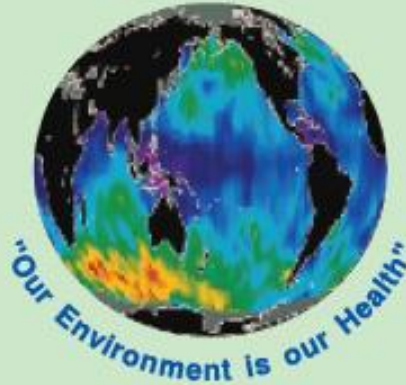
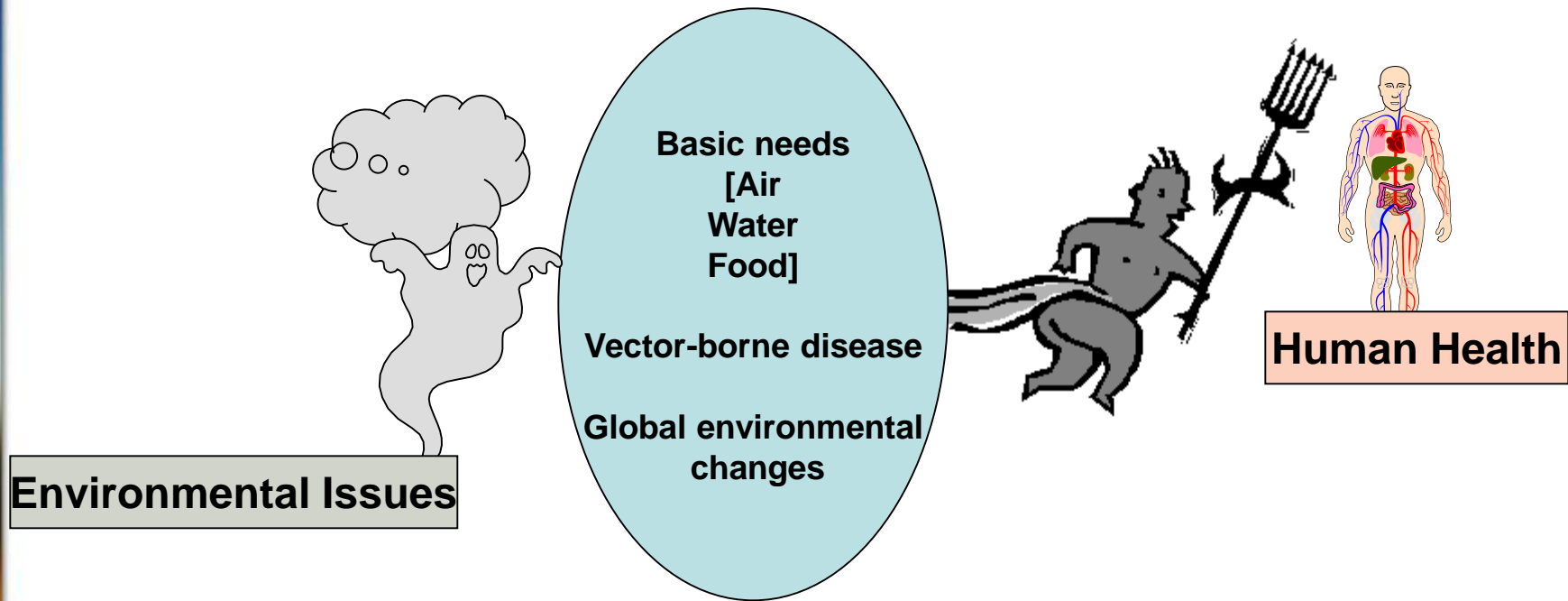


Environment and Health

***Concept of
Regional
Initiative on
Environment and
Health in South
Asia***



Environment and Health



Globally, around 25% of the burden of disease is due to environmental factors

Economic Implications of Environment and Health

Asia¹

- An estimated 487,000 premature deaths occur each year due to outdoor air pollution.

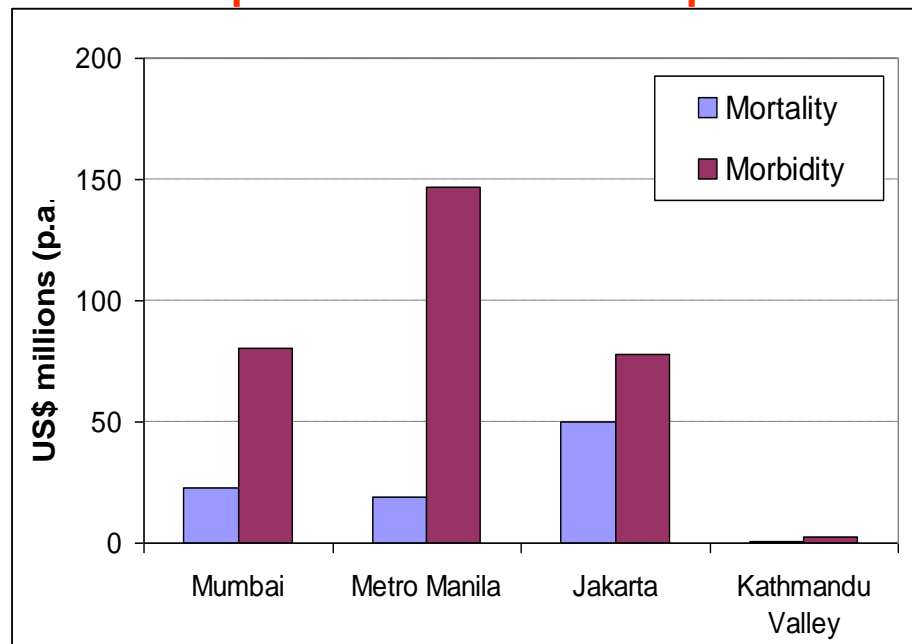
China²

- Environmental and health costs of air pollution in China is about 7 % of GDP [budget deficit in 2003 = 3.3% of GDP]⁵
- Estimates shows that these costs could rise to 13% of China's GDP by 2020

Bangkok

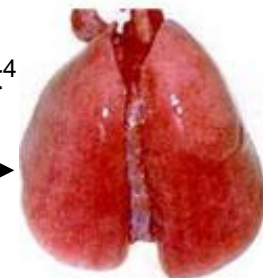
- Health cost of air pollution
- \$640 million
- \$800 million by 2020

Economic Implications of Health Impacts³

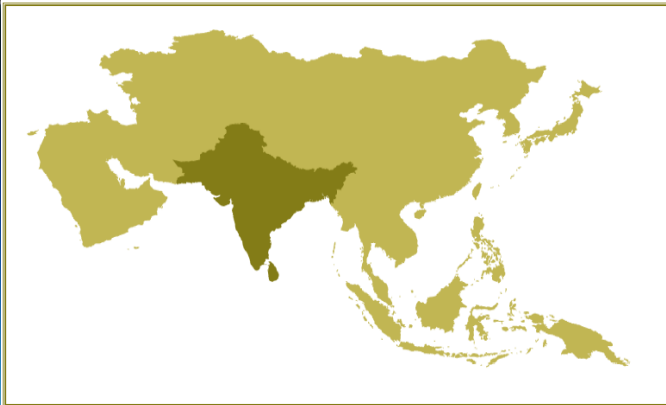


Exposed to diesel exhaust⁴

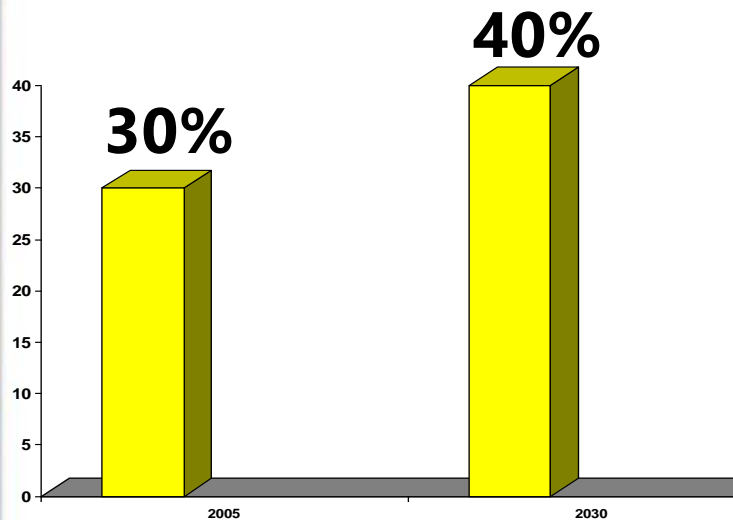
Exposed to clean air⁴



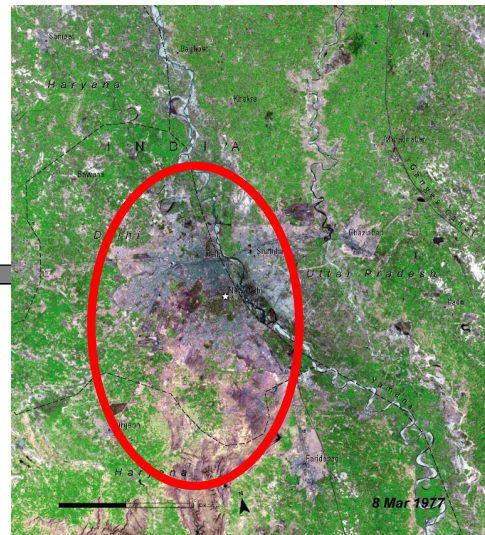
South Asia



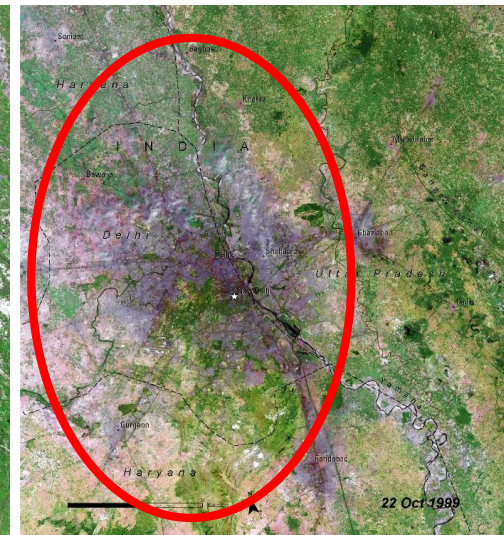
- More than a fifth of the world population
- More than half a million poor
- The fastest growing economies
- Burgeoning middle class
- High rate of urbanization



Growing urban proportion

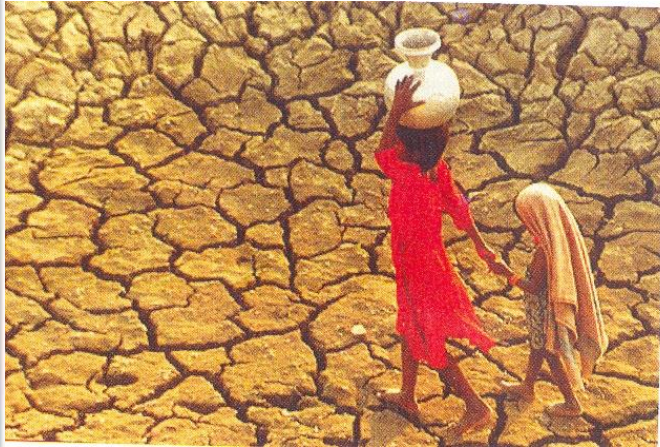


New Delhi, 1977



New Delhi, 1999

Environment and Health issues in South Asia



Water

Drinking water contamination

In Bangladesh, groundwater in 44 out of 64 districts is arsenic-affected; 40 of the 50 common diseases prevalent are due to the consumption of unsafe drinking water

Air Pollution

Use of firewood for cooking

Estimates of air pollution related health effects in India are 0.1 m excess deaths and 25 m excess illnesses per year

Waste

Estimated 20-50% of the solid waste generated in South Asian cities are uncollected.

Karachi generates more than 7000 tons of waste every day

Needs



Better coordination is required between environment and health agencies

Rio Declaration, 1972

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with the nature

Millennium Development Goals, 2000

Goal 7 sets specific targets on environment and health:

- halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water (by 2015); and
- improvement in the life of at least 100 m slum dwellers (by 2020)

UNEP Governing Council, 2005

GC decision 23/6 highlighted the importance of environmental management in controlling emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.



Proposed Strategies

Approach

- Assess emerging environment and health issues, and establish a regional framework for common understanding and action in South Asia;
- Provide policy guidance on legislations and national strategies;
- Promote capacity building in integrated environment and health management; and
- Enhance the quantitative base on environment and health.



Proposed Strategies...

Sub-regional level

- Conduct integrated assessments on emerging environment and health issues at sub-regional level.
- Convene a senior level meeting on environment and health.

National level

- Devise a National Environment Health Action Plan (NEHAP) for each of the countries: NEHAP will provide a joint roadmap for the environment and health agencies to implement at the national level.
- Assist the Governments in the implementation of the adopted NEHAP.



Proposed Strategies...

Capacity building

- Establish a cluster of experts on key issues related to health in South Asia due to the following environmental risk categories:
 - water & sanitation;
 - air pollution;
 - wastes
- Encourage capacity building activities and studies to upgrade the existing knowledge base on these key environment and health issues

Enhance the quantitative base

- Conduct research on the knowledge gained from experiences in other regions of the world, best practices and traditional knowledge in the region.
- Disseminate through a web-based knowledge base on environment and health



Proposed Strategies...

Process

- Governments: Government institutions will serve as the national focal points in each of the countries.
- Expert institutions from the region: Expert institutions in the region will be invited to join the expert groups.
- Expert institutions from other regions: Experts and institutions outside the region will participate in technology transfer activities.
- Civil society: Civil society networks will participate in the dissemination of environment and health related information.

Initiative in Southeast and East Asian countries

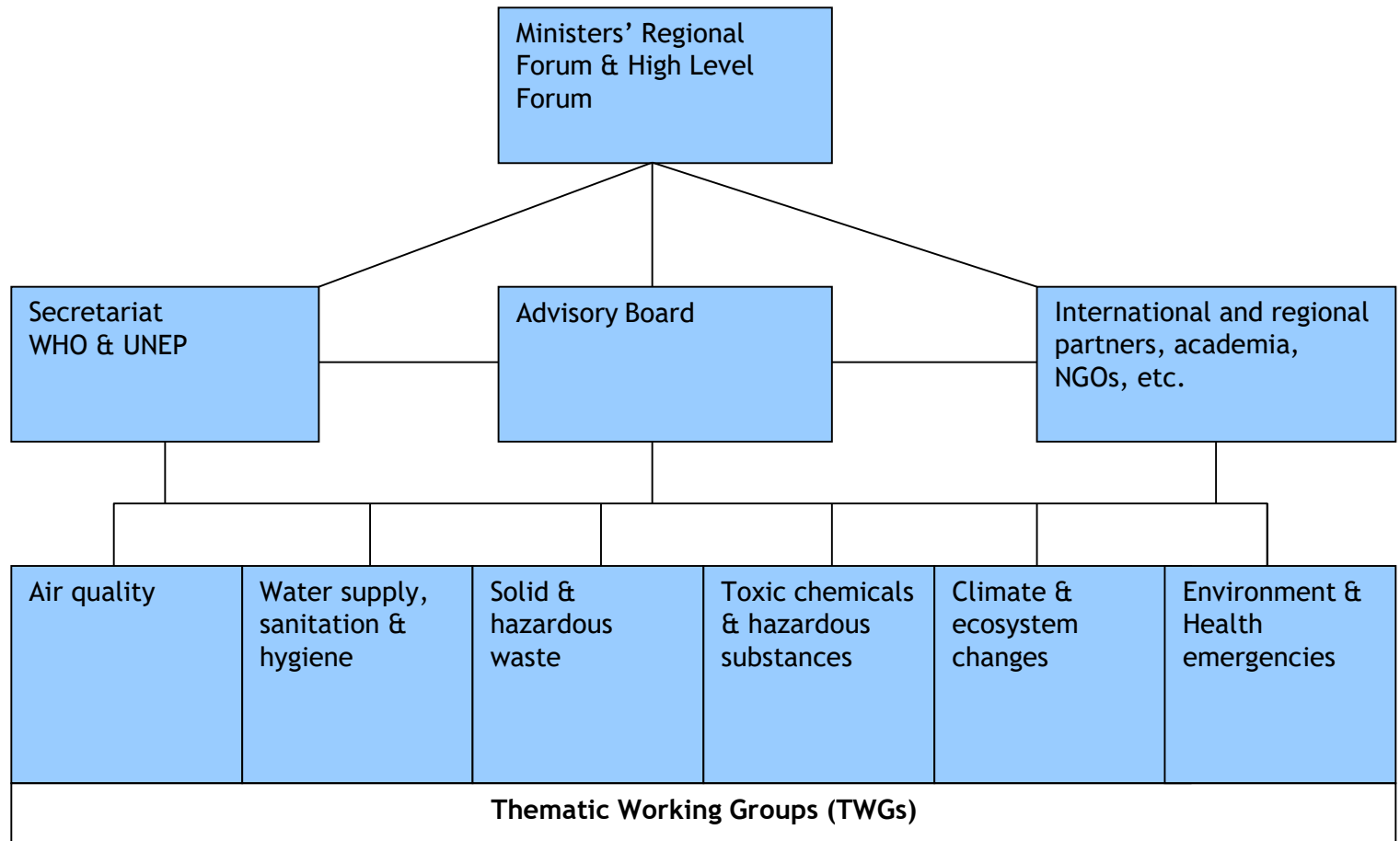


- The Regional Initiative took off in 2004, through a High-Level meeting at Manila in November 2004
- The meeting recommended that a ministerial Regional Forum be convened in 2006.



- The second High-Level meeting, December 2005 in Bangkok
- A draft charter was produced .

Initiative in Southeast and East Asian countries...



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam