257474-en>

Activities

Clean Air Asia's 9th Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ) and the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Association's 17th World Clean Air Congress (WCAC), with the common theme *Clean Air for Cities – Perspectives and Solutions*, are meeting in a landmark event from 29 August-2 September, 2016, in Busan, South Korea.

Register online:
<http://cleanairforcities.org/sub02/sub01.php>.

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