

## Draft Guidelines for the Operation of the Regional Centers

The Secretariat

### I. Introduction

- As the implementation of the Malé Declaration has progressed a lot, greater involvement of the participating countries is required.
- Moreover, establishing centers at regional and national levels is necessary to sustain the capability building in the region and at the national level.
- The First Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development (TFFD) of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) held on 2-3 August 2010 at Pathumthani, Thailand, agreed on the framework and outline of the feasibility report on the establishment of regional centres.

### The Objectives of the Regional Centre:

- 3. The purpose of a regional centre is to advise on any technical problem faced by a country and provide guidance on the smooth operation of Malé Declaration activities and how to maintain high quality data provision. It will also offer training courses to update and enhance the knowledge and capacity in the field.
- The basic function of a 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: a) dry and wet deposition monitoring; b) soil monitoring c) vegetation monitoring; d) corrosion impact assessment; e) health impact assessment; e) emission inventory compilation f) atmospheric transport modeling; and g) pollution reduction policies/strategies.

### Second Meeting of the TFFD - TFFD2

- Held on 29-30 November 2010 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the draft feasibility report on the regional centres was discussed and potential regional centres were identified

### IG12

Held in India on 30 June 2011 adopted, with modifications the "Report of the Task Force for Future Development (TFFD)", including the Feasibility Report on the Establishment of Regional Centres, among others.

### Previous Discussion at TFFD3

- It was clarified that the regional centers would be established in a phase-wise manner as decided by the IG12.
- It was suggested that the selected regional centers shall prepare the work program for the regional centers based on the Terms of Reference (TOR), and submit to IG13.
- The Secretariat will prepare and circulate a template for the preparation of work programme for regional centers.
- **Based on the suggestion, a template was prepared and circulated to the participating countries for comments on 9 October 2012 by the Secretariat as presented in Annex I**

### Countries comments on the workplan

- Include a tentative timeframe in the work plan and schedule for reporting (quarterly/half yearly/annually).
- Indicate time needed for preparing of work plan.
- Expectation from the Regional Center. What programs should be followed, e.g. training course, guide program on implementation for modeling, etc.?

**II. Next Steps of Implementation**

- For the implementation, the operation of the regional centres will be in accordance with the decision of the IG12, of which the TOR is herewith attached as Annex 1.
- The regional centres in each country were identified by NFPs and NIAs and designated in terms of the existing expertise. It was suggested that each country could have a maximum of two regional centres only.

IG12 adopted and agreed on the location of regional centers:

- Regional Centre on Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring - India
- Regional Centre on Crops and Vegetation Monitoring - Pakistan
- Regional Centre on Soil Monitoring - Bhutan
- Regional Centre on Corrosion Impact Assessment - India
- Regional Centre on Health Impact Assessment - Bangladesh
- Regional Centre on Emission Inventories – Sri Lanka
- Regional Centre on Modelling Atmospheric Transport of Air Pollution - Iran
- Regional Centre on Pollution Reduction Policies/Strategies –Nepal / Maldives

**III. Status of Implementation**

- As agreed by the IG12, the regional centers will be implemented in a step-wise manner.
- Regional centers that are already started functioning are as follows:
  - 1) *Regional Centre on Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring – India*
  - 2) *Regional Centre on Health Impact Assessment - Bangladesh*
  - 3) *Regional Center on Emission Inventory- Sri Lanka*

**IV. Financial Arrangement of the Regional Centres**

- During the IG12, it was clarified that the regional centres are institutions in the countries and have their own operational set-ups. Each centre should develop a proposal in order to mobilise resources.
- Each country is encouraged to support its respective regional centre and should manage its financial resources/matters.
- It was suggested that support from outside donors be sought for the initial establishment and/or operation of the regional centres.

- Thank you for your attention!