

Malé Declaration

on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution
and its Likely Transboundary Effect for South Asia



Malé Declaration/IG 10/7

Tenth Session of the
Intergovernmental Meeting

English Only

21 August 2008, Colombo Sri Lanka

REPORT OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) on the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 21 August 2008. The agenda is enclosed as Attachment I.
2. The meeting was attended by the Ministries of Environment (National Focal Points (NFP)) and National Implementing Agencies (NIA) of the participating countries, members of Monitoring Committee (MoC), South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Swedish Environmental Research Institute Ltd (IVL), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and an independent facilitator. A list of the participants is enclosed in Attachment II.
3. Mr. R. Rajamani, former Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India chaired the meeting as the Regional Facilitator.

II. REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS (Agenda item 1)

4. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, UNEP presented the key progress made during the past one year after the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG9) which was held in Bandos, Maldives on 3rd October 2007 (Malé Declaration/IG10/1). Highlights of the presentation include:
 - During 2007/2008 period, one intergovernmental meeting, one regional stakeholders meeting and two national stakeholders meetings were held to strengthen the regional cooperation on transboundary air pollution issues. Two new monitoring stations have been established and five more stations are being establishing. Most of the NIAs have started monitoring ozone (O₃) and rainwater chemistry.. A data analysis report, compiling the data from the last 5 years of monitoring, has been composed and will be discussed during the agenda item 2;
 - Manual on emission inventory has been completed and two countries have finished compiling their national emission inventories while the compilation of inventories are ongoing in the other countries;
 - Impact Assessment Studies on Health, Crop and Materials, Rapid Urban Assessment and the corresponding capacity building activities have been carried out. The assessment reports will be discussed during the agenda item 3.
 - A Compendium of Good Practices on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution has been

developed, which will be kept updating as a dynamic compendium on internet. Eco-house pilot demonstration project and corresponding capacity building activities have been carried out;

- Newsletters and country brochures have been composed. The newsletter has largely been reported the network's activities. Countries are therefore encouraged to provide inputs on national activities. Besides, a Youth for Clean Air publication and an e-learning CD has been produced by the South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN).

5. The Session acknowledged the Progress Report as presented (Malé Declaration/IG 10/1/1).

III. REVIEW OF THE DATA REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF REVISED MONITORING MANUALS (Agenda item 2)

6. Ms. Naw Wah Wah Htoo, UNEP RRC.AP; Dr. Martin Ferm, IVL; and Mr. Sagar Dhara, Ceraba Foundation presented the status of the monitoring activities, the data report (Malé Declaration/IG 10/2/1), and the technical manuals (Malé Declaration/IG10/2/2). Highlights of the presentations include:

- Status of monitoring under Phase III was briefed. Wet and dry deposition monitoring and meteorological data have been collected in countries. All the countries have reported wet deposition monitoring data. It is suggested that the national monitoring institutions to follow the manual strictly to ensure good quality of the data;
- The data report has been prepared after a quality check on all the data collected under the Malé Declaration since 2004. The report includes 3 major sections: (i) introduction, monitoring programme, and (iii) results. Meteorological data, data from diffuse sampler, air concentration data, and wet deposition data are provided as annexure.
- The revised Malé Declaration monitoring manual is compiled into six small volumes to be more user-friendly. The content of the volumes were briefed: volume 1 provides introduction on monitoring activities; volume 2 introduces basic concept of air pollution monitoring; volume 3 for the technical staffs who handle the actual field work, the instruments and small field laboratory; volume 4 provide instrumentation and analytical methods for laboratories; volume 5 is about data reporting procedures and format, and; volume 6 is for QA/QC management.
- Changes suggested in monitoring protocol include SO₂ and NO₂ will not be monitored with High Volume Samplers; 24 hours sampling time for PM, PM₁₀, and; only five values of PM, PM₁₀ per month shall be reported between 10th and 25th of the month.

7. The Session was invited to provide comments on the report. Major discussions included the following:

- It was suggested to incorporate PM_{2.5} monitoring in the monitoring manuals. The meeting entrusted the MoC and NIAs to discuss the issues and update the manuals accordingly.
- SO₂ and NO₂ measurements are necessary in the countries and passive sampler might not be sufficient for monitoring while high volume sampler which requires intensive expertise is not practical. New monitoring methods for SO₂ and NO₂ are required to be added to the monitoring manual ;

- Some of the monitoring stations are located in agricultural fields and agricultural activities might have influenced the data.
 - Countries expressed the need to continuation of refresher courses and exclusive training programmes to improve the quality of the data. ;
 - Countries expressed their willingness to send the missing data on timely manner to fulfil the monitoring protocols;
 - It was suggested to develop questionnaire to support the inter-laboratory comparison. It was agreed to circulate a questionnaire together with the inter-laboratory comparison sampler to help the countries identifying the condition of the data outliers.
 - The meeting agreed to remove the outliers from the data report.
 - Participates were requested to send further comments on the data report and the manual by 15th October, if any.
8. The meeting agreed that the revised manuals will be introduced in the Malé Declaration monitoring network after incorporating the above comments. The meeting also agreed to disclose the data report beyond the Malé Declaration network after a review by the MoC and NIAs.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS (Agenda item 3)

9. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan of UNEP presented the preliminary impact assessment reports on crop, health and corrosion, and report on the rapid urban assessment developed as part of the Phase III implementation of the Malé Declaration.
- Crop Impact Assessment Reports have been developed in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The results from Bhutan experiment will be incorporated and the socio-economic analysis will be included. The comments from the RCS5 will be incorporated. Second draft of the report will be circulated to NIAs for comments. Final report, after incorporating the comments from NIAs will be widely disseminated.
 - Corrosion impact assessments have been carried out in Kathmandu, Agra, Battaramulla, Teheran, and Hanimaadhoo. Socio-economic analysis will be included and the comments from the RCS5 will be incorporated. Second draft of the report will be circulated to NIAs for comments. Final report, after incorporating the comments from NIAs will be widely disseminated. .
 - Health impact assessment has been carried out in Dhaka, Bangladesh. All the sections including socio economic assessment have been completed. National level consultation will be conducted in Bangladesh. Second draft of the report will be circulated to NIAs for comments. Final report, after incorporating the comments from NIAs will be widely disseminated.
 - Rapid Urban Assessment has been carried out in Kathmandu, Nepal. The comments from RCS5 will be incorporated. National level consultation will be conducted. Second draft of the report will be circulated to NIAs for comments. Final report, after incorporating the comments from NIAs will be widely disseminated.
10. The Session invited participants to provide comments on the report. Major discussions included the following:

- Some countries expressed their concern that communication between the national expert institutions and NIAs are weak and need to be improved. Secretariat clarified that Secretariat requested the national expert institutions to provide monthly progress report to NIAs on the impact assessment studies.
 - Concern was raised on the selection of corrosion monitoring sites. It was clarified that selection of monitoring sites are decision of the NIAs with the technical support from the expert institutions and the Secretariat.
 - Some countries informed that the assessment studies not authorised by NIAs should not be included in the assessment report. The Secretariat clarified that impact assessment reports will not disseminate without the clearance from the NIAs.
11. The Session endorsed the Preliminary Impact Assessment Reports for Malé Declaration (Malé Declaration/IG10/3) with the aforementioned revisions. These changes will be incorporated and the updated version will be circulated among the NIA's for final comments, if any.

V. REVIEW OF DECISION SUPPORT INFORMATION (Agenda item 4)

12. Dr. R. M. Shrestha from AIT presented a draft strategy to implement and upscale the identified best practices in South Asia which has been prepared based on the request of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental meeting (Malé Declaration/IG10/4/1). Highlight of the presentation include:
- Different definitions and perceptions of up-scaling were presented. The approaches, types of up-scaling process, steps on regional air pollution control strategy, and prerequisites of up-scaling process were introduced.
 - Broad categories of good practices in the compendium such as emission reduction credit mechanism, emission tax mechanism, and command and control approach have been introduced.
 - The major components and key element of strategies for up-scaling of the good practices for atmospheric emission reduction was introduced. It is noticed that the implementation of Malé Declaration has achieved certain components of the strategy and has established concrete basis for further development.
 - Policy Analysis of Environment Policies/Strategies are introduced, key concerns include: cost of implementing policy/strategy; financial affordability; scientific technical and managerial capacity; administrative complexity.
13. The session was invited to provide comments on the draft strategy. Major discussions included the following:
- Countries expressed their desire to include in the compendium the good practices from their own countries. Suggested UNEP to help to develop county specific cost-effective, practical measurements and to provide more regional practices.
 - Traditional knowledge from South Asia could be included in the good practices.
 - Most of the existing good practices implemented are urban biased. Good practices with national and level implications could be included in the good practices.

- The regional level strategy could be further developed into national level strategy considering the national policies, targets, and activities.
 - Technologies should be analysed for local situation in the national level strategy.
14. The Session endorsed, in principle, the draft strategy and instructed the Secretariat to incorporate the comments from the countries, if any, to the extent possible.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MALÉ DECLARATION(Agenda item 5)

15. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan of UNEP presented the Terms of Reference for Task Force on the Further Development of the Malé Declaration. The detail of the presentation and document are mentioned in document (Malé Declaration/IG10/5/1)
- Background and composition of the Task Force members on the Future Development were presented.
 - It is proposed one chair person and two vice chair persons to be elected for three years of the taskforce
 - Tasks were introduced :1) conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of specialised regional centres; and 2) conduct a feasibility study on developing a regional framework such as convention on air pollution in South Asia.
16. The session was invited to provide comments on the draft strategy. Major discussions included the following:
- It was suggested to include expected activities of the Task Force. It was agreed that an indicative schedule for the Task Force activities will be included as an annex to the ToR.
 - Some countries suggested the duration of the tasks is too long and a rotation system could be considered for chair and vice-chairs. The Secretariat suggested that experience from other networks shows the three years term is average period and fixed chair and vice-chairs are required to maintain the continuation of the discussions. The meeting agreed to a 3 year time frame with fixed chair and vice-chair for the task force.
 - It was agreed that the member countries will nominate the representatives for the Task Force and the Malé Declaration Secretariat will serve as the secretariat for the task force
 - In terms of membership, there shall be two persons, nominated by the countries, from NIA and NFC respectively.
 - In response to question on the relationship between the IG and the Task Force, Secretariat clarified that the Task Force is a subsidiary body of the IG. IG is the governmental body which overlooks the implementation of Malé Declaration and the Task Force will report to the IG.
 - The session agreed that the regional facilitator will serve as the advisor to the Task Force.
17. The Session adopted the ToR for the Task Force on future Development of the Malé Declaration with the understanding that the Secretariat will incorporate the above suggestions.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF MALÉ DECLARATION IN 2009 (Agenda item 6)

18. The draft Work Programme in 2009 for Malé Declaration (Malé Declaration/IG10/6/1) was presented by Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan of UNEP. The proposed work plan will initiate the phase IV implementation of the Malé Declaration Major activities include six key components: 1) Strengthen Regional Cooperation: RCS6 to be held in September of 2009 to share the information among the Malé Declaration and other network; IG11 meeting will be held in September of 2009; 2) Capacity Building on Monitoring will focus on reviewing data report; revise the inter-laboratory comparison study and passive sampler; 3) Capacity building on emission inventory will focus on assisting NIAs in compile national level emission inventories and incorporating new data in IIAS and disseminate to NIAs; 4) Capacity building on impact assessment report will focus on finalisation of the reports and development of implementation plan for Phase IV; 6) Rising awareness will focus on dissemination of the good practices compendium, conducting training workshops on clean fuels and vehicles. An implementation plan for the activities during the phase IV will be developed for the consideration by the IG11. The Session was invited to discuss the proposed work plan. The session suggested that the activities on taskforce should be included in the work programme.
19. The Session adopted the document.

VIII. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

20. Dr. Arvind Boaz of SACEP during his closing remarks indicated that the RSC5 and IG10 meetings will contribute to the successful implementation of Malé Declaration. He suggested Malé Declaration could look into local approaches which will be more beneficial to the household. He acknowledged the achievements by the Malé Declaration in the past ten years. He conveyed SACEP's interest to play more active role in the Phase IV implementation of the Malé Declaration.
21. Mr. W.R.M.S. Wikramasinghe of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka gave his concluding remarks, thanking all the participants for making the RSC5 and IG10 a success. He informed that Sri Lanka will continue in the implementation of the Malé Declaration and will provide more good practices to share in the next IG meeting.
22. Mr. Pasan Gunasena from CEA delivered closing remarks on behalf of CEA. He thanked the Minister of Environment for the guidance provided in implementing the Malé Declaration in Sri Lanka. He thanked all the participants and the key stakeholders. He informed the CEA's commitment in the implementation of the Malé Declaration.
23. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, UNEP during his closing remarks indicated the developments of the Malé Declaration specially, in developing the technical capacity of member countries. He thanked the member countries for their commitments in the implementation of the Malé Declaration. He expressed his appreciation for SEI for providing technical support for the Malé Declaration; Sida for providing financial support; the Government of Sri Lanka for

hosting this meeting; SACEP for their continued support; and Mr. Rajamani for effectively facilitating the RCS6 and IG10.

24. Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan, expressed his appreciation to the local organiser, the Malé Declaration Secretariat in UNEP, SEI, SACEP for organising the RS6 and IG10 which provided very useful insight and information. He thanked Mr. Rajamani for facilitating the meeting and the wise guidance provided.
25. Mr. R. Rajamani, the regional facilitator noted that this had been a very significant meeting. He stressed the importance of good practices. He closed the Session, thanking each and every one for making this meeting a success. He thanked the local organiser for their hospitality which ensured the success of the meetings.