
**THE REGIONAL FORUM ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
IN SOUTHEAST AND EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES:
THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON AIR QUALITY**

WORK PLANS 2010-2012

1 BACKGROUND

The 2007-2009 workplan for Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Air Quality was adopted at the Ministerial Regional Forum on environment and health in Southeast and East Asian countries in August, 2007. Since then, every 3 years, the ministerial forum review progress, development and approve the regional TWG workplan under the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries. In implementing the workplan, co-chair institution take the lead role in coordinating implementation and the members are engaged in the activities under the workplan. The TWG has regularly discussed the progress and implementation of the workplan for coordination among the member institute to advocate actions based on the recommendations of the Regional Forum. The TWG workplan has become a tool driver and a system for monitoring health risk related to air quality throughout the region. There are wide variations in the proportion of knowledge management, technical support, coordination and advocacy in the regional workplan. The status of activities on environment and health is prioritizing according to the 3 sub-groups categorized in TWG namely; urban, indoor and transboundary air pollution.

Urban air pollution, especially fine particulate matter, causes significant health problems throughout the region. Relevant data and information have become significantly more available and accessible over the last decade. It is report that PM₁₀ exacerbates asthma symptoms and recent studies indicate that it can also contribute to the incidence of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. In many under-developed and developing countries, health impacts of indoor air pollution from household energy rank as the fourth leading health risk. It is important to optimize the potential linkages between health efforts to reduce local and regional urban air quality problems as well as transboundary air pollution.

2 OBJECTIVES

The scope of Regional Workplan on Air Quality aids the formulation and implementation of air quality management (AQM) policies which are health driven through the following objectives:

- 2.1 Reducing health burden imposed by deteriorating air quality linked with population growth, urbanization, motorization and increased energy use by reducing the emissions of air pollutants from indoor, local, national and regional levels;
- 2.2 Strengthening the cooperation by providing a mechanism for sharing knowledge and experiences, improving policy and regulatory frameworks at the national and regional levels, and promoting the implementation of integrated environmental health strategies and action plans;

- 2.3 Capacity building of researchers and scientists by promoting cooperative research and development in the region focusing on air quality and health effects.
- 2.4 Strengthening the public participation and public relations by promoting the activities and outputs of the related technical forums, and expand the networks of the charter.

3 ACTIVITIES

To achieve the overall objectives, the following set of activities and timelines of three-years are proposed based on the major issues and the necessity of this region. The proposed activities include knowledge management and technical support, progress reporting to the Regional Forum, coordination and advocacy and resource mobilization. The proposed activities play more attention in public participation, risk communication, environmental education and children health. Climate change is an emerging issue and an area of co-benefits on health by air quality management and climate change mitigation. Therefore, co-work with climate change TWG is expected to be organized during the 2010-2012 workplan.

3.1 WORKPLAN ACTIVITIES FOR SUB-GROUP ON URBAN AIR QUALITY

3.1.1 Reducing health burden imposed by deteriorating air quality

Categories	Activities	Timelines		
		2010	2011	2012
Knowledge management and technical support	1. Dissemination of updated WHO guideline	→		
	2. Scenario development on revision of standards for different AQ contexts		→	→
	3. Introduce knowledge management (KM) systems to AQM	→	→	→
	4. Environmental education and public awareness raising	→	→	→
	5. Organizing the risk communication workshop	→	→	→
Progress reporting to the Regional Forum	1. Prepare and submit progress report to the High level meeting and Regional Ministerial Forum		→	→
Coordination and advocacy	1. Working group meeting will be jointly organized by 3 sub-working groups	→	→	→
	2. Presentations in regional and national level workshops	→	→	→

3.1.2 Strengthening the cooperation

Categories	Activities	Timelines
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		2010	2011	2012
Knowledge management and technical support	1. Sharing information and knowledge related to health impact and air quality	→	→	→
	2. Documentation, analysis and exchange information and knowledge on existing monitoring of air toxics and heavy metals	→	→	→
	3. Formulate recommendations on standards/guideline and monitoring protocols for air toxics and heavy metal		→	→
	4. Establishing regional network on AQM	→	→	
Progress reporting to the Regional Forum	1. Prepare and submit progress report to the High level meeting and Regional Ministerial Forum		→	→
Coordination and advocacy	1. Working group meeting will be jointly organized by 3 sub-working groups	→	→	→
	2. Presentations in regional and national level workshops	→	→	→

3.1.3 Capacity building

Categories	Activities	Timelines		
		2010	2011	2012
Knowledge management and technical support	1. Strengthening capacity of researchers on air pollution and health impact	→	→	→
	2. Promoting Local/Regional Training Center		→	→
	3. Increasing collaboration Regional Training Activities		→	→
Progress reporting to the Regional Forum	1. Prepare and submit progress report to the High level meeting and Regional Ministerial Forum		→	→
Coordination and advocacy	1. Working group meeting will be jointly organized by 3 sub-working groups	→	→	→
	2. Presentations in regional and national level workshops	→	→	→

3.2 WORKPLAN ACTIVITIES FOR SUB-GROUP ON INDOOR AIR QUALITY

3.2.1 Reducing health burden imposed by deteriorating air quality

Categories	Activities	Timelines		
		2010	2011	2012
Knowledge management and technical support	1. Dissemination of updated WHO guideline and national standards	→		
	2. Evaluation of building materials and Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVOC) system operation		→	→
	3. Environmental education for children and public awareness	→	→	→
	4. Providing guidance on integrating quality of life (QOL) in the design and implementation of air quality management policies of Asian and East Asia countries	→	→	→
	5. Documented methodology on studying the linkages between QOL, health and indoor air quality	→	→	→
Progress reporting to the Regional Forum	1. Prepare and submit progress report to the High level meeting and Regional Ministerial Forum		→	→
Coordination and advocacy	3. Working group meeting will be jointly organized by 3 sub-working groups	→	→	→
	4. Presentations in regional and national level workshops		→	→

3.2.2 Strengthening the cooperation

Categories	Activities	Timelines		
		2010	2011	2012
Knowledge management and technical support	1. Overview and analysis of health impact studies on hazardous indoor air	→	→	

	<p>pollutants</p> <p>2. Document existing health impact studies: for example, Sickness Building Syndrome(SBS), and Second Hand Smoke(SHS)</p> <p>3. Formulate recommendations on standards and monitoring protocols for hazardous indoor air pollutants</p> <p>4. Establishing regional network on AQM</p>	→	→	→
Progress reporting to the Regional Forum	1. Prepare and submit progress report to the High level meeting and Regional Ministerial Forum		→	→
Coordination and advocacy	1. Working group meeting will be jointly organized by 3 sub-working groups	→	→	→
	2. Presentations in regional and national level workshops	→	→	→

3.2.3 Capacity building

Categories	Activities	Timelines		
		2010	2011	2012
Knowledge management and technical support	1. Provision of education program and training instructors related to IAQs	→	→	→
	2. Education and training of scientists related to IAQ	→	→	→
	3. Pool preparation of Asia-experts related to IAQ	→	→	→
Progress reporting to the Regional Forum	1. Prepare and submit progress report to the High level meeting and Regional Ministerial Forum		→	→
Coordination and advocacy	1. Working group meeting will be jointly organized by 3 sub-working groups	→	→	→
	2. Communication by hot-line between IAQM board and working group members	→	→	→

3.3 WORKPLAN ACTIVITIES FOR SUB-GROUP ON TRANSBOUNDARY AIR QUALITY

3.3.1 Reducing health burden imposed by deteriorating air quality

Categories	Activities	Timelines		
		2010	2011	2012
Knowledge management and technical support	1. Conduct health impact assessment of Dust and Sandstrom (DSS)	→	→	→
	2. Study health impact assessment of Transboundary Haze	→	→	→
	3. Develop a knowledge base on air pollution and human health in collaboration with other relevant sub-working groups	→	→	→
	4. Review of all studies, including epidemiological surveys, related to the impacts of regional air pollutants on health	→	→	
	5. Data and information on the composition and characteristics of regional air pollution affecting the Northeast and Southeast Asian region	→	→	
	6. Assessment report on the impacts of PM and ozone on the health of people living in the northeast and southeast Asian region	→	→	→
Progress reporting to the Regional Forum	1. Prepare and submit progress report to the High level meeting and Regional Ministerial Forum		→	→
Coordination and advocacy	1. Working group meeting will be jointly organized by 3 sub-working groups	→	→	→
	2. Presentations in regional and national level workshops		→	→

3.3.2 Strengthening the cooperation

Categories	Activities	Timelines		
		2010	2011	2012
Knowledge management and technical support	1. Training workshop on transboundary pollutants	→	→	

Progress reporting to the Regional Forum	1. Prepare and submit progress report to the High level meeting and Regional Ministerial Forum		→	→
Coordination and advocacy	1. Working group meeting will be jointly organized by 3 sub-working groups	→	→	→
	2. Presentations in regional and national level workshops	→	→	→

3.3.3 Capacity building

Categories	Activities	Timelines		
		2010	2011	2012
Knowledge management and technical support	1. Conduct training programme and case studies on health impact of PM and Ozone in rural areas	→	→	→
	2. Conduct training workshop on monitoring and health impact assessments of transboundary air pollution	→	→	→
		→	→	→
Progress reporting to the Regional Forum	1. Prepare and submit progress report to the High level meeting and Regional Ministerial Forum		→	→
Coordination and advocacy	1. Working group meeting will be jointly organized by 3 sub-working groups	→	→	→
	2. Presentations in regional and national level workshops	→	→	→

4. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The annual report to the High level meeting and Regional Forum will give an overview of:

- Activities implemented over the last year based on activities and outputs listed above
- Activities planned for the coming year