

Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of the
Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and
Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration)
25 November 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Report on the Progress of Malé Declaration after the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents and reviews the progress of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) activities after the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 20 May 2013.

II. STRENGTHEN REGIONAL COOPERATION

2. The Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) of the Malé Declaration was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 20 May 2013. The event was attended by the representatives of the participating countries, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Some international organizations, such as, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Headquarters, and the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) were also represented. A regional facilitator and some experts participated as resource persons in the Session.
3. The IG13 considered and discussed the following agenda: (1) progress on the implementation of the Malé Declaration; (2) review and endorsement of the data analysis report; (3) review and decision on the Malé Declaration guidelines; (4) review and endorsement on the results of the crop and health impact assessment studies; (5) guidelines on the synthesis report; (6) review, approval and endorsement of the reports during the Phase IV implementation; and (7) consideration of the plan for Phase V and the work programme of Malé Declaration in 2013 up to the next IG. The session acknowledged and endorsed all the guidelines and the reports that were presented. The meeting also approved the Plan for Phase V (2014-2016) and the Work Programme in 2013. Please see attached Report of the Session.
4. The Fourth Meeting of the Task Force Task Force for Future Development was held on 26-27 May 2015 in Pathumthani, Thailand. The objectives of the meeting include: 1) discuss the progress of Malé Declaration including implementation and operation

of the regional centres; 2) update on status of financial contribution; 3) discuss the Work Programme in 2015-2016 of Malé Declaration; 4) discuss the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on strengthening the Malé Declaration; 5) introduction and briefing on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs); and 6) update on regional initiatives and programmes on transboundary air pollution.

III. ENSURE STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

5. The Seventh Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination Meeting (RSC7) of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) was held back-to-back with IG13 in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 18-19 May 2013. The RSC Meeting is held regularly in order to enhance participation of stakeholders on air pollution control and prevention activities. The two-day meeting involved presentations by the NIAs on the updates of the implementation of the Malé Declaration activities. Some other national, regional and sub-regional level initiatives on air pollution control and prevention were also presented. The final reports on the crop and health impact assessment studies conducted by SEI and the data analysis report of 2012 were reviewed and discussed at the meeting.
6. A National Stakeholders Meeting on Malé Declaration was held in Tehran, Iran on 28 May 2013. The meeting was organized by the Air Pollution Research Bureau, Department of Environment in Iran, in collaboration with RRC.AP, the Secretariat for the Malé Declaration. The meeting was aimed at increasing awareness on transboundary air pollution issues and seeking the views and involvement of the stakeholders in the implementation of Malé Declaration in Iran. About 50 participants from various stakeholder groups related to air quality in Iran, as well as the implementing agencies of Malé Declaration, attended in the event. The presentations and discussions were focused more on public awareness initiatives and air quality activities of Iran and other regional networks.

IV. STRENGTHEN CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES AND MONITORING

7. The National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) continued operation of the monitoring activities in their respective countries. Bangladesh is continuously sending to the Secretariat the monitoring data as analyzed through the Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL). It is expected that the monitoring results from all member countries will be presented and discussed during the 10th Refresher Training, dates to be decided.

V. IMPLEMENTATIONS AT THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL CENTERS

- *Regional Centre on Health Impact Assessment, Bangladesh*

8. The National Stakeholders Workshop on Health Impact Assessment of Air Pollution on Malé Declaration was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 15 October 2014. The objectives of the workshop included: 1) describe different contents of Health Impact Assessment Manual and knowledge sharing among the stakeholders about the different aspects of air pollution; 2) disseminate the activities, roles and future plan and expected output of the Regional Center on Health Impact Assessment in Bangladesh; 3) identify different initiatives to reduce air pollution in Bangladesh; 4) describe the effects of cook stove intervention for reduction of indoor air pollution in rural Bangladesh; 4) explore the health impact study findings of other regional countries; and 5) discuss about the major challenges faced by the researchers on the Effects of PM on School children in Bangladesh.

VI. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMES

9. Some Malé Declaration member countries participated at the High Level Sub-regional Consultation on Advancing Action on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) in Southeast and Northeast Asia on 19 August 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand. The SLCP consultation was hosted by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP) under the auspices of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC), with logistical arrangements coordinated by RRC.AP The high level consultation agreed that relevant stakeholders from countries in the region could consider taking the following next steps, among others:
- *Integrating policies to strengthen coherence and effectiveness of air quality, climate change, and/or relevant sectoral action at national and subnational levels, where appropriate, and across multiple stakeholders including the private sector, notably through:*
 - additional research providing evidence of the local public health benefits from SLCP emissions mitigation and strategies to raise awareness of these benefits in support of scaling effective mitigation measures capable of realizing these benefits in **the transport sector**.
 - adoption of cook and heatstoves, lighting, and air quality standards taking into account local contexts in **the residential sector**.
 - integrating **waste management** and climate change (methane and black carbon) actions and policies at national and local levels, where appropriate.
 - adoption of measures in **the agriculture sector** to reduce black carbon and co-emitted species from residue burning and slash and burn practices, and methane emissions from irrigated rice paddies, livestock manure management and enteric fermentation

10. The Malé Declaration participating countries and the Secretariat, RRC.AP, participated at the Consultation Meetings of the Joint Forum on Clean Air in Asia and the Pacific and the Fifth Governmental Meeting on Urban Air Quality in Asia that were held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 17 to 18 November 2014. The combined meetings brought together over 60 participants with representations from twenty governments, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, research institutions, air pollution-related processes and initiatives, and United Nations agencies. The Secretariat presented the Malé Declaration in the Joint Forum. It was stressed that the Joint Forum will have the synergy of the initiatives as there are a large number of regional processes and initiatives related to air pollution in Asia and the Pacific region. There was an opportunity to address the fragmentation of processes and initiatives in the region by developing a mechanism to help them share experiences and identify opportunities for effective collaboration. Such a coordination mechanism would help with better use of investments by avoiding duplication of efforts such as assessments and meetings and ultimately speed up air pollution control in the region.

VII. DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

11. Following approval and endorsements made at the IG13 in May 2013, the Malé Declaration Secretariat, had developed the following publications after IG13: (1) Malé Declaration 1998-2013: a Synthesis- Progress and Opportunities; (2) Data Analysis Report 2012; (3) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): Manual for Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring; and (4) Proceedings of the Seventh Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination Meeting (RSC7), 18-19 May 2013 and the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13), 20 May 2013. These four publications are available at the Malé Declaration website: <http://www.rrcap.ait.asia/male>. Copies of the publications were disseminated to the participating countries.

VIII. UPDATING THE WEBSITE and OTHER ACTIVITIES

12. The Secretariat developed the Final Report including the Financial Report in Phase IV and submitted the report to Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) on 23 September 2013, as per agreement with the donor agency.
13. The Secretariat is updating the website of the Malé Declaration. The regional database is available online at: <http://www.rrcap.ait.asia/male/>.

IX. CONSTRAINTS AND PROBABLE SOLUTIONS IN MEETING THE TARGETS

Regional Centre on Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring – India

Activities/Tasks	Targets in 2014, depending on funds availability	Reasons for delay and solutions to meet the targets
10th Refresher Training Course on Monitoring Transboundary Air Pollution	Planned on 12-14 November 2014 in New Delhi, India, followed by IG14.	Re-scheduled by the host country due to another international meeting during same period, arranged by the MOE, CPCB. This activity is planned for next year.
IG14	Planned in December 2014 in AIT, Thailand for cost saving at the Secretariat's office	Moved to November 2015, back to back with Joint Forum.
Fourth Task Force Meeting (TFFD4)	Supposedly before IG14.	Moved to May 2015 due to budgetary consideration.