

Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on  
Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and  
Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration)  
20 May 2013, Dhaka, Bangladesh

### **Work Programme in 2013**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12) of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) was held in Delhi, India on 30 June 2011. The Session adopted, with modifications the Report of the Task Force for Future Development (TFFD), and its Annexes which include the Draft Resolutions for Consideration of the Ministerial Level Meeting, the Report on the Sustainable Financial Mechanism, the Feasibility Report on the Establishment of Regional Centres, and the Feasibility Report on Strengthening the Regional Framework on Air Pollution Reduction in South Asia. The Workplan 2012 for Malé Declaration was also adopted by the IG12.
2. During the last 14 years of implementation of Malé Declaration, network of policy makers and stakeholders has been developed and established, networks of monitoring and impact assessment have also been established, completed several impact assessment studies and communicated to policy makers and stakeholders, and initiated policy measures to control emissions of air pollutants. The Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Malé Declaration held in June 2011, agreed to develop source specific protocols to control emissions and agreed on sustainable financing mechanism. Two countries are already contributing to Malé Declaration while some countries announced financial support for the implementation from the national budget. This provides a unique opportunity to take forward for the Malé Declaration.
3. This report describes the work programme of the Malé Declaration in 2013 discussed at the Third Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development of the Malé Declaration (TFFD3) held in August 2012, and to be adopted at the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13).

#### **II. OBJECTIVES**

4. Phase IV implementation will continue to focus on assisting the member countries of the Malé Declaration in the reduction of air pollution in the region. The objectives are:
  - Strengthen regional cooperation for addressing the air pollution issues in South Asia;
  - Strengthen the air pollution monitoring network and conduct regular monitoring;

- Enhance the impact assessment capacity of the national institutions and assess the impacts of air pollution and their socio-economic implications in the participating countries;
  - Enhance the capacity of National Implementation Agencies (NIAs) to undertake emission inventory and scenario development, atmospheric transfer modelling of pollutants and Integrated Assessment Modelling;
  - Assist the member countries of MD on the development of air pollution reduction policies and development of the regional framework; and
  - Raise awareness for action on air pollution issues through targeted information dissemination.
5. Towards the achievement of the Phase IV objectives, the remaining activities will be done in 2013 based on the availability of resources.

### III. STRENGTHEN REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ADDRESSING AIR POLLUTION ISSUES IN SOUTH ASIA

#### III-1 Intergovernmental meeting, regional stakeholders cum coordination meeting

6. The Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) will be held on 20 May 2013. Countries willing to host the IG13 will be invited to express their intention to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will discuss the date and venue of IG13 with the host country.
7. The following are proposed agenda items for IG13:
- Review of the progress of Malé Declaration activities in 2012;
  - Review of the data report and data analysis report on transboundary air pollution monitoring in 2012;
  - Review and make decision on the following matters:
    - Draft guidelines for implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism of the MD;
    - Draft guidelines for the next steps of implementation on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia;
    - Draft guidelines for the operation of the regional centres
  - Review and guidance on the results of the crop impact assessment studies and health impact assessment studies;
  - Review and approval/endorsement of the following reports during the Phase IV implementation activities:
    - Result of 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter-laboratory Comparison Programme
    - Data Analysis Report 2012
    - Updated Compendium on Good Practices
    - Revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
  - Plan for Phase V (2014-2016)
  - Consideration and approval of the Work Programme of Malé Declaration in 2013; and
  - Any other issues to be raised by the participating countries, etc.

8. The Malé Declaration needs to reach out to, and involve in its activities on various important stakeholders at the regional level. The Seventh Session of the Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination (RSC7) meeting will be held before the IG13 in April 2013. RSC7 may wish to consider the following agenda items, which will be elaborated later by the Secretariat in communication with the participating countries, stakeholders, and representatives of regional initiatives:

- review of the progress of Malé Declaration activities in 2012
- review/discussion on the results of the health impact and crop impact assessment studies conducted under the Malé Declaration
- updates from air pollution related activities in the member countries of MD;
- updates from initiatives focusing on air pollution at regional and sub-regional level; and
- updates from initiatives focusing on air pollution at global level.

#### III-2 National Stakeholders Meeting

9. The MD also needs to reach out to, and involve in its activities, various important stakeholders at the national levels. All the participating countries have organized national stakeholder meeting in their countries under MD implementation phases. Iran, in cooperation with the Secretariat will convene the national stakeholders in Tehran, Iran on 28-29 May 2013. The major aims of the national stakeholders meetings include:

- increase awareness on transboundary air pollution;
- share and receive stakeholders views and ideas on implementation of the MD; and
- improve the information exchange on the issues relating to transboundary air pollution.

#### IV. STRENGTHEN THE AIR POLLUTION MONITORING AND CONDUCT REGULAR MONITORING OF HIGH QUALITY

##### IV-1 Regional training programme on monitoring

10. The Tenth Regional Refresher training on monitoring transboundary air pollution will be organized during the last quarter of 2013, depending on availability of resources and funds. Major objectives of the training will include:

- review and evaluate the implementation of monitoring programme of MD member countries, including Quality Control and Quality Assurance (QA/QC) programme, specially on the data sampling and analysis;
- Discuss draft report on Malé Declaration in 2011-2012
- Discussion on other issues related to monitoring programme

##### IV-2 Central compilation, evaluation, and storage of data

11. NIAs will continue to operate the existing monitoring sites. The participating countries will submit the data and related information obtained through the regular monitoring activities to the Secretariat. The Technical Committee (ToC) will conduct a data verification to ensure the quality of the data. After the quality check by the ToC, the data will be added to the regional database. Based on this, a data report for 2011/2012 will be compiled by the Secretariat. After the verifications, the data will be available for the participating countries at <http://www.rrcap.ait.asia/male/> website. The data report will also be disseminated to the participating network members.
  12. In order to improve monitoring activities at the national level, IG9 decided to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The SOP manual was finalized for endorsement of the IG13. All NIAs are required to adopt the SOP manual for monitoring stations and translate it to local languages.
- V. ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF NIAs TO UNDERTAKE EMISSION INVENTORY AND SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT, ATMOSPHERIC TRANSFER MODELLING OF POLLUTANTS AND INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT MODELLING
- V-1 Emission inventory
13. Most of the participating countries have submitted their national level emission inventories for the year 2000 and 2005. In 2013, NIAs will continue and finalise updating/compiling the emission inventories.
- VI. ENHANCE THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT CAPACITY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ASSESS THE IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION AND THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS IN THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
14. National level implementation arrangements for conducting health impact assessment and crop impact assessments studies were conducted in 2011 and 2012. The results of the studies will be presented and discussed during the IG13 and RSC7.
- VII. ASSIST THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE MALÉ DECLARATION WITH DEVELOPING AIR POLLUTION REDUCTION POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK
- VII-1 Regional workshop on control and prevention of air pollution
15. The first regional-level training-cum-awareness workshop for middle-level policy makers was held on July 2011 at Pathumthani, Thailand. This workshop was designed to place all the information on prevention and control at the fingertips of governments in the region. The

Second Regional Training for Policy Makers will be held in the last quarter of 2013, depending on the availability of the resources.

## VIII. RAISE AWARENESS FOR ACTION THROUGH TARGETED INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

### VIII-1 Newsletter

16. The MD newsletter was launched in 2002 to disseminate the MD related information to the public and stakeholders. The content of the newsletter has largely been reports on the network's activities. Two issues of the newsletter will be published during 2013 period. NIAs are encouraged to submit articles and news items for the newsletter.

### VIII-2 MD website

17. The Secretariat will update the MD website by presenting relevant information on MD activities, such as training programmes, meeting documents, and newsletter. MD website provides useful weblinks to national air quality data from three countries: (i) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), India; (ii) Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Nepal; and (iii) Air Resource Management Center, Sri Lanka. Other participating countries are encouraged to provide appropriate weblinks to the Secretariat.