

# AIR POLLUTION

## CHOKING ASIA'S PROSPECTS

Outdoor and indoor air pollution is a leading preventable cause of premature death in Asia; the region must take urgent action.

ADB

### Improving Air Quality in the Greater Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei (BTH) Region



One of the most important economic regions in the People's Republic of China (PRC)—densely populated and generates about **one-third of the gross domestic product**.<sup>1</sup>



**More than 95% of the cities in the region** do not meet national standards or World Health Organization guidelines for ambient air quality and air pollution emergencies frequently occur<sup>2</sup>



Air pollution is caused by an **excessive reliance on coal**, a high concentration of **energy-intensive and highly polluting industries**, high numbers of **motorized vehicles**, and **agricultural burning** of crop residues<sup>1</sup>

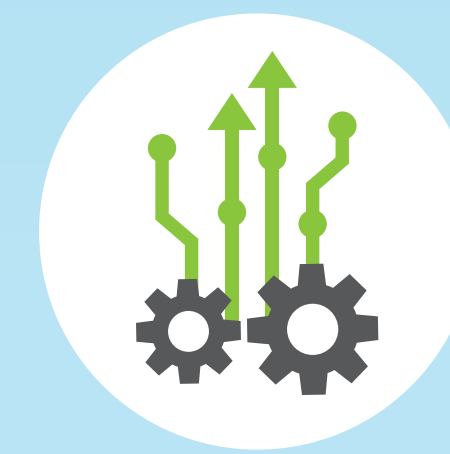
**Air quality improvement in the greater BTH region needs long-term cross-sector, pragmatic, and systematic policy, financing, and technology support to decouple economic growth from rising air pollution.**



**Strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks to support holistic solutions**



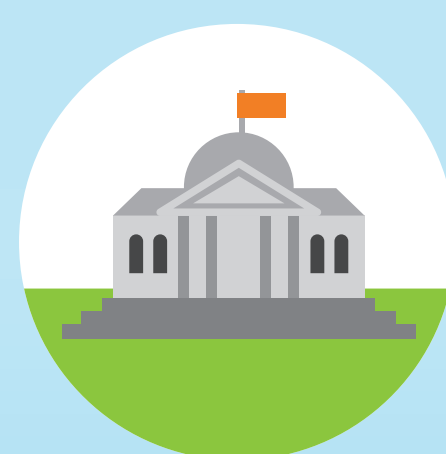
**Leverage private investments and commercial financing through innovative approaches**



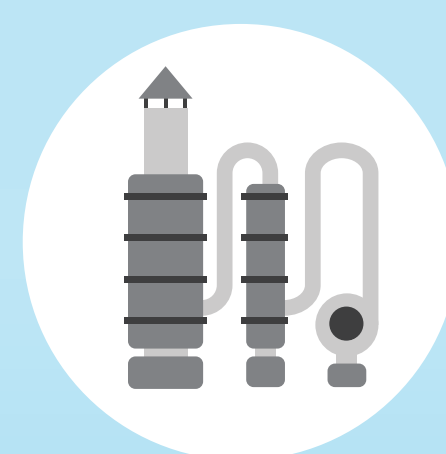
**Demonstrate and deploy advanced technologies to leapfrog progress**

#### Key Progress To Date:

- The PRC's Thirteenth Five-Year Plan 2016–2020 sets strict air quality measures and targets on fine particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds in the Greater BTH region
- The Work Program for Air Pollution Control in the BTH Region and Its Surrounding Areas aims to implement strict pollution control measures in 28 cities



**Hebei Policy Reforms Program**  
AMOUNT: **\$300 million**  
Reforming policy and strengthening regulatory capacity for air pollution in Hebei Province<sup>3</sup>



**Regional Emission-Reduction and Pollution-Control Facility**  
AMOUNT: **€428 million**  
Removing barriers to deploying high technologies that could reduce air pollution from industries, urban infrastructure, and agriculture<sup>4</sup>

2015

2016

2017

2018



**China National Investment and Guaranty Corporation's Green Financing Platform Project**  
AMOUNT: **€458 million**  
Better access to finance, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, to scale up investments in air pollution reduction projects<sup>1</sup>



**Shandong Clean Heating and Cooling Project**  
AMOUNT: **€350 million**  
Clean heating and cooling subprojects to accelerate air pollution abatement in Shandong Province<sup>5</sup>

In this material, "€" refers to euros and "\$" refers to United States dollars, ADB recognizes "China" as the People's Republic of China.

<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2016. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan to the People's Republic of China for the Air Quality Improvement in the Greater Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei Region—China National Investment and Guaranty Corporation's Green Financing Platform Project*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/prc-air-quality-improvement-greater-beijing-tianjin-hebei-cnigc-green-financing-rfp>.

<sup>2</sup> ADB. 2017. *ADB Approves Third Loan to Establish Facility for Improved Air Quality in Greater Beijing Area*. 14 December. <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-approves-third-loan-establish-facility-improved-air-quality-greater-beijing-area>.

<sup>3</sup> ADB. 2015. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan to the People's Republic of China for the Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei Air Quality Improvement Program*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/prc-beijing-tianjin-hebei-air-quality-improvement-program-rfp>.

<sup>4</sup> ADB. 2017. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan to the People's Republic of China for the Air Quality Improvement in the Greater Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei Region – Regional Emission-Reduction and Pollution-Control Facility*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/prc-51181-001-rfp>.

<sup>5</sup> ADB. 2018. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan to the People's Republic of China for the Air Quality Improvement in the Greater Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei Region—Shandong Clean Heating and Cooling Project*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/prc-51418-001-rfp>.