

Regional Air Pollution Frameworks in East Asia and Potential for Linkage with Co-benefits

Mark Elder, IGES

Principal Researcher, Director of Governance and Capacity Group

19 February 2013

Presented at workshop on “Translating Co-benefits Research into Action in Asia: Science, Models, Projects, and Policies,” 18-19 Feb, 2013, Hayama, Japan, organized by IGES

Objectives

- ❑ Brief overview of regional air pollution initiatives [frameworks] in Asia
- ❑ Opportunities and challenges for integrating co-benefits [with climate change] into those initiatives

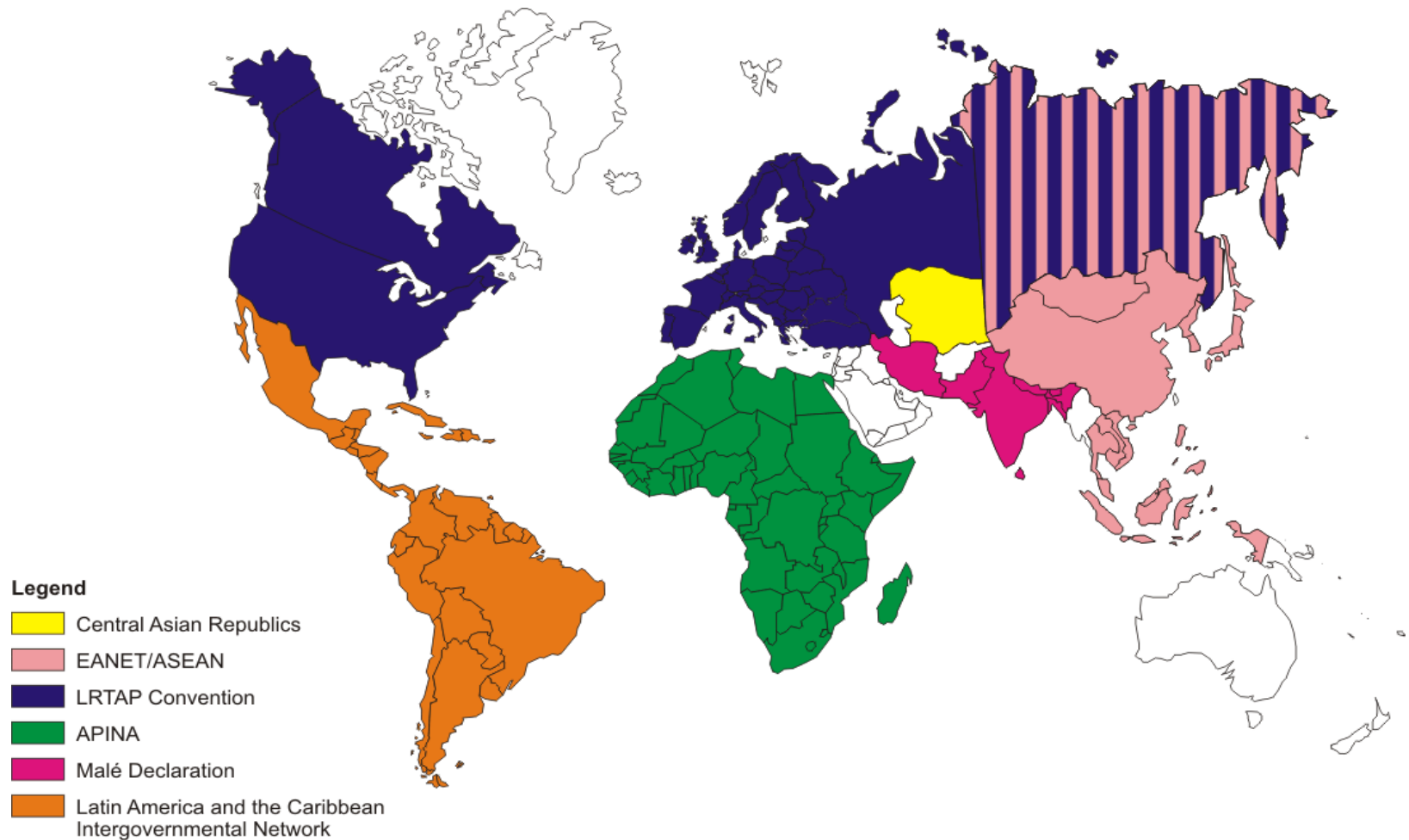


Science Policy Interface

- ❑ Science Side: Proposal for Asian Science Panel on Air and Climate (ASPAC)
 - To promote linkage between science & policy
 - Promote regional epistemic community of scientists in Asia
- ❑ Policy Side: International cooperation frameworks / initiatives
- ❑ Need to link science panel with an international cooperation framework



Existing regional initiatives on air pollution control



Types: - Binding International Treaty

- Regional Inter- governmental Co-operation Agreements and Declarations
- International Research Initiatives and Programmes

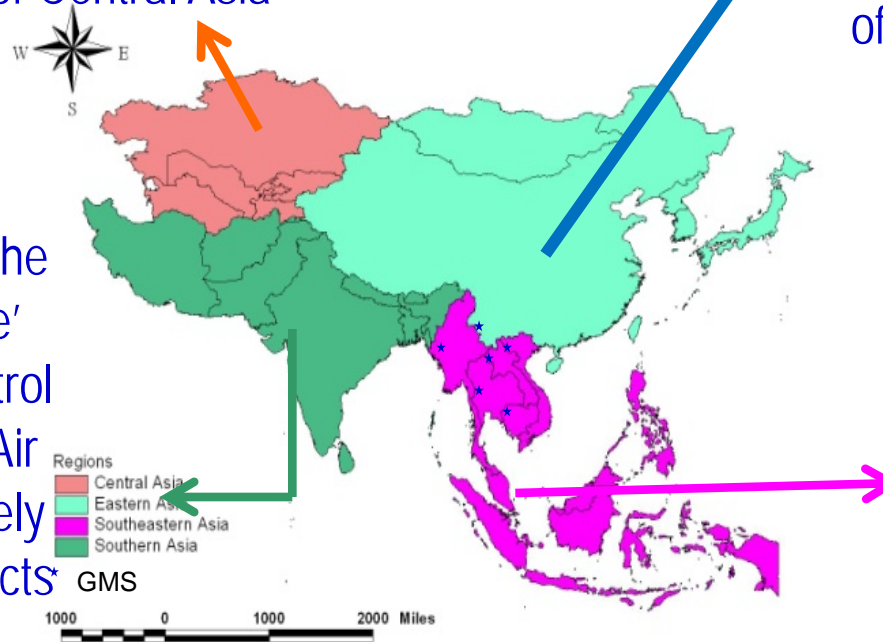
Existing UNEP-related regional/sub-regional air pollution initiatives in Asia

Central Asia

5 Central Asia countries formulated the Framework Convention on Preservation of Environment for Sustainable Development of Central Asia

South Asia:

8 countries are cooperating under the framework of Male' Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia



East Asia:

13 countries, which includes Northeast and Southeast Asia, working under the framework of East Asia Network on Acid Deposition

Southeast Asia:

ASEAN member countries are working under the framework of ASEAN Haze Agreement

Comparison of Selected Frameworks on Air Pollution in East Asia

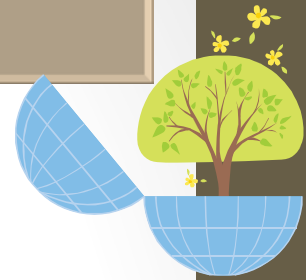
Framework/ Secretariat	Focus/ Functions	Focus/ Pollutants	Future Development	Other
EANET/ UNEP/RRC.AP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Research Cap. Bldg. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acid Rain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand monitoring to O3 & PM2.5 (first step) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries signed “Instrument”
ASEAN Haze/ ASEAN Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing Capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haze 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratification of all parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legally binding
NEASPEC (coal power plants) / ESCAP-SRO (Incheon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building Research Policy Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SO2 (China & Mongolia) in terms of air pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coal power plants concluded Next step still in discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADB supported Political/ diplomatic difficulty
LTP/ NIER-Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Modeling Emission inventories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SO2, NOX, PM10/2.5, O3, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various options for new phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Project

Membership in Existing Frameworks

Countries	EANET	ASEAN Haze	NEASPEC	LTP
China	●		●	●
Japan	●		●	●
South Korea	●		●	●
North Korea			●	
Mongolia	●		●	
Russia	●		●	
Cambodia	●	●		
Indonesia	●	Not ratified		
Lao PDR	●	●		
Malaysia	●	●		
Myanmar	●	●		
Philippines	●	●		
Thailand	●	●		
Vietnam	●	●		
Brunei		●		
Singapore		●		

Potential Links between Air Pollution Frameworks and Co-benefits

- ❑ Promote additional scientific research
 - Especially monitoring
- ❑ Promote awareness raising on air and climate issues among various stakeholders
- ❑ Create linkages between existing air pollution frameworks & co-benefits initiatives such as CCAC
- ❑ Promote related capacity building
- ❑ Promote related policy dialogues leading to mitigation actions
 - Consider prioritizing the transport sector



Question: to what extent can existing frameworks make these links?

EANET – Potential Link to Co-benefits

□ Overview

- EANET is mostly focused narrowly on acid rain and its monitoring

□ Opportunities

- EANET needs to consider expanding its scope
 - EANET needs to become more relevant for emerging issues
 - Several options for expanding the scope have been and are being considered
- Acid rain is influenced by climate change
 - Air pollutants causing acid deposition (e.g. O₃ & aerosols) contribute to climate change
 - Climate change affects acid deposition
- Some members considering strengthening or introducing monitoring of O₃ & PM_{2.5}
- Assessment report may consider climate aspects



□ Challenges

- Most countries, if not all, support strengthened/expanded monitoring of O₃ & PM_{2.5}
- Some countries may be reluctant to support further expansion of the scope
- Expanded scope may require more financial contributions
- Some national focal points are not closely linked to climate related policy

ASEAN Haze Agreement – Potential Link to Co-benefits

□ Opportunities

- Interlinkages between haze and climate change
 - Causes of haze also linked to climate change
 - Deforestation
 - Forest fires
- Haze countermeasures may also relate to GHGs/SLCPs
- Seek additional funding from climate/SLCP related sources



□ Challenges

- Haze itself is the focus, may be considered more urgent
- Existing focus on implementation of the original agreement



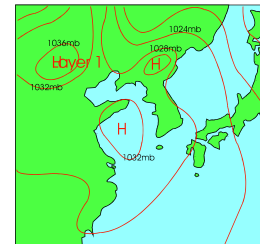
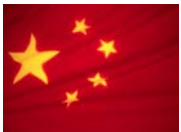
LTP – Potential Link to Co-benefits

□ Opportunities

- LTP has a wider scope than EANET. In principle, climate co-benefits could be incorporated into monitoring, modeling, & emission inventories.
- LTP is now considering the focus for a new research phase. A broad range of ideas is being considered, which could include climate co-benefits.

□ Challenges

- Obtaining consensus of the member countries
- Geographic scope is limited to 3 countries
- Funding



NEASPEC – Potential Link to Co-benefits

□ Opportunities

- Existing project on coal-fired power plants has ended, and NEASPEC is considering a new focus
- Study led by Russia surveying existing air pollution cooperation frameworks in Northeast Asia
- Proactive stance of secretariat (ESCAP-SRO)

□ Challenges

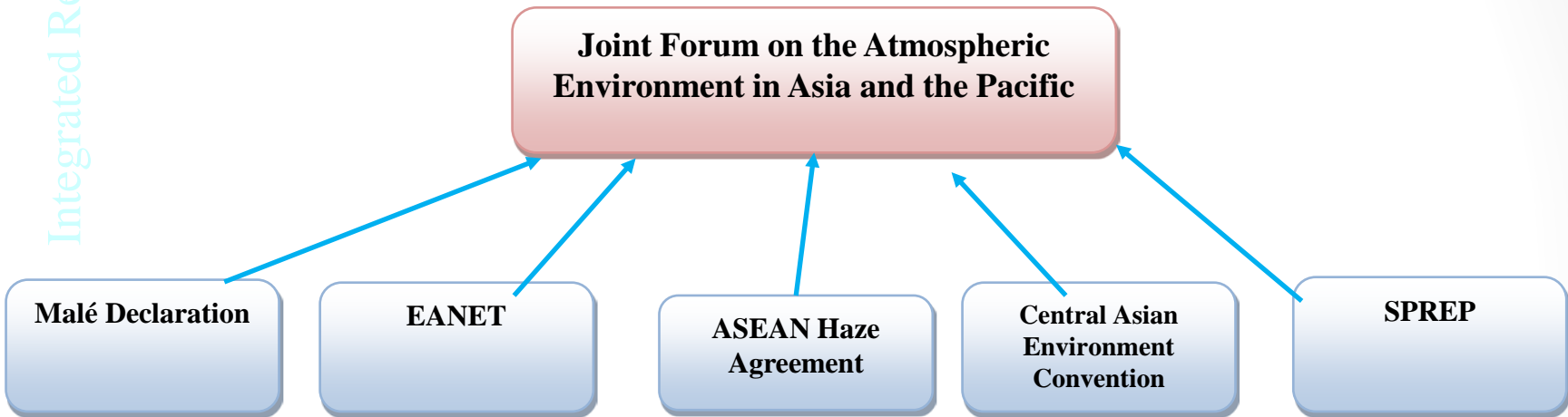
- Existing air pollution experience is not extensive
- Geopolitical considerations due to North Korea's membership
- NEASPEC is coordinated by foreign ministries
- Duplication/overlapping with activities of other initiatives
- Funding



Joint Forum on the Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific

Closer cooperation among regional/sub-regional air pollution networks to enhance harmonization and sharing of good practices

Integrated Response



Meeting of the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific, 10-11 March 2010

Joint Forum – Potential Link to Co-benefits

□ Opportunities

- Joint Forum is in a good position to coordinate among regional initiatives/ frameworks
- Major focus of the Joint Forum at the initial stage is knowledge sharing and capacity building, which may include air and climate issues

□ Challenges

- Coordination on climate change co-benefits requires interest among the member networks and their member governments
- Financing



Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP)

www.cobenefit.org

- A platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder dialogue on co-benefits in Asia.
- Goal: to support the mainstreaming of co-benefits into decision-making processes in Asia.

IGES Home About Activities Partners Publications&Tools Contact us

ACP ASIAN Co-benefits Partnership

Asian Co-benefits Partnership

Bringing Climate and Development Together

The Asian Co-benefits Partnership is an informal and interactive platform to facilitate information sharing and stakeholder dialogue on co-benefits in Asia.

11 November

What's New?

2nd Advisory Group Meeting
(July 2011, Yokohama)

**UNU-IAS-IGES-ACP Joint Meeting:
Greening Growth in Asia: Making Co-benefits Mainstream**
(July 2011, Yokohama)

1st Advisory Group Meeting
(July 2011, Kitakyushu)

Launching the Asian Co-benefits Partnership at the Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2010
(November 2010, Singapore)

About

- About the ACP
- Goals
- Major Functions
- Governance
- How to Become a Partner

Activities

Partners

Publications & Tools

- Brochures & Flyers
- Work Plan
- Newsletter
- Conference Proceedings
- Factsheet
- Reports
- Tools

Contact us

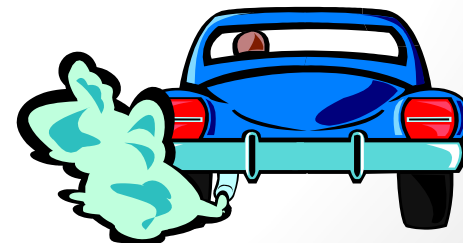
Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) Secretariat
The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan
Tel: +81-46-855-3815 / Fax: +81-46-855-3809
email: acp@iges.or.jp

About this site Site map

The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) website is hosted and maintained by the Institute for

Clean Air Asia (formerly CAI-Asia)

- CAA is a framework incorporating multistakeholder participation.
 - Includes business, local governments, research, and NGO communities
- Functions: information exchange, awareness raising, capacity building
- Can facilitate interdisciplinary discussions
- Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ) every 2 years
- Has taken up climate co-benefits as an important topic



Overall Observations on Existing Frameworks

- Scope and ambition tend to be modest
- Tendency to be voluntary
- Governments tend to be conservative on expanding scope
- Networks often linked to specific ministries/departments in member countries; can hinder expanding the scope
- Weak funding structures



Link to CCAC?

- CCAC is yet another new initiative
- Existing initiatives/ frameworks not able to act quickly
- CCAC may have more funding opportunities

Conclusions

- All existing initiatives/ frameworks have potential to link with co-benefits in principle
- Linkage areas may focus particularly on monitoring, modeling, capacity building, mitigation, adaptation, etc.
- Most frameworks limit the scope of pollutants. Expansion to air pollutants like O₃ and PM_{2.5} may be easier. Can they be further expanded to Hg or others?
- However, in the past, it has been difficult to expand the scope of existing initiatives/ frameworks once they were established.
 - Strong effort may be needed to persuade governments about the priority of co-benefits, and the appropriateness of using existing initiatives/ frameworks
- Need to obtain commitment of national governments for domestic use of a co-benefit approach first, then international cooperation frameworks can help facilitate actions.
- Many developing countries need comprehensive capacity building, including for scientific research



Abbreviations

AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
CCAC	Climate and Clean Air Coalition
EANET	Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
ESCAP-SRO	United Nations Economic and Social Commission in the Asia Pacific – Subregional Office (in Incheon, South Korea)
LTP	Long Range Transboundary Air Pollutants in Northeast Asia
NEASPEC	Northeast Asia Program on Environmental Cooperation
NIER	National Institute of Environmental Research (S. Korea)
RRC.AP	Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific
UNEP-ROAP	United Nations Environment Program– Regional Office for