

NEWSLETTER



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

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STRENGTHENING MALÉ DECLARATION THROUGH PHASE V (2014-2016) IMPLEMENTATION

Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting



Participants of the Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG14)

The Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG14) of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 25 November 2015. The event was attended by the representatives of the eight participating countries, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Experts from international organisations, such as the Asian Institute of Technology, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the United Nations Environment Program, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP), and the Secretariat, the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRCAP), also attended the Session.

The Session was opened by Mr. Osamu Mizuno, Director of RRC.AP, who highlighted the current problems on air pollution regionally and globally and pointed out that improvement in air quality need to be considered as part of a larger sustainable development context. He stressed that Malé Declaration could play great roles on the international calling to combat air pollution, as set forth at the decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution for protecting air quality and the recently adopted global United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Regional Director and Representative, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP), in his welcome remarks, reaffirmed that the biggest global agenda now is the SDGs where the 3 goals pertain

to air pollution. Dr. Muhammad Khurshid, Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) also gave remarks. Mr. Jatinder Singh Kamyotra, Director, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, was appointed as the new Regional Facilitator of Malé Declaration. He had successfully facilitated the whole day Session.

The IG14 considered, discussed, and endorsed or approved the following agenda: (1) Review on the progress of implementation of the Malé Declaration at the national level; (2) Consideration on the implementation of Malé Declaration at the regional level, including financial status and updates; (3) Consideration on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia; and (4) Consideration on the work programme and budget of Malé Declaration in 2016 and the future development. Each member country made a presentation on the progress of implementation of the Malé Declaration at the national level. The Secretariat also presented the progress at the regional level and the status of financial contribution to the Malé Declaration. All presentations and reports were acknowledged at the Session. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework of the Malé Declaration (Draft) was endorsed in principle, with request to the member countries on further comments, if any in one-week period. The Session approved the Work Programme and Budget in 2016.

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Newly appointed Regional Facilitator



Mr. Jatinder Singh Kamyotra, Director, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, was appointed as the new Regional Facilitator of Malé Declaration during IG14. He has been with the Malé Declaration since its inception in 1998.

Fourth Meeting of the Task Force for Future Development

The Fourth Meeting of the Task Force for Future Development of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) (TFFD4) was held on 26-27 May 2015 in Pathumthani, Thailand. The meeting was attended by the Task Force members from the participating countries, which include Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka as well as resource persons from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the Secretariat, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP). Dr. Rashid Hasan, Advisor, Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change, India, was elected as the Chairperson of the meeting. The objectives of the meeting included: (i) discussion on the progress of Malé Declaration including implementation and operation of the eight regional centres; (ii) discussion on the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on strengthening the Malé Declaration; (iii) updates on the status of financial contribution; (iv) discussion



Participants of the Fourth Meeting of the Task Force for Future Development of Malé Declaration

on the Work Programme in 2015-2016 of Malé Declaration; (v) introduction and briefing on Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs); and (vi) updates on regional initiatives and programmes on transboundary air pollution. The meeting made comments and recommendations on

the documents presented and discussed, for submission to the Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG14) to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 25 November 2015, for its review and guidance.

Fifth Meeting of the Task Force for Future Development



Participants of the Fifth Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development

The Fifth Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (TFFD5) was held on 19 August 2016 in New Delhi, India. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), India, hosted the meeting. Representatives of the member countries of the Malé Declaration include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Experts from the CPCB and the Secretariat, the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP) also attended the meeting. Ms. Adelaida B. Roman, Senior Programme Specialist, RRCAP, delivered the Opening Remarks on behalf of the Secretariat. She highlighted the summary of major recommendations for

future development of Malé Declaration during the Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG14), held in November 2015, which include: (i) strengthen networking and information sharing among member countries; (ii) improve emission inventory; (iii) replicate success stories in the region; (iv) upgrade monitoring facilities; (v) build capacity on air quality management; (vi) need for innovative financial solutions; and (vii) necessity for developing emission standards. Mr. Jatinder Singh Kamyotra, Director, CPCB and Regional Facilitator of Malé Declaration delivered the Welcome Remarks. He commended the progress of Malé Declaration. He pointed out that capacity building in the region is important and suggested to seek funding support from major donor agencies, e.g. Asian Development Bank,

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and others to augment the funding resources. He stressed on the importance of a continuous dialogue among member countries to share experiences and gain support from one another regarding air emissions standards and air pollution including short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs).

The Task Force members discussed the progress on the implementation of the Malé Declaration activities, including updates at the national level and the Regional Technical Centers. The member countries shared and discussed on the challenges and issues in the implementation of activities and recommended some measures to improve the operation. The meeting discussed the Draft Plan for Phase VI of the Malé Declaration (2017-2020) which will be submitted to the Fifteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG15) for its approval/endorsement. The meeting also discussed the Draft Work Programme and Budget for 2017, for submission to the IG15 for its endorsement.

First Meeting of the Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework

The First Meeting of the Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework of Malé Declaration was convened on 18 August 2016 in New Delhi, India. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), India, hosted the event. Representatives of the participating countries, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka attended the meeting. Some air pollution experts from CPCB, MoEFCC and the Secretariat, the Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) also participated in the meeting. The meeting was opened by the CPCB and the Secretariat. Mr. Jatinder Singh Kamyotra, Director, CPCB welcomed the participants on behalf of the host country. He pointed out that Malé Declaration has done a lot of progress in 18 years of implementation from the basic monitoring to better monitoring system, data acquisition and management, capacity building, impact assessment, emission inventory, policy development and other activities. He mentioned that the Malé Declaration is moving forward and will review/develop the emission standards as mandated by the Intergovernmental Meeting. Ms. Adelaida B. Roman, Senior Programme



The Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework of Malé Declaration

Specialist, RRCAP, delivered the Opening Remarks on behalf of the Secretariat. She mentioned on the recent adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of which three goals pertain to air pollution, and that the Malé Declaration could play a key role in the implementation of SDGs in the region. Dr. Rashid Hasan, Advisor, MoEFCC, gave a Welcome Remarks. He stressed that India has done concerted efforts to control air pollution, particularly from biomass burning, cement plant factories and other transboundary air pollution sources. They will move forward from Euro 4 to Euro 6 by 2020 on vehicular emission standards. Mr. S. P. Singh Parihar, Chairman of CPCB, delivered the Inaugural Address. He stressed on

the importance of an overall strategy for Malé Declaration countries to be in place. He also noted the importance of sharing of resources and success stories, and experiences among member countries to ease the challenges in the implementation of transboundary air pollution activities. The agenda of the meeting included: (1) the discussion on the Preliminary Report of the Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework of Malé Declaration; (2) presentation of the country experiences on the issues in implementation of existing standards, and available technologies; and (3) consultation on the Work Programme for 2017 of the Malé Declaration.

National Stakeholders Workshop on Health Impact Assessment of Air Pollution

The National Stakeholders Workshop on Health Impact Assessment of Air Pollution was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 15 October 2014. The workshop was organized by the Department of Environment and Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, NIPSOM, in cooperation with the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), the Secretariat for the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration). The objectives of the workshop included: 1) to describe the different contents of the health impact assessment manual and knowledge-sharing among the stakeholders about the different aspects of air pollution; 2) to disseminate the activities, role and future plan and expected output of the regional center in Bangladesh; 3) to identify different initiatives to reduce air pollution in Bangladesh; 4) to describe the effects of cook stove intervention for reduction of indoor air pollution in rural Bangladesh; 5) to identify the different methodologies used for monitoring of PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and black carbon at urban environments in Bangladesh; 6) to explore the health impact study findings of other regional countries; and 7) to discuss about the major challenges faced by the researchers on the effects of PM on school children in Bangladesh. At the technical session of the workshop, the presentations and discussions focused on major components and topics which included: 1) Manual on Health Impact Assessment of Air Pollution in Bangladesh; 2) air pollutants and its impact on human health; 3) air quality monitoring methodologies; and 4) way forward and the role of the Regional Centre on Health Impact Assessment. A field visit to the air quality monitoring station in Dhaka was also done as part of the workshop.



Assessment of impact on air pollution among school children in Dhaka city

Upcoming Events:

● Fifteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG15)

The Fifteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG15) will be held on 16 October 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

National Focal Points (NFPs) and National Implementing Agencies (NIAs)

Bangladesh

NFP: Ministry of Environment and Forest

NIA: Department of Environment
Dhaka

Bhutan

NFP & NIA: National Environment Commission
Thimpu

India

NFP: Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change

NIA: Central Pollution Control Board
Delhi

Iran

NFP & NIA: Department of Environment
Tehran

Maldives

NFP: Ministry of Environment and Energy

NIA: Environmental Protection Agency
Maldives

Nepal

NFP: Ministry of Population and Environment

NIA: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Kathmandu

Pakistan

NFP: Ministry of Climate Change

NIA: Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency
Islamabad

Sri Lanka

NFP: Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

NIA: Central Environmental Authority
Colombo

Regional Centres

Regional Centre on Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring - India

Regional Centre on Crops and Vegetation Monitoring - Pakistan

Regional Centre on Soil Monitoring - Bhutan

Regional Centre on Corrosion Impact Assessment - India

Regional Centre on Health Impact Assessment - Bangladesh

Regional Centre on Emission Inventories – Sri Lanka

Regional Centre on Modelling Atmospheric Transport of Air Pollution – Iran

Regional Centre on Pollution Reduction Policies/Strategies –Nepal / Maldives

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