

The Ninth Session
of the Intergovernmental Meeting
of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects
for South Asia; 2-3 October 2007

Work Programme in 2008 for Malé Declaration

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG6) on the Malé Declaration participating countries decided to start the Phase III activities of Malé Declaration, building on the outcomes of the Phase II activities. IG6 adopted a proposal for resource mobilization. With the approval of the proposal by Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida), the major donor agency supporting the Malé Declaration implementation, Phase III implementation was started in October 2005.

2. The Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7), held in New Delhi, India, in 2005, approved a three-year implementation plan for the Phase III implementation. This report describes the work programme of Malé Declaration in 2008 including the remaining activities for the calendar year 2007.

II. OBJECTIVES

3. The purpose of Phase III is to continue to promote the establishment of a scientific base for prevention and control of transboundary air pollution in South Asia and to encourage and facilitate coordinated interventions of all the stakeholders on transboundary air pollution at the national and regional level. Specific objectives of Phase III include:

1. strengthen regional cooperation and stakeholders participation under the Malé Declaration;
2. strengthen capacity building programmes initiated during phase II;
3. enhance the capacity of NIAs on emission inventory development and Integrated Assessment Modeling
4. to enhance the analytical and impact assessment capability at the national level through integration of findings from local pollution studies and conducting assessment studies;
5. provide decision support information for policy formulation and air pollution prevention ; and
6. raise awareness for action through targeted dissemination

4. Towards achievement of Phase III objectives, the Malé Declaration activities in 2008 will aim at each of the above objectives.

II. STRENGTHEN REGIONAL COOPERATION AND STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION UNDER THE MALÉ DECLARATION

II-1 Intergovernmental meeting, regional stakeholders cum coordination meeting

5. The Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) will be held in September 2008. Countries willing to host the IG10 are invited to express their intention to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will discuss the date and venue of IG10 with the host country.

6. IG10 may wish to consider the following agenda items, which will be elaborated later by the Secretariat in communication with the participating countries:

- review of the progress of Malé Declaration activities in 2008;
- review of the data report on transboundary air pollution monitoring in 2007/08;
- consideration of the revised technical manual and operational manual;
- consideration of implementation plan for the Malé Declaration activities in Phase IV;
- consideration of the work programme of Malé Declaration in 2009; and
- any other issues raised by the participating countries.

7. The Fifth Session of the Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination (RSC5) meeting will be held immediately before the IG10 in September 2008. RSC5 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 2008;
- updates from air pollution related activities in the member countries of Malé Declaration;
- updates from initiatives focusing on air pollution at regional and sub-regional level; and
- Updates from initiatives focusing on air pollution at global level.

II-2 National Stakeholders meeting

8. National Stakeholders meetings have been convened in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. National stakeholders meeting will be organized in Bhutan and Nepal during 2007/2008. NIAs, in principle, should cover part of the expenses for conducting the national stakeholders meeting. The major aims of the national stakeholders forums include:

- increase awareness on transboundary air pollution;
- share and receive stakeholders views and ideas on implementation of the Malé Declaration; and
- improve the information exchange between information generators and users.

III. STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES INITIATED DURING PHASE II

III-1 Regional training in programme on monitoring

9. A regional training on monitoring transboundary air pollution will be organized in March 2008. Major objectives of the training will include:

- Review the implementation of Quality Control and Quality Assurance (QA/QC) programme, specially the inter-laboratory comparison;
- review the data report 2007/08; and
- discuss the issues encountered in operating the monitoring sites in each country.

III-2 Implementation of inter-laboratory comparison

10. In order to improve the quality of the participating laboratories of Malé Declaration, the inter-laboratory comparison that was initiated during 2007, will be continued in 2008. Under this programme, artificial precipitation samples will be distributed to the participating laboratories of Malé Declaration. Participating laboratories of Malé Declaration will analyze and submit the results to central laboratory. The central laboratory will prepare reports on the inter-laboratory comparison, based on the data submitted by the participating laboratories for review and comments from the monitoring committee.

III-3 Passive sampler inter comparison

11. A passive sampler inter-comparison programme, which has been initiated this year, will be completed by 2008. Available passive samplers in the region will be compared with the IVL sampler for their data quality and analytical procedure, in order to check their performance and to enable recommendations to be made for the possible use of suitable alternative methods within the Malé Monitoring Programme.

III-4 Establishment of new monitoring sites

12. Currently, the Malé Declaration monitoring network includes 8 monitoring sites, one in each of the participating countries. The NIAs from Bhutan and Sri Lanka have expressed their interest to establish additional monitoring stations under the Malé Declaration. In 2007, establishment of 2 new monitoring sites was initiated, one each in Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Installation will be completed during 2008.

III-5 Central compilation, evaluation, and storage of data

13. NIAs will continue to operate the existing observatories. The participating countries will submit the data and related information obtained through the regular monitoring activities to the Secretariat. The Monitoring Committee will conduct a data verification to ensure the quality of the data. After the quality check by the Monitoring Committee, the data will be added to the

regional data base. Based on this, a data report for 2007/2008 will be compiled by the Secretariat. After the verifications, the data will be available for the participating countries at www.rrcap.unep.org/md/.

III-6 Site and laboratory audits

14. Site/laboratory audits to be performed by the Monitoring Committee, are planned for most of the countries within the last year of Phase III, and audit protocols have been elaborated. A revision of the monitoring manuals will be done, based on the suggestions given in the notes presented and the discussions at the meeting in Bhutan in September 2006. For example, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) will be introduced to improve the data quality.

IV. ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF NIA'S ON EMISSION INVENTORY DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT MODELING

IV-1 Emission inventory

15. Participants of the second workshop will continue to work on emission inventory compilation, and verify the assumptions made, check for mistakes in workbook, make a list of missing activity data and find them if possible, replace the international activity data and emission factors with better local data, and document the changes made in the workbook. Each participating country will write a report on the main findings of the inventory compilation activities, share the problems through the email forum, summarize the findings, and make a presentation in next workshop.

IV-2 Scenario development

16. Participants of the second workshop will collect the relevant data so that the knowledge gathered in compiling scenarios using the international methods during the workshop can be tailored to the Malé Declaration countries, and explore the possibility how policy options can be systematically considered in the South Asian context to help decision making on controlling and preventing emissions. A manual for the development of emission scenario which is currently being developed, will be finalized in 2008.

IV-3 Modeling

17. The Integrated Assessment Model (IAM) has been expanded in scope to an Integrated Information and Assessment System (IIAS). The IIAS for Malé Declaration countries requires substantial inputs and advice from the participants so that it can be improved to make it useful for the Malé Declaration countries. The MATCH model, which provides the transfer coefficients for the IIAS, has been installed at the Secretariat as a first step. MATCH model will be run at the Secretariat or at SMHI to meet the requirements/demands of the participating countries.

IV-4 Training

18. A follow-up training programme on emission inventory, scenario development, and IIAS will be organized in January 2008. Each country will present their inventory reports for peer review and advise. The emissions data will then be entered into the atmospheric transport model to generate a more accurate picture of near surface air concentrations, deposition loads and likely effects of the pollutants across the region. There would be hands on training on the MATCH model.

V. ENHANCE THE ANALYTICAL AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT CAPABILITY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

V-1 Rapid urban assessment

19. The aim of this activity is to develop capacity within the participating countries for the quantification of emissions and pollutant concentrations and link this to health effects through comparison of population exposure to air pollution using relatively rapid techniques. The case study taken up in Kathmandu, Nepal, will be completed.

V-2 Health impact

20. The aim of this activity is to develop capacity within the participating countries to assess the impacts of air pollutants such as particulate matter on human health. A case study that is now going on in Dhaka, Bangladesh, would be completed in 2008.

V-3 Crop impact

21. The aim of this activity is to strengthen knowledge on impacts of air pollution on crops. The bio-monitoring studies undertaken in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka would produce the first year result in 2008.

V-4 Corrosion impact

22. The aim of this activity is to develop capacity within the participating countries to assess the impact of air pollution on materials and objects of cultural heritage. Case studies that have been initiated in India, Iran, Nepal and Sri Lanka would be completed. The exposed kits in these countries, would be withdrawn and analysed.

V-5 Training programmes

23. The following training programmes will be undertaken to disseminate the methodology for conducting the impact assessment studies:

- training programme on health impacts during October 2007 in Bangkok

- training programme on corrosion impact assessment during in February 2008
- training on rapid urban assessment during the first quarter of 2008
- training programme on crop impact assessment in March 2008
- training programme on soil acidification during January 2008

VI. PROVIDE DECISION SUPPORT INFORMATION FOR POLICY FORMULATION AND AIR POLLUTION PREVENTION

24. Decision support information focuses on two major areas:

- Promote case studies in practical options to reduce air pollution;
- Study good practices for local, national and regional level legal and financial measures and provide options tailored for each country.

VI-1 Case studies

25. UNEP together with its regional expert network on eco-housing will continue to provide technical support for the implementation of eco-housing demonstration projects in Bhutan and Maldives.

26. A report on generic guidelines for eco-housing in tropical regions, would be published during 2008. A draft version is now available at www.rrcap.unep.org/ecohouse/knowledge

VI-2 Good practices

27. A compendium of best practice in preventing and controlling air pollution in South Asia and a report on strategies to implement and upscale the identified best practices in South Asia, would be completed during 2008.

VI-3 Training and Workshop

28. A workshop will be held in early 2008, to discuss the best practices in preventing and controlling air pollution in South Asia and strategies to implement and upscale the identified best practices in South Asia. This workshop will be organized during the first quarter of 2008 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Malé Declaration.

29. Institutions would be identified from Bangladesh, which could promote eco-housing. A 5 day training programme on eco-housing would be organized for professionals from these institutions, in 2008.

VII. RAISE AWARENESS FOR ACTION THROUGH TARGETED DISSEMINATION

VII-1 Newsletter

30. The Malé Declaration network newsletter was launched in 2002 to disseminate the Malé Declaration 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 2007/08 period. National Implementing Agencies are encouraged to submit articles and news items for the newsletter.

31. An enhanced mailing list would be developed for the Malé Declaration newsletter, so as to reach a wider audience

VII-2 Awareness materials

32. National level public awareness campaign on the impacts of air pollution would be conducted in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

33. An awareness package, which includes a publication and multimedia presentation on air pollution would be completed targeting the youths. This package will be launched as part of the 10th year anniversary during the first quarter of 2008.

34. An awareness workshop on health impact will be organized during the first quarter of 2008. The workshop will focus on air pollution and asthma.

VII-4 Information sharing

35. The Secretariat will update the Malé Declaration website by presenting relevant information on Malé Declaration activities, such as training programmes, meeting documents, and newsletter. Malé Declaration website provides link to national air quality data from 3 countries (i) Central Pollution Control Board, 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 URLs to the Secretariat.