

Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum



Regional Air Pollution Networks in Developing Regions

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Sixth Meeting of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air
Pollution (HTAP)

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Outline of Talk

- Progress of existing intergovernmental networks in the developing regions: Africa, Asia – Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean
- Strengths and weaknesses of regional networks
- Future prospects

International co-operation: progress so far

Global:

Montreal Protocol for Ozone Depleting Substances

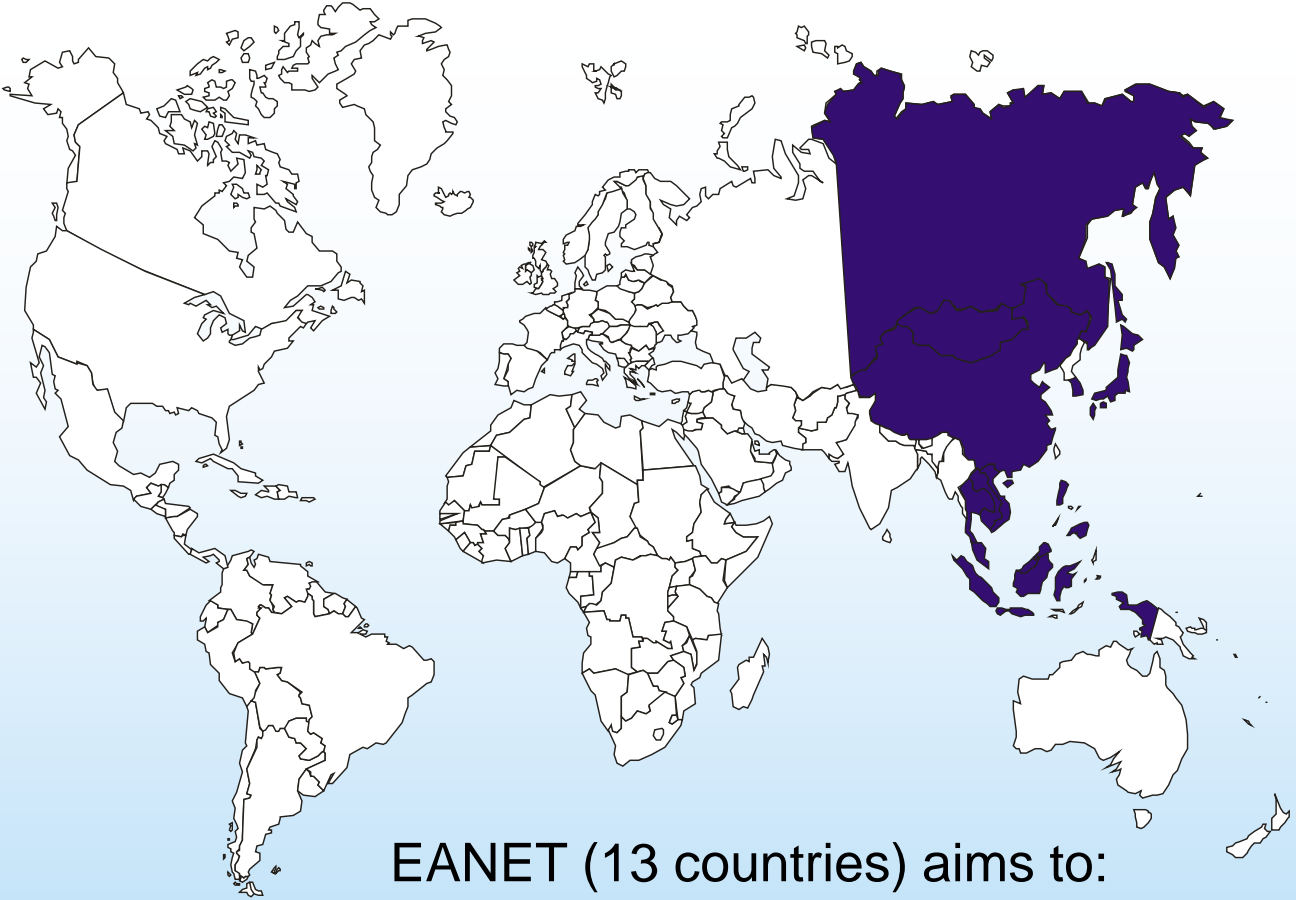
Stockholm Convention on POPs

Intercontinental:

UNECE CLRTAP Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollutants

Regional:

Widespread emergence of regional co-operation, but variation in effectiveness and only limited co-operation between different regional initiatives



EANET

Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in EAST ASIA

(since 1998)

EANET (13 countries) aims to:

- Create common understanding about acid deposition in E Asia
- Provide inputs to decision making in the region e.g. 2nd RPM 2009
- Promote mutual cooperation on issues related to acid deposition
- Monitoring, impacts and relevant policy framework are current focus



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Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

(since 1990)

ASEAN (10 countries): Kuala Lumpur Accord in 1990. Regional legal agreement on haze entered into force in November 2003.

Treaty on the control of haze pollution from forest clearance.

Also, a sustainable cities initiative



Malé Declaration on the Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects in South Asia (since 1998)

8 SACEP countries have agreed to cooperate

Network developed (annual meetings of FPs and NIAs)

Scientific assessment has started (monitoring network set up in 2003/2004)

Currently considering development of policy process



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Central Asian Republics

(Kazakhstan,
Kyrgistan,
Tajikistan,
Turkemnistan,
Uzbekistan)



Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development of Central Asia – Article 8 on protection of the atmosphere

Activities initiated at regional level by UNEP and UN/ECE

UN/ECE CLRTAP assistance in developing national programmes and implementation plans



Clean Air Initiative – Asia (CAI-Asia)

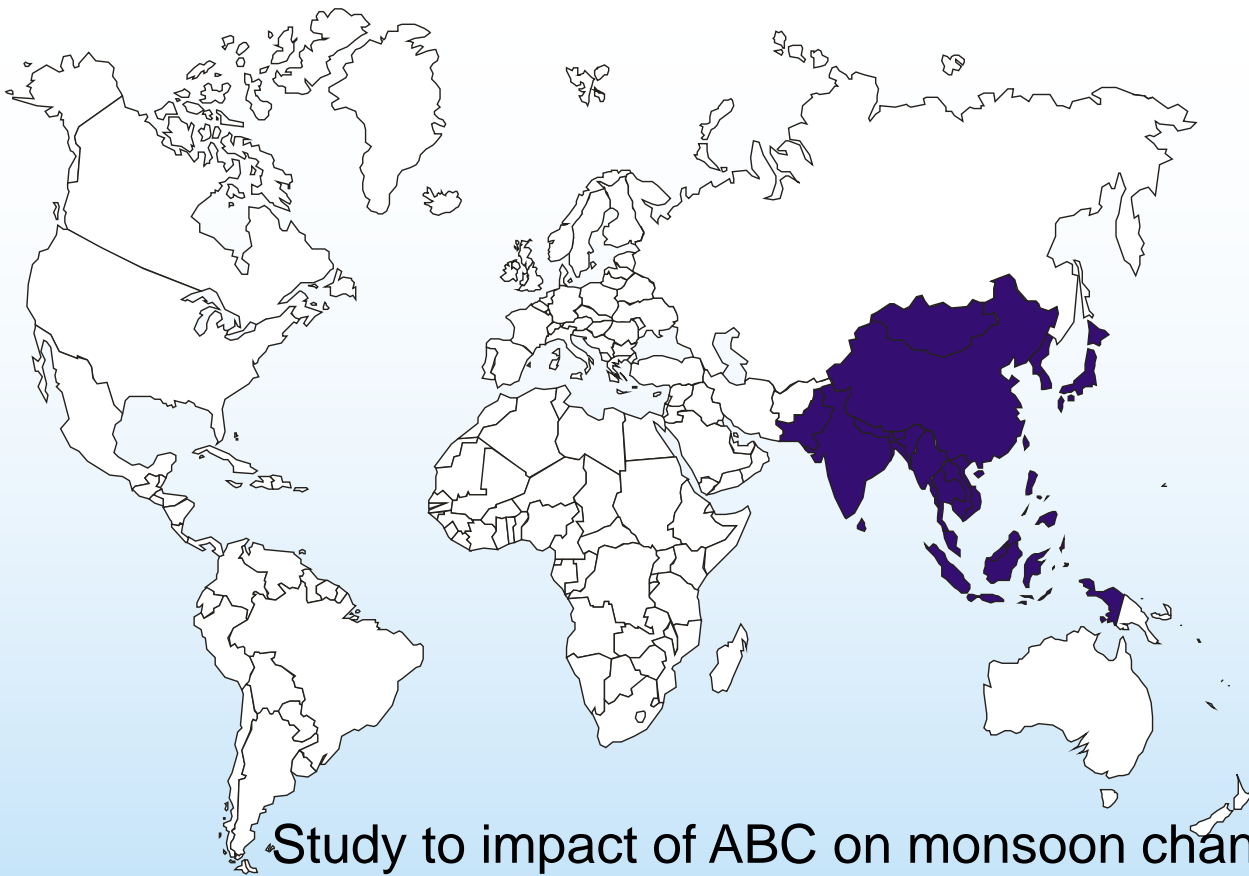
Promoting better air quality management in Asian cities through partnerships and sharing experience since 2001

28 cities, 19 government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, development agencies and private sector

Data portals on AQM and sustainable transport link to co-benefits (CitiesACT and Clean Air Portal)

Better Air Quality in Asia conferences

Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC)



*Study to impact of ABC on monsoon change, water balance, agriculture and health

Plan to set up ground based monitoring stations (some common with Malé Declaration) plus periodic aircraft monitoring concentrating on aerosols

ABC plan to influence environmental policy and build capacity



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Asia-Pacific Atmospheric Partnership (APAP)

(Since 2009)

Joint network of Asia networks and initiatives to promote closer co-operation

The partnership has agreed in principle on cooperation and coordination

Consultation ongoing with relevant inter-governmental meetings to develop implementation plan



APINA
Air
Pollution
Information
Network for
Africa
(since 1997)

Building partnerships across the continent with UNEP (PCFV), OSS, CAI-Africa, World Bank, USEPA

Three subregional policy framework agreements at Ministerial level in Eastern, Southern and Western and Central Africa (North Africa in 2010)

Action at national level on transport, urban planning and waste management



**Latin America and
the Caribbean
(LAC)
Intergovernmental
network on air
pollution
(since 2008)**

Establishment of the network formerly agreed by Regional Forum of Environment Ministers in 2008

Network agreed policy framework and action plan recommendations for Ministers in 2009

In 2010 Ministers decided that Regional Action Plan should be prepared by 2012



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Supporting Hemispheric and Global Cooperation

Limitations of regional networks

- Diversity in focus and institutional arrangements – but can also be a strength
- Many poorly resourced with little contribution from member states
- Individual countries at various stages of development and air pollution capability
- Subject to regional political sensitivities
- Instability from changing donor priorities, which do not always reflect regional concerns

Supporting Hemispheric and Global Cooperation

Strengths of regional networks

- Strong government ownership: all the networks are governed by the intergovernmental meetings
- Many link with regional economic institutions and engagement of some global bodies e.g. UNEP
- Stakeholders participation
- Sustainability: The networks are not projects, which normally disappear after the project period. These networks are process integrated with the government system.
- Regional scale and sub-regional appropriate for tackling many climate issues



Future Prospects

Work of GAP Forum so far suggests strong potential for enhanced role of regional networks in tackling hemispheric and global pollution:

- Institutional frameworks already in place
- Provides interface with national and local concerns
- Platform for harmonisation and skill transfer
- Open to links with climate change and co-benefits
- Building on commitment of member states, particularly smaller states
- Support for transboundary programme strengthened by network's parallel concern with national and local issues

Thank You

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