

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

**National Stakeholders Forum**  
**25 February 2004**

Speech of the Chairperson

**Khan M Ibrahim Hossain**  
Director General  
Department of Environment

Meeting Room # 1  
**IDB Bhaban**  
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207

**Chief Guest, Syed Tanveer Hussain, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest  
Mr. P. K. Kotta, Project Coordinator, South Asia Cooperative Environment  
Programme,  
Mr. M. Iyngararasan, Senior Programme Specialist, United Nations Environment  
Programme, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific  
Dr. Johan Kuylenstierna, Director, Stockholm Environment Institute,  
Mr. Quazi Sarwar Imtiaz Hashmi, Project Director, Phase II Malé Declaration on  
Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for  
South Asia,  
Respected Technical Paper Presenters & Experts,  
Distinguished Participants  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Assalamualaikum,**

I am pleased to be here among you at the National Stakeholders Forum under Phase II Implementation of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effect for South Asia. As you know the workshop is being organized by the Department of Environment in association with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). You also know the Government of Bangladesh has given high emphasis on the control of air pollution, and in this respect has taken a number of steps. The concentration of most of the people is on this aspect of urban air pollution. But it's noteworthy to say, under the Malé declaration, the Department of Environment, along with other regional countries, is trying to address the issue of transboundary movement of air pollution.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Many of you may know, Department of Environment is implementing Air Quality Monitoring Project (AQMP), the main focus of the project is to monitor the parameter of air pollutants, and fix the motor vehicle standards, the main focus of the project being the urban areas. But in respect of Phase II Implementation of Malé Declaration, one transboundary air monitoring station will be set up at Shamnagar, in Satkhira district. Land for the proposed site has been finalized. Necessary equipment for the proposed monitoring station have already arrived and training for Laboratory Technicians has also completed. We hope we shall be able to start the monitoring activities soon.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Phase II Implementation of "Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effect for South Asia" would try to focus its

aim at; expanding the network established during Phase I; establishing as well as strengthening the air quality monitoring facilities; and carrying out studies on transboundary effects of air pollution. It may be mentioned here that a National Database and National Action Plan was prepared as the Phase I activities of Malé Declaration.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The purpose of arranging this stakeholders meeting is to increase the awareness on the transboundary air pollution, share and receive the stakeholders views and ideas on the implementation of Malé Declaration and improve the information exchange between information generators and users. To this end, resource persons from Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, SACEP will discuss the global and regional perspective of transboundary air pollution and actions taken to address issue. Three technical papers will be presented on behalf of the stakeholders of Bangladesh to be followed by open discussion. I hope that a good number of implementable recommendations will come out as the result of fruitful discussion at the end of the day.

### **Distinguished Guests,**

Before concluding my opening statement I would like to thank the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Syed Tanveer Hussain for his presence to grace the occasion. My appreciations are also due to Mr. P. K. Kotta, Project Coordinator, SACEP, and Mr. M. Iyngararasan, Senior Programme Specialist, UNEP, RRC, AP. I also want to convey my sincere thanks to Dr. Johan Kuylenstierna, Director, Stockholm Environment Institute; I hope, his presentation will give an idea about transboundary air pollution and its impacts on human health and environment. My thanks also goes to all those who have worked hard behind the scene to make the programme a success. I also want to convey my appreciation to the media personnel, who are covering this meeting. Last, but not the least, Project Director, Phase II Implementation of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effect for South Asia, Mr. Quazi Sarwar Imtiaz Hashmi, for the successful holding of this stakeholders forum.

Thank you once again, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your patience hearing.

**Allah Hafiz.**

**Bangladesh Zindabad**

**Khan M Ibrahim Hossain**  
Director General.