#### Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Malé Declaration

#### REPORT OF THE SESSION

#### I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 20 May 2013.
- 2. Representatives of the participating counties, namely: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka participated in the Session. Experts from the following organizations: South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Headquarters, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRCAP), the regional facilitator and resource persons/experts also attended the Session. The list of the participants is enclosed as Annex I.

#### **Opening of the Session**

- 3. The Session was opened by the Secretariat. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Deputy Director, RRC.AP delivered the Opening Remarks. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) and Department of Environment (DOE), Bangladesh for hosting the IG13 and the Seventh Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination Meeting (RSC7). He pointed out that the greatest achievements of the network in 14 years of implementation include: networking, monitoring, emission inventory, impact assessment, regional cooperation, and awareness raising on transboudary air pollution in South Asia.
- 4. Mr. S.M.D.P. Anura Jayatilake, Director General, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) delivered the Remarks. He stressed that SACEP will remain a partner and provide continuous support to Malé Declaration. He mentioned that the SACEP Governing Council will push through before the year end and SACEP is preparing for convening the meeting in Pakistan.
- 5. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, Project Coordinator, UNEP Headquarters, in his Opening Remarks, pointed out that the Malé Declaration has already established the foundation for regional cooperation and capacity-building in South Asia. Malé Declaration is one of the few forums that incorporate stakeholders meeting every 2 years to share views and opinions on tackling transboundary air pollution. He stressed that as per recommendation from the evaluation of the Malé Declaration, the programme should continue. The IG13 will provide guidance on how to proceed. He expressed gratitude to all member countries for their commitments for over a decade and Bangladesh for hosting the IG13 and RSC7.

- 6. Mr. Raghunathan Rajamani, Regional Facilitator, gave the Introduction and Overview of the Meeting. He briefed the meeting with the Tentative Agenda and the expectation and the outcomes of the meeting. He pointed out that the total ownership of Malé Declaration belongs to the member countries.
- 7. Mr.Md.Shafiqur Rahman Patwari, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and chief guest during the opening, welcomed all the participants on behalf of the government of Bangladesh. He commended the progress in four phases of the Malé Declaration and stressed the strong committeent of their country in pursuing its success and development. He also mentioned that Bangladesh is a partner to Climate and Clean Air Coaliation (CCAC) and is currently doing the National Action Plan in order to to address the chalenge of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) issues and problems. In conclusion, he informed that the cabinet of Bangladesh has approved the financial contribution of their government to the Malé Declaration.
- 8. Mr. Aparup Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Chairperson of the IG13, highlighted the outcomes and summary of the RSC7. He pointed out that the Malé Declaration monitoring network has been strengthened in Phase IV. He informed about the inauguration of the Regional Centre on Health Impact Assessment, the National Institute for Preventive and Social Occupational Medicine (NIPSOM), Bangladesh in January 2012.

#### II. REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF MALÉ DECLARATION (Agenda item 1)

- 9. Ms. Adelaida B. Roman, Head of the Network Component, RRCAP presented the progress under the Phase IV implementation of the Malé Declaration. Summary of the progress under the objectives are as follows:
  - Strengthening regional cooperation: The Twelfth Session of Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12) and the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Stakeholder-cum-Coordination Meeting were held in India in June 2011. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development of MD was held in Thailand in August 2012. The IG12 adopted the Task Force Report on Future Development including its Annexes.
  - *Strengthen monitoring capacity:* The 9th Regional Refresher Training Programme was conducted in Delhi, India in December 2012 and provided hands-on training to all participating countries technical staff involved in the programme.
  - Enhance capacity on emission inventory: The 5thTraining Workshop on Emission Inventory and National Training on Emission Inventory were conducted in Sri Lanka in May 2012.
  - Enhance capacity on air pollution impact assessments: In order to review the results of the Health Impact Studies in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, the Workshop on Health Impact Assessment was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 9 January 2012. Results of the

- Crop Impact Assessment Studies in Nepal and Bhutan were completed in 2012 and presented at IG13.
- Provide decision support information for policy formulation and air pollution prevention. "Final Report on Air Pollution Reduction Strategy for Bangladesh" was completed in April 2012. Publication on "Rapid Urban Assessment of Air Quality for Kathmandu, Nepal" was published in 2012 by ICIMOD.
- *Awareness raising*: Issue of newsletter was published in December 2012. The Report on Compendium of Good Practices on Prevention and Control of Air has been updated by the Centre for Environment Education in collaboration with the Secretariat as part of the phase IV implementation of the MD. Regional Workshop on "Youth for Clean Air" was held in February 2012 in Ahmedabad, India.
- 10. The Session acknowledged the Progress Report as presented (Malé Declaration/IG 13/1). It was concluded that the capacity of member countries to address the transboundary air pollution issues has been improved and enhanced. Member countries were requested to continue the monitoring activities and provide data to the Secretariat for data analysis.

## III. REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE DATA ANALYSIS REPORT (Agenda item 2)

11. Dr. Parwana Harjinder Kaur, presented the Data Analysis Report in 2012. It focused on data reporting and submission of the monitoring activities of the participating countries for the years 2009-2011. The Data Report Analysis included the following topics: Introduction, Monitoring Program, Results, Conclusions and Recommendations. The monitoring data of India and Pakistan are still to be added in the report.

#### 12. Major discussions included:

- It was pointed out that the countries submission of the data is needed to complete the Data Analysis Report in 2012. Countries that have not submitted the latest monitoring data(including meteorological data) and a brief report explaining the trends and correlating the data to possible emission sources influencing the results, to the Secretariat so far, shall submit the same, right after the meeting.
- Corrective action shall be undertaken so that the report will be comprehensive and complete.
- The representative from Pakistan mentioned that due to amendment in administration, they encountered problems in data collection but positive to submit the data before /by the end of June 2013.
- The representative from Maldives informed that they have not been able to carry out the monitoring during 2009-2011 and thus are unable to submit any data.

- The Draft Data Analysis Report in 2012 will be circulated by the Secretariat to the participating countries to solicit further comments and inputs within the period of two weeks, and not later than the third week of June 2013.
- 13. Draft Report was endorsed in principle with the suggestion that it will be circulated to the participating countries for further comments.

# IV. REVIEW AND DECISION ON THE MALÉ DECLARATION GUIDELINES (Agenda Item 3)

- 3.1. Draft guidelines for implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism focusing on status of voluntary contribution of member countries
- 14. The Secretariat presented the Draft guidelines for implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism. The IG13 was requested to discuss, review and provide guidance or make endorsement of the document.
- 15. Major discussions on the following topics included:
  - The voluntary contributions of two member countries (India and Maldives) were fully acknowledged by the meeting. Further, it was mentioned by Indian representative that he will discuss in their Ministry the required contribution amount for India based on UN assessment scale and budget requirements.
  - Bangladesh confirmed to give their voluntary contribution to the network as it was already approved by the Bangladesh Cabinet.
  - Other countries informed the status of their respective country contribution and will relay further development to the Secretariat.
  - It was reiterated that Sida fund was completed in 2012 and countries contribution is crucial for starting next year's implementation of the network activities.
  - The meeting expressed gratitude for the countries, which have initiated their voluntary contributions and encouraged others to complete the national process on voluntary contributions. Estimated voluntary contributions are given in the Annex II.
- 16. The document "Guidelines for implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism" was endorsed by the Session.
  - 3.2. Draft guidelines for the next steps of implementation on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia
- 17. The Secretariat presented the Draft guidelines for the next steps of implementation on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia. The IG13 was requested to discuss, review and provide guidance or make endorsement of the document.

- 18. Some major discussions on this topic include:
  - There would be some challenging tasks which should be put on the activities, e.g., developing common standards and protocol. Action plan should be considered. Look into available expertise, group and technology, but this could be a long term action.
  - Some countries already have standards which are sometimes difficult to implement and enforce, these may be reviewed.
  - Suggestion was raised on minimum common standard that could be implemented by the participating countries in a phased manner. Prioritize parameters and make simple standards. Task force will look at this to reach into common standards.
  - A country mentioned that they have air quality standards but don't have the capacity to cover all parameters.
  - Countries should be grouped and need a substantive roadmap.
  - It was also suggested by a country that sea transport has to be included in the priority.
  - Standards of countries may vary. It was stressed that it is necessary to select experts to gather data from member countries and reach common standards.
  - Common guidelines instead of common standard would be fine as stressed by a country.
  - The session agreed to establish an expert group. The expert group will identify key sectors; review exiting guidelines, standards, and available technologies; and propose a roadmap for emission reduction from selective sectors in South Asia.
- 19. The Session endorsed the "Guidelines for the next steps of implementation on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia", with the understanding that the above agreements will be incorporated in the guidelines.

#### 3.3 Draft guidelines for the operation of the regional centres

- 20. The Secretariat presented the "Draft guidelines for the operation of the regional centres". The basic function of the regional centre is to exchange knowledge and to support the research and development on air pollution issues in the region on the proposed theme namely: 1) dry and wet deposition monitoring; 2) soil monitoring; 3) vegetation monitoring; 4) corrosion impact assessment; 5) health impact assessment; 6) emission inventory compilation;7) atmospheric transport modeling; and 8) pollution reduction policies/strategies. The IG13 was requested to discuss, review and provide guidance or make endorsement of the document.
- 21. Major discussions on this topic were as follows:
  - A question was raised on the status of other centres since only 3 centres were operational as of this time.
  - Regarding the Regional Centre on Pollution Reduction Policies/Strategies (Nepal/Maldives), Maldives informed on lack of expertise on this field but they have interest in joining with Nepal on the activities for this centre.

- Countries were reminded that they shall provide and manage financial support for regional centres and for operation of regional centres, financial support whether from national source or other sources shall be assured and secured.
- 22. The document "Guidelines for the operation of the regional centres" was endorsed by the Session.

# V. REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF THE CROP IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES AND HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES (Agenda item 4)

23. Dr. Kevin Hicks, SEI presented the "Assessment of Impacts of Air Pollution on Crops in South Asia with a focus on Tropospheric Ozone". The report has been prepared mostly based on the inputs from the institutes which include: Study in Mymensingh, Bangladesh Agricultural University; Study in Kanglung, Bhutan, Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan; Study in Varanasi, India, Banaras Hindu University; Study in Rampur, Nepal, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science; Study in Lahore, Pakistan, University of the Punjab; Study in Peshawar, Pakistan, Agricultural University; Study in Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, University of Peradeniya.

#### 24. Major discussions on this topic include:

- It was raised that it could not be induced that only ozone was impacting the study, NOx has also an impact on crop.
- A question was also raised whether the study has incorporated correlation between crop losses and primary production loss which might have impact on local people. It was clarified that there is no correlation.
- Estimate has been done in economic losses.
- It was clarified that for dissemination on the impact study, policy brief/synthesis report which is being developed will cover it.
- 25. The Session endorsed the report.

#### VI. GUIDELINES ON THE SYNTHESIS REPORT (Agenda item 5)

Dr. Kevin Hicks presented the "Malé Declaration 1998-2013: a Synthesis Progress and Opportunities". This report is being developed by a development team lead by Mr. Lars Nordberg (independent consultant) and comprising the Chair of Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration, Regional Facilitator, SEI, UNEP, and Malé Declaration Secretariat with inputs form all the National Implementing Agencies and National Focal Points.

- 27. Major discussions on the synthesis report include:
  - a. This is a key report so it should be communicated and disseminated widely.
  - b. It was suggested to use the recent data.
  - c. The draft report shall be sent to the member countries for further comments after the meeting. After incorporating the comments, it will be circulated again for approval of the MD countries.
- 28. The session agreed on the content of the report, in principle with the understanding that the above discussion items will be incorporated.

## VII. REVIEW, APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORTS DURING THE PHASE IV IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES (Agenda item 6)

- 6.1 Result of 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter-laboratory Comparison Programme
- 6.2 Draft Compendium of Good Practices on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution
- 6.3 Standard Operating Procedure Manual
- 29. Dr. Sagar Dara presented the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual for Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring. This SOP manual has been written to ensure standardization in data collection and handling. This is important as the Malé Declaration Network has eight member nations all with different levels of expertise and capacity. The SOP manual will also ensure QA/QC in the acidic deposition monitoring programme so that it can yield high quality data that are robust enough for policy making.
- 30. Major discussions include:
  - a. Countries are requested to look at the 3 draft reports and give comments to the secretariat if there are activities/ which were not reported, etc.
  - b. The Draft Compendium of Good Practices on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution be available online.
  - c. There are some discrepancies in the SOP, e.g. on page 25 some parameters should be added.
  - d. References are necessary in SOP manual.
  - e. Countries are encouraged to take a careful look at the documents and put all suggestions and submit to secretariat within 2 weeks and will be revised accordingly.
- 31. The Session endorsed the reports, in principle with the understanding that the above discussion items and further inputs will be incorporated.

## VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE PLAN FOR PHASE V AND THE WORK PROGRAMME OF MD IN 2013 UP TO NEXT IG (Agenda Item 7)

- 32. Ms. Adelaida B. Roman, RRC.AP presented the Plan for the Phase V Implementation of the Malé Declaration (2014-2016) and the Work Programme in 2013. In her presentation, she slightly briefed the meeting on the result of the evaluation conducted by independent consultant as a requirement by donor agency (Sida).
- 33. Major discussions on the agenda items include:
  - a. The meeting acknowledge the satisfactory to highly satisfactory evaluation of the Malé Declaration.
  - b. On organizational structure, it was confirm by the member countries that the current host of the Secretariat, RRC.AP will continue to function.
  - c. It was clarified that although funding of the network is from Sida previously, countries had actually guided the functioning of the Malé Declaration. If we need administrative changes, countries have to discuss as the current status is also agreed by countries.
  - d. There are some queries regarding the Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs). It was mentioned that on pollutants scope, there will be no change but if it will include SLCPs, it will enable international development to get some funding.
  - e. A question was raised whether there is there plan of actively involving NGOs, civic organizations, etc. as originally setup.
  - f. There was a suggestion to include sea transport emission in the future.
  - g. Some studies like corrosion study, crop study and health impact study were carried out in a few member countries without involvement of scientist from other member countries. Had this been done jointly, more expertise would have been created for regional data collection. This aspect may be considered in future studies.
  - h. Health impact study for school children needs to be included in the future work plan with enhanced scope covering more cities in the region. Keeping importance of the study, SOP may also be worked out for this activity.
  - i. There is need to disseminate findings of MD studies to policy makers and general public in member countries through mass awareness activities including organizing targeted seminars/workshops. The MD Secretariat may also publish Synthesis Report for distribution to relevant departments of the member countries
  - j. Strong linkages need to be established between MD centers and member countries for exchange of information.
- 34. The Session approved the Plan for Phase V (2014-2016) and the Work Programme in 2013. Table 1- Estimated Countries Contributions for Regional Level Activities in the year 2014-2016 (annual basis), for Phase V implementation was also approved by the Session, attached as Annex II.

#### IX. SUMMARY AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION

- 35. Mr. R. Rajamani, the regional facilitator, summed up the session. He expressed his appreciation and personally delighted by the progress and output of the network. He pointed out that the impact studies are very important aspects of implementation of activities. He emphasized that the intention for future plans are already in the right track. He expressed his great satisfaction that countries are slowly internalizing and considering to contribute on the funds for the activities of the Declaration. He expressed appreciation for countries taking deep interest in taking meetings regularly and helped the regional centres and other activities. Finally, he thanked all the participants, Secretariat, all resource persons and especially thanking the local organizer, MOEF and DOE.
- 36. On behalf of the participants, Mr. J.S. Kamyotra thanked the team from Bangladesh, and Secretariat for promptness and efficient hosting, resource persons for all efforts and sharing their expertise, and all participants for the cooperation. He is positive that all will be able to move forward and he affirmed that activities will be successful.
- 37. Mr. Chowdhury, Chairperson, gave his final remarks. He expressed his appreciation for the privilege to host the meeting. He especially thanked the regional facilitator, for the efficient conduct of the meeting. The Chairperson closed the Session, thanking all the participants, the Secretariat and the resource persons for the contributions and active participation.

#### Annex I

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Annex II

 ${\bf Table 1-Estimated\ Countries\ Contributions\ for\ Regional\ Level\ Activities\ in\ the\ year\ 2014-2016\ (Annual\ Basis)-for\ Phase\ V\ implementation}$ 

No.	Name of Country	% in UN Assessment Scale in 2013	% in Malé Declaration (approximate)	Contribution in US Dollars (USD)
1	Bangladesh	0.01	0.87	1,931
2	Bhutan	0.001	0.087	193
3	India	0.666	57.91	128,542
4	Iran	0.356	30.96	68,701
5	Maldives	0.001	0.087	193
6	Nepal	0.006	0.521	1,156.45
7	Pakistan	0.085	7.4	16,426
8	Sri Lanka	0.025	2.174	4,826
Total		1.15	100	221,968