

NEWSLETTER

Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution
and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia

Volume 6 Number 1

April 2009



South Asia Air Pollution Control Books Launched at Intergovernmental Meeting



Three publications: 1) “Past, Present and Future of the Malé Declaration: 2) Good Practices on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution: A Compendium: and 3) Youth for Clean Air were presented to His Excellency Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment for Sri Lanka, during the opening ceremonies of the Fifth Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination Meeting (RSC5) and Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) of Malé Declaration in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 19 August 2008.

The Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10)

was held on 21 August, 2008 after RSC5 meeting. The meeting was attended by the Ministries of Environment as the National Focal Points (NFP) and National Implementing Agencies (NIA) of the participating countries of the Malé Declaration, members of Monitoring Committee (MoC), the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Swedish Environmental Research Institute Ltd (IVL), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and an independent facilitator. The meeting reviewed the progress of the Malé Declaration implementation during 2007/2008, discussing the results of the impact assessment studies on health, crop, corrosion and rapid urban assessment which were conducted during Phase III and the future plan on Malé Declaration activities.

In this issue

Intergovernmental Meeting

- Launch of South Asia Air Pollution Control Books
- IG10 meeting

Stakeholder's participation

- RSC5 meeting
- National Stakeholders consultation in Bangladesh

Decision support information

- National Training Workshop on Eco-housing and Green Building

First Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental Networks

Capacity Building

- Seventh Regional Training Programme and Refresher Course

Monitoring and Site Audit

- Iran
- Pakistan
- India

Awareness Programme

Both meetings were organised by the UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) and hosted by the Central Environment Authority (CEA), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka.

The compendium contains key issues related to emissions of air pollutants in South Asia and selected good practices in preventing and controlling air pollution that have been adopted in different countries of the world.

Youth for Clean Air is published to encourage various actors, especially the young, to contribute towards the control and prevention of air pollution in South Asia.. It contains information on atmospheric emissions as well as reduction measures on atmospheric emissions

The Malé Declaration: Past, Present and Future presents the background, implementation achievements and the way forward for the Malé Declaration.



More details on the publications are available at the website:
www.rrcap.unep.org/male/

Stakeholder Participation

The Fifth Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination Meeting

The Fifth Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination Meeting (RSC5)

of the Malé Declaration was held on 19-20 August, 2008. The meeting was attended by the National Focal Points (NFP) and National Implementing Agencies (NIA) of eight participating countries of Malé Declaration as well as representatives from various stakeholder groups and ongoing initiatives on air pollution at national, sub-regional, regional, and global levels. The main aims of the meeting were to share and receive the stakeholders views and ideas on the implementation of Malé Declaration and enhance coordination

and information sharing among the ongoing initiatives on air pollution in the region as well as those from other regions.

The meeting ended with concluding remark from Mr. Rajamani, Regional Facilitator. In his remarks, he summarized the progress in each country and appreciated that most of the targets set for Phase III are being achieved. From the deliberations, he observed that a lot of capacity exists within the Malé countries, which could be tapped. He stressed the need for better networking and improved awareness building on

air pollution-related issues and on the progress of the Malé Declaration activities in particular. He also expressed that the participating countries have to make a greater ownership of the project, especially in terms of financial support for the implementation of Malé Declaration. He thanked Sida for its support and hoped that Sida support will continue in the next phase. He thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for the hospitality and excellent arrangements.

Second National Stakeholders Meeting



Second National Stakeholder meeting, Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 2008

The Second National Stakeholders workshop for Bangladesh under the Malé Declaration was jointly organized by Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Bangladesh, and UNEP. The workshop was held in the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Bhavan, Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 24 November 2008. The objectives

of the workshop were 1) to increase the awareness on the transboundary air pollution; 2) to collate the stakeholder's views and ideas on the implementation of Malé Declaration; and also 3) to improve the information exchange between information generators and users. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. AHM Rezaul Kabir ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Environment

& Forests. The main discussions were on the health impact assessment, crop impact assessment and emission inventory development under the Malé Declaration in Bangladesh and Stakeholders gave their views and comments on the studies. The participants were from Ministry of Environment and Forest, Department of Environment, University, Institutions, SEI, UNEP and others Stakeholders. Around 50 participants attended the workshop.

For more information, please visit:
www.rrcap.unep.org/male

Decision support information

National Workshop on Eco-housing and Green Building in Bangladesh



The National Workshop on Eco-housing/Green Building under the Malé Declaration was jointly organized by the Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment and Forest, Bangladesh, Housing Building Research Institute (HBRI), Dhaka and UNEP. The workshop was held in LGED Bhavan, Agargaon, Dhaka,

Bangladesh on 23-24 September 2008. The main objective of the workshop was to build capacity and raise awareness on eco-housing through sharing experiences and expert opinions to help formulate well-thought out recommendations for policy dialogue and dissemination of the eco-housing concept to the stakeholders. The workshop was inaugurated by Hon'ble, Chief Guest, Raja Devasish Roy, Special Assistant to Hon'ble Chief advisor, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Agriculture, Fisheries and two special guests, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Mr. AHM Rezaul Kabir, ndc and Member, Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Institution Division of the Ministry of Planning, Mr. Md, Shah

Alam. Around 80 participants from DoE, Engineers and Architects from HBRI, NGO, University, Institutions and other Stakeholders (planners, architects, the building designers, engineers and the developers) attended the workshop.



First Joint Meeting

First Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental Networks on Regional Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific Region

The First Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental Networks on Regional Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific Region was held in Pathumthani, Thailand on 9 March 2009. Representatives from the participating countries of Malé Declaration and Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, Central Asian Environment Convention Secretariat, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Secretariat, and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) Secretariat as well as resource persons and observers from various institutions in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America attended the meeting.



Participants of the First Joint meeting of the Intergovernmental Networks, Pathumthani, Thailand

It was agreed during the meeting that this initiative could be continued as the "Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environmental Issues in Asia and the Pacific". The participants of the meeting agreed in principle on cooperation and coordination among networks and

afterwards careful analysis will be conducted regarding the development of the future plan and the Secretariat was requested to consult the relevant Intergovernmental Meetings, for the gap analysis and subsequent development of an implementation plan.

Capacity Building

Regional Refresher and Training Workshop 2009

The Seventh Regional Training Programme and Refresher Course was held in New Delhi, India on 16-19 March 2009. The main objectives of the training were: 1) to strengthen the monitoring capacity; 2) to share and discuss the issues encountered in operating the monitoring station in each country; 3) to update the implementation activities under Malé Declaration in each country and 4) to discuss prioritization of the Phase IV implementation of Malé Declaration

activities. The training was organized by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), New Delhi together with UNEP.

Thirty two participants from member countries drawn from the national implementation agencies and national focal points supporting the monitoring programme under the Malé Declaration participated in the training. Resource persons from SEI, IVL, MoC, CPCB, UNEP and Asian Institute of

Technology (AIT) also attended the training programme.



Monitoring and Site Audit

Monitoring air pollution is the one of the major activities of the Malé Declaration and the most important aspects is the continued capacity building for the regional representative sites established under Phase II and Phase III implementation. To ensure the effectiveness of monitoring activities and the quality of the data produced from the sites, the Monitoring Committee (MoC) conduct regular site audits.

Iran: site audit at Dehlaran, Ilam station, 23-26 June 2008. The station is now monitoring and reporting all parameters to Malé Declaration Secretariat which is required for Malé Declaration monitoring network. The station's infrastructure has been built up well. The monitoring instruments are kept on the roof of the station.



During the site audit trip, the MoC visited the proposed second monitoring site at Zahedan, Eastern Iran.



India: site audit at the Port Canning monitoring station, 8-9 December 2008. The station is located about 70 km east of Kolkata city- a town with a population of about 30,000, and is the main gateway to the Indian part of the Sunderbans mangrove forest (the largest mangrove forest in the world). The monitoring station is located at the campus of the Regional Research Station of the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute. It is located on the roof of one of the buildings of the research station. The sea is at an aerial distance of about 40 km from Port Canning.



Pakistan: site audit at Bahawalnagar station, October 16, 2008. The sampling station is within the compound of the meteorological observatory at Bahawalnagar which is located at the edge of the town where there are only a few residential and commercial buildings. The area is mostly open; there are no high rise buildings or trees. While the ambient air environment can not be taken to be totally free of human activity, the site can be taken to be suitable. After the site visit, an audit was conducted at the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) laboratory and office at Islamabad, on October 17 & 18, 2008.

Awareness Activities

To raise awareness about air pollution in South Asia, media packages on existing information regarding air pollution were developed. This activity will be continued to carry out publication of awareness and educational materials in relation to: i) middle and high-level policy makers in different ministries, ii) youths, and iii) general public.

Bangladesh: Detailed awareness campaigns have been developed for Bangladesh. The activities include:

- Development of public awareness material through drama, folk song and documentation on air pollution;
- Translation of Malé Declaration booklets to Bengali language;

- Development of posters and stickers on the Malé Declaration for publicity.

SAYEN: A publication targeting awareness among youths was completed for publication. The publication was prepared by the South Asian Youth Environment network (SAYEN) and Malé Declaration Secretariat, through series of consultation with the youths in South Asia.

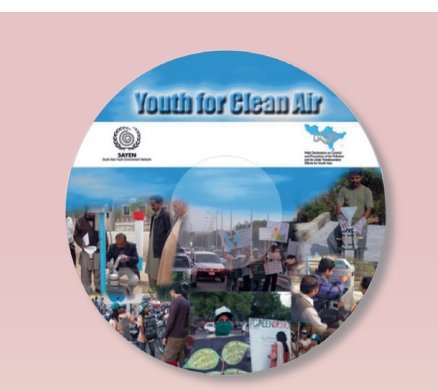
National Brochures: During an exchange programme representative of the Malé Declaration National Implementation Agencies (NIAs) had developed national brochures on Malé Declaration, titled “An overview of progress within the last decade”. These



brochures were published and widely disseminated.



Country Brochures: contains overview on each participating country's progress on the implementation of Malé Declaration activities within the past decade.



Youth for Clean Air CD: an interactive CD for youth which contains 4 modules on understanding atmospheric emissions, their sources, impacts and measures to reduce the atmospheric emissions. Within each module, there are interactive slides on checking your understanding where the participant can get a certificate based on his/her performance. For more details, visit the website: www.sayen.org and www.rrcap.unep.org/male

National Focal Points (NFP) and National Implementing Agencies (NIA)

Bangladesh

NFP: Ministry of Environment & Forest

NIA: Department of Environment, Dhaka

Bhutan

NFP & NIA: National Environment Commission, Thimpu

India

NFP: Ministry of Environment and Forests

NIA: Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi

Iran

NFP & NIA: Department of Environment, Tehran

Maldives

NFP: Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water

NIA: Department of Meteorology, Malé

Nepal

NFP: Ministry of Environment Science and Technology

NIA: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu

Pakistan

NFP: Ministry of Environment

NIA: Pakistan Environment Protection Agency, Islamabad

Sri Lanka

NFP: Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

NIA: Central Environment Authority, Colombo

Coordinating Agencies

UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP) Bangkok, Thailand



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) Colombo, Sri Lanka



Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Stockholm, Sweden



Financial Support

Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, is funding this part of the Malé Declaration implementation as part of the Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC) programme.



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Malé Declaration Newsletter

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