

ASIA PACIFIC COMMEMORATION OF THE 4th INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES

5 – 8 September 2023

United Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand

Concept Note

Title	TOGETHER FOR CLEAN AIR: Air Pollution and Climate Solutions in Southeast Asia
Schedule	Friday 8th September 2023 3 hours (180 minutes) session (09.00 – 12.00 UTC+7)
Venue	Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
Format	Hybrid (on-site + online)/Presentations and panel discussion
Online participation	MS Teams (To be provided)
Contact	Dr.Supat Wangwongwatana, supat.w@fph.tu.ac.th Dr.Vanisa Surapipith, vanisas@gmail.com Ms.Eunyoung Seo, eunyoung.seo@un.org

I. Background and objective

Air pollution and climate change pose a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of Southeast Asia's population. Globally, air pollution contributes to 7 million annual premature deaths, and cause 110 million tonnes of crop losses each year. They affect the most vulnerable, including children, women, the elderly people with existing lung or cardiovascular diseases and the poor with limited access to healthcare services¹. In Southeast Asia, exposure to air pollution resulted in more than 352,000 premature deaths in 2017 (Health Effects Institute, 2020). Meanwhile, the short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), also considered as air pollutants, are the largest contributors to global warming after carbon dioxide. Quick action on SLCPs can help reduce air pollution and provide near-term climate benefits. This presents an opportunity for coordinated action to achieve immediate benefits for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2019, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), and Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) released the report *“Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based Solutions”* which identifies effective 25 policy and technological clean air measures for Asia and the Pacific which, if implemented, not only improve air quality but at the same time contribute to climate action. A follow-up assessment report has been developed on *“Clean Air and Climate Solutions for ASEAN”* which identifies effective 15 science-based clean air and climate solutions for Southeast Asian region.

Promising action and innovative solutions are on the rise. Many Southeast Asian countries, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, and Thailand, have already initiated efforts to address air pollution and climate in an integrated approach. This meeting will introduce recent developments in Southeast Asia to address air quality and climate. It will also introduce the 15 science-based clean air and climate solutions for ASEAN and facilitate sharing of national and sub-national efforts on the integrated air quality management and climate change mitigation. This session contributes to *the Commemoration of the Fourth International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (IDCABS) in 2023*.

The Session is organized by Thailand’s Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate (HTAPC). The HTAPC is hosted by the Faculty of Public Health, Thammasat University with support from the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT). Other co-organizers include UNESCAP, UNEP, Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Thailand, German International Cooperation (GIZ), and Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

The participants include air quality experts who are part of the HTAPC, participants to the IDCABS events in Bangkok, air quality practitioners, academia, civil society, and policy makers both nationally and internationally, especially Southeast Asian countries.

¹ WHO (2018). 9 out of 10 people worldwide breathe polluted air, but more countries are taking action.

II. Agenda

<p>Opening Session</p> <p>09:00-09:15</p>	<p>Introduction by Master of Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Eunyoung Seo, Technical Consultant, Air Quality Partnership and Resource Mobilization, UNEP <p>Video watch: Air Quality Assessment in Seoul, Incheon, and Gyeonggi, ROK <i>Achieving Clean Air for Blue Skies in Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi, Republic of Korea</i> (5.5 minutes)</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP (4 minutes) • Ms. Jihyun Lee, Senior Programme Management Officer, UNEP (4 minutes)
<p>Integrated approaches for air quality management and climate change in Southeast Asia</p> <p>09:15-10:25</p>	<p>The session provides overview of transregional air pollution issues in Southeast Asia and a case study on health impacts of PM_{2.5} in Vietnam. It will also highlight the upcoming report on Climate and Clean Air Solutions for ASEAN. Current application of an integrated approaches for air pollution and climate change mitigation by two ASEAN countries will be presented including their Supporting SLCP National Action and Planning (SNAP) Initiative. This will set the scene of how SNAP will help each country to achieve national climate change goals, while at the same time improving air quality within the country and across the region. Last by not least, potential future activities and support on the integrated approaches for air quality management and climate change in Southeast Asia will be presented by an international organization.</p> <p>Session 1</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Vanisa Surapipith, HTAPC</p> <p>Each speaker will be invited to deliver a 20-minute presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Transregional Haze Pollution Issue in Southeast Asia Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director of Thailand Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate (HTAPC) (20 minutes) (in person) • Health Effects of PM_{2.5} on Children and Health Burden and Associated Economic Burden of PM_{2.5} in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Mr. Tinh Ho Huu, Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (20 minutes) (in person) • Clean Air and Climate Solutions for ASEAN Dr. Eric Zusman, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) (20 minutes) (online) <p>Q & A (10 minutes)</p>
<p>10:25-10:45</p>	<p>Tea/Coffee Break (20 minutes)</p>
<p>10:45-11:55</p>	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Vanisa Surapipith, HTAPC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simultaneously Achieving Climate Change and Air Quality Goals in Thailand Mr. Phunsak Thiramongkol, Director of Air Quality and Noise Management, Pollution Control Department, Thailand (20 minutes) (in person) • Integrated Clean Air and Climate Change Solutions in Lao PDR Ms. Bounmany Soulideth, Deputy head of modelling division, Natural Resources and Environment Research Institute, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, Lao PDR (20 minutes) (in person) • Support on Integrated Approaches for Air Quality Management & Climate Change in Southeast Asia Mr. Ekachai Lojanaphiwat, German International Cooperation (GIZ) (10 minutes) (in person) • Assessment of the State of Transboundary Haze Pollution in Mekong Sub-region, Dr. Chinaporn Meechaiya, Hydrologist/Climate Vulnerability and Impact Assessment Specialist, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) (10 minutes) (in person) <p>Q & A (10 minutes)</p>
<p>Closing Session</p> <p>11:55-12:00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Eunyoung Seo, Master of Ceremony Technical Consultant, Air Quality Partnership and Resource Mobilization, UNEP <p>Closing Remarks (5 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director of Thailand Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate (HTAPC)