

Together for Clear Skies

Driving Action, Accelerating Investment

Day 1 | 11 March 2026 | Wednesday

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

TIME	SESSIONS (ORGANIZERS)	VENUE
09:00-10:30	OPENING PLENARY (Clean Air Asia)	ESCAP HALL, LEVEL 2, UNCC
10:30-11:00	COFFEE BREAK / SCIENCE & SOLUTIONS EXCHANGE (POSTERS & EXHIBITION)	LEVEL 2 FOYER, UNCC
11:00-12:30	PLENARY: Investing for Clean Air: A Call to Scale-Up Financing (ADB)	ESCAP HALL, LEVEL 2, UNCC
12:30-13:30	LUNCH	RECEPTION HALL, GF, UNCC
13:30-15:00	E-Mobility for Clean Air, Jobs, and Economic Growth: Evidence, Barriers, and Pathways to Scale (e-mobility ASAP Project, UNIDO)	MR-C&D, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Pathways for Clean Air and Clean Energy – Regional Sharing Session on Policy, Finance, and Technology Solutions in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Viet Nam (Clean Air Asia)	MR-F, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Implementing Synergistic Solutions to Air Pollution and Climate Change in Asia and Beyond: From Science to Policy to Action (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, National Institute for Environmental Studies)	MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Towards Cleaner Air in South and Southeast Asia: A High-Level Dialogue on Advancing Air Quality Management and the World Bank's Global and Regional Action (World Bank)	MR-A, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Achieving Clean Air at Scale: Airshed Based Air Quality Management through Sectoral Interventions (Clean Air Asia)	MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Asia Regional Exchange: Sharing City Best Practices on Clean Air Actions (Clean Air Asia, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of Ministry of Ecology and Environment)	CR-4, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Breathing Hope: Inspiring Health amid Heat and Haze (ADB, National University Singapore, ARUP, Rockefeller Foundation, AskASIA)	MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Dialogue on Scaling Up Investments on Air Quality Management (AQM) in Thailand (by invitation) (ADB)	THEATRE, GF, UNCC
15:00-15:30	COFFEE BREAK / SCIENCE & SOLUTIONS EXCHANGE (POSTERS & EXHIBITION)	LEVEL 2 FOYER, UNCC
15:30-17:00	Bridging the E-mobility Investment Gap: From Pipeline to Projects (Clean Air Asia, DLSU, EVAP, UEMI, UNIDO, Wuppertal Institute, Platform led by ADB supported by GEF as part of the Global Electric Mobility Programme)	MR-C&D, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Financing Modalities for Clean Air: Pathways to Scale Innovations and Solutions (Ministry of Environment of Japan, ADB)	MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Designing integrated bankable solutions for air quality with private sector participation (ADB)	THEATRE, GF, UNCC
	Delivering Solutions at Scale: Key Perspectives from World Bank-financed Programs and Insights from Clean Air Solutions Providers (World Bank)	MR-A, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	People-Centered Solutions: Making Inclusive Urban Planning Work for Clean Air and Climate Action (Clean Air Asia, ICSC, GIZ)	MR-F, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Solutions for Clean Air: From Asia to the World (CAF)	MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Manage Agricultural Open Burning and Wildfires in Southeast Asia and Beyond (AIT, UNEP, CCAC)	MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC
17:00~	Welcome Cocktail Reception (CAF)	CR-1, LEVEL 2, UNCC

BAQ 2026 PLENARY
Opening Plenary
MARCH 11 – 9:00-10:30
ESCAP HALL, LEVEL 2, UNCC

BACKGROUND

Air pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental and public health challenges of our time, affecting millions of lives and undermining sustainable development across the region. Addressing this challenge requires collective leadership, coordinated action, and accelerated investment.

The Opening Plenary sets the stage for the conference under the theme “Together for Clear Skies: Driving Action, Accelerating Investment.” It brings together leaders from government, health, academe, civil society, development organizations, and regional institutions to reflect on progress made, address gaps, and explore how collaboration and financing can accelerate clean air solutions.

PROGRAM

WELCOME REMARKS

- **Bindu Lohani**, Chairman, Board of Trustees, **Clean Air Asia**
- **Yevgeniy Zhukov**, Director General, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, **Asian Development Bank**
- **Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary, **UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**
- **Dechen Tsering**, Director, Regional Office of Asia Pacific, **UN Environment Programme**
- **Elliott Harris**, **Climate and Clean Air Coalition's** Co-Chair of the Global Economic Assessment of Climate and Clean Air and Former Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, United Nations

OPENING KEYNOTE

Zero in on Bangkok: Clean Air Action Through Partnership and Investment
Pornphrom N.S. Vikitsreth, Advisor to the Governor, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

From Milestones to Momentum: Reflecting on PRC's Clean Air Journey and Future Pathways

Prof. He Kebin, Professor, School of Environment and Dean of the Institute for Carbon Neutrality, **Tsinghua University**, and Chairman of the **China Advisory Committee of Clean Air Asia**

[PANEL] EVIDENCE-DRIVEN AND PEOPLE-CENTERED PATHWAYS TO CLEAN AIR

This panel brings together government, health, CSO, and academic leaders to explore how evidence-driven policies and people-centered approaches—from national reforms and local action to health data and scientific modeling—can accelerate clean air progress across countries and the wider region.

Moderator

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana Director, **Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate (HTAPC)**

Panelists

- **Ailan Li**, WHO Representative to Thailand, **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- **Michaela Friberg-Storey**, UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand, **UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Thailand**
- **Bjarne Pedersen**, Executive Director, **Clean Air Asia**
- **Shikhar Jain**, Executive Director of the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, **Confederation of Indian Industries**

CLOSING & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPEAKERS AND PARTNERS

Glynda Bathan-Baterina, Deputy Executive Director, Clean Air Asia

BAQ 2026 PLENARY

Investing for Clean Air: A Call to Scale-Up Financing

MARCH 11 – 11:00-12:30

ESCAP HALL, LEVEL 2, UNCC

BACKGROUND

Air pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental and public health challenges globally, contributing to 8.1 million premature deaths annually in 2021 and costing economies in lost productivity and healthcare expenses (Health Effects Institute, 2024). Despite its severe impacts, air quality solutions continue to be underfunded receiving only 1% of international development funding relative to their importance and potential co-benefits for climate, health, and sustainable development (Clean Air Fund, 2025).

Investments in air quality solutions, ranging from clean energy transitions and low emissions transport to improved waste management and industrial emissions control, are critical to achieving cleaner air and healthier communities. However, financing for these interventions is often insufficient for the scale of the challenge.

This plenary seeks to address the urgent need to mobilize and scale investments in air quality solutions. It aims to convene key stakeholders from development finance institutions, donors and philanthropies, governments, and the private sector to explore how investments in air quality can be scaled and accelerated. It will examine the current state of global funding, identify financing gaps and needs, and discuss innovative pathways to mobilize resources for impactful air quality interventions.

PROGRAM

WELCOME REMARKS

Acknowledge the role of financing in scaling solutions to air quality challenges

Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

PRESENTATION TO SET THE STAGE

Air quality challenges and persistent investment gaps require coordinated action from governments, DFIs, the private sector, and philanthropy to finance effective clean-air solutions. Building on successful funding models and past lessons, there are significant opportunities to scale investments and raise global ambition for cleaner, healthier air.

James Morris, Programme Officer, **Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)** *on behalf of* Amanda Curry-Brown, Clean Air Flagship Coordinator, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

PANEL DISCUSSION

Closing the Air Quality Financing Gap: Pathways to Action

This panel will examine the key financing gaps that limit air quality solutions, including underfunded project types and the challenges governments and innovators face in accessing capital. It will also explore innovative financing mechanisms, the roles of different actors (i.e., governments, development finance institutions, the private sector, and philanthropy), and strategies to replicate successful investment models across regions to accelerate large-scale impact.

Moderator:

Yoko Watanabe, Director, ADB

Panelists:

- **Kessinee Unapumnuk**, Director Transboundary Air Pollution Subdivision, Air Quality and Noise Management Division, **Pollution Control Department, Thailand**
- **Ann Jeannette Glauber**, Practice Manager, Environment Department (South Asia), **World Bank**
- **Jane Burston**, Founder and CEO, Clean Air Fund
- **Hiroaki Takiguchi**, Senior Advisor (Environmental Management), Global Environment Department, **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**
- **Dr. Akarin Suwannarat**, Chief Technology Officer and Assistant CEO, **Energy Absolute**

PANEL Q&A

CLOSING REMARKS AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

Jane Burston, Founder and CEO, **Clean Air Fund**

References

Health Effects Institute. (2024). [State of Global Air 2024](#).
Clean Air Fund. (2025). [State of Global Air Funding 2025](#).

E-Mobility for Clean Air, Jobs, and Economic Growth: Evidence, Barriers, and Pathways to Scale

MARCH 11 – 13:30-15:00

MR-C&D, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Across Asia, e-mobility is increasingly recognized as a critical pathway for improving air quality while supporting economic growth and industrial development. While evidence on its health and economic benefits continues to strengthen, progress on large-scale deployment remains uneven, with countries facing persistent challenges related to financing, industry readiness, policy coordination, and inclusive implementation.

In line with the BAQ 2026 theme, “Together for Clear Skies: Driving Action, Accelerating Investment,” the session examines how e-mobility can move from evidence to implementation. It aims to move beyond advocacy by combining regional and country experience with a practical examination of the barriers that slow e-mobility scale-up. Through expert presentations, a reality-check panel, and solution-oriented breakout discussions, the session will clarify where action is stalling and what is needed to unlock investment.

The session aims to:

- Highlight regional and country experience on the air quality, public health, and economic benefits of e-mobility;
- Identify key financing, industry, policy, and inclusion barriers constraining large-scale e-mobility deployment in Asia; and
- Generate practical, actionable insights to support investment and implementation of inclusive and scalable e-mobility solutions.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Clean Air Asia, DLSU, EVAP, UEMI, UNIDO

PROGRAM

Session Opening and Introduction of Speakers

Ellaine Macalino, Senior Project Coordinator, **Clean Air Asia**

The State of E-Mobility in Asia (Market Growth, Policy Momentum, and Investment Signals)

Ahn Meg Adonis, Sustainable Transport Lead, **Clean Air Asia**

Global Health Benefits of Combining Emission Standards, Electric Vehicles, and Clean Electricity (with a focus on Asia and Electric Vehicles)

Lingzhi Jin, Senior Researcher, **International Council on Clean Transportation**

The scale-up of China E-mobility: Policy drivers, Pathways and Air quality benefits

Shaojun Zhang, Associate Professor, **Tsinghua University**

E-mobility and Environmentally Sustainable Transportation

Ryo Suzuki, Official, **Ministry of Environment of Japan**

Panel Discussion: The Reality Check--What's Holding Us Back?

Moderator:

Teddy Monroy, Country Representative, **UNIDO-Philippines**

Panelists:

Prof. Dr. Uthane Supatti, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Human Resource Development, **EVAT**

Rifqi Khoirul Anam, Transport Associate, **Institute for Transportation & Development Policy**

Kathleen Dematera-Contreras, Lead for Partnerships, Capacity Building, and Knowledge Management, **e-mobility ASAP**

Akarin Suwannarat, Chief Technology Officer, **Energy Absolute Public Company Limited**

Breakout Session: Addressing Barriers to E-Mobility Scale-Up

Interview and Audience Insights

Ellaine Macalino, Senior Project Coordinator, **Clean Air Asia**

Synthesis

Manny Biona, Full Professor, **De La Salle University**

Pathways for Clean Air and Clean Energy – Regional Sharing Session on Policy, Finance, and Technology Solutions in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Viet Nam

MARCH 11 – 13:30-15:00

MR-F, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Since 2021, regional knowledge exchange among the Philippines, Indonesia, and Viet Nam has been strengthened through a Community of Practice (CoP) focused on the nexus of clean air, clean energy, health, and just transition. Most recently, the 2025 Regional Exchange and Training Workshop convened government agencies, experts, and practitioners to jointly identify barriers, develop actionable strategies, and enhance alignment between air quality management and energy transition policies.

Building on these efforts, the BAQ 2026 session aims to bring the discussion to a broader regional stage. It will highlight country progress, share implementation challenges, and explore opportunities to scale solutions, particularly in strengthening emission standards, advancing emission reduction strategies, and leveraging transition financing mechanisms such as the ADB Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM).

The session aims to:

- Share progress and insights from the 2025 Regional Exchange and Training Workshop.
- Deepen understanding of emerging policy, finance, and technology solutions by fostering regional dialogue between international experts and representatives from the Philippines, Indonesia, and Viet Nam.
- Translate the priority actions identified in the previous regional exchanges into concrete next steps by focusing on implementation pathways to achieve clean air and clean energy targets.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Clean Air Asia

PROGRAM

Opening and Context Setting

Opening remarks

Dang Espita-Casanova, Associate Program Director, **Clean Air Asia**

Highlights of the 2025 Regional Exchange

Amanda Tolentino, Researcher, **Clean Air Asia**

Lightning Talks on Solutions

Application of Emission Trading in Thailand

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Lecturer
Thammasat University/ Former Director General, Pollution Control Department of Thailand

Case Study: Fuel Switching Pathways for Coal-Using Industries in Jakarta

Firdha Laila Amalia, Program Officer, **Resilience Development Initiative**

ADB Energy Investment Pipeline and Opportunities in Southeast Asia

Lei Zhang, Unit Head, Project Administration Energy Sector Office, **ADB**

Panel Discussion (Country Dialogue with International Experts)

The panel will begin with 5-minute country updates from representatives of the Philippines, Indonesia, and Viet Nam, highlighting key developments, priorities, and ongoing initiatives related to clean air and clean energy pathways. This will be followed by an expert-led discussion focused on implementation pathways.

Moderator

Everlyn Tamayo, Air Quality and Climate Change Science Lead, **Clean Air Asia**

Panelists

Engr. Jundy Del Socorro – Philippines, Chief, Air Quality Management Section, Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau

Marhasak Denny Tarluga Silaban – Indonesia, Head of Air Quality Planning and Management Division, Ministry of Environment

Nguyen Truong Huynh – Vietnam, Vice Deputy, Northern Center for Environmental Monitoring (NCEM)

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Lecturer, Thammasat University

Firdha Laila Amalia, Program Officer, **Resilience Development Initiative**

Lei Zhang, Unit Head, Project Administration Energy Sector Office, **ADB**

Rui Luo, Asia Pacific Lead, Environment Program, **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

Nizhar Marizi, Director of Environment, **Ministry of National Planning and Development**

Synthesis and Closing Remarks

Engr. Cris Beo, Researcher, **Clean Air Asia**

Implementing Synergistic Solutions to Air Pollution and Climate Change in Asia and Beyond: From Science to Policy to Action

MARCH 11 – 13:30-15:00

MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND

This session explores how integrated, science-based approaches can translate evidence on air pollution–climate synergies into effective policies and on-the-ground actions across Asia and beyond. This session directly contributes to BAQ2026's goal of promoting action on scalable and integrated solutions to air pollution, strengthening understanding and cooperation, and thereby calls for the promotion of stronger sectoral and cross-sectoral partnerships.

This session will consist of a framing presentation followed by five presentations on the core theme: Implementing Synergistic Solutions to Air Pollution and Climate Change in Asia and Beyond: From Science to Policy to Action. Each presenter will be asked to present on the following issues:

1. **Overall message:** Briefly explain the air pollution–climate issue you are addressing and why it matters in the country (or city) where you are working.
2. **Highlight cross-sectoral (and/or multi-level linkages):** Explain how your work links different sectors (e.g., energy, transport, health) and/or levels of government. Highlight what makes your solution practical and scalable in Asia or France.
3. **Share actionable findings:** Present 2–3 key results that can inform policy or practice. Be clear about who can act on your findings and what they can do.
4. **Present collaboration and next steps:** Share lessons on partnerships, cross-sector cooperation, or stakeholder engagement. Briefly suggest how stronger collaboration can help scale up integrated solutions.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)

PROGRAM

Introductory Remarks and Framing Presentation

Eric Zusman, IGES, Japan

Assessing and Overcoming Barriers to Implementing Integrated Solutions in Thailand

Kaoru Akahoshi, IGES

Measuring the Impacts of Barriers in Thailand

Tatsuya Hanaoka, NIES, Japan

Translating Science into Policy in Paris France

Fouzi Benkhelfia, NEXTQT, France (online)

Translating Science into Policy in China

Yixuan Zheng, Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning

From Evidence to Action: Building Integrated Air Quality Systems for Health and Environment

Sergio Sanchez, Environmental Defense Council

Comments from Discussants and Questions from the Audience

Supat Wangwongwatana, Thammasat University
Fu Lu, Clean Air Fund

Towards Cleaner Air in South and Southeast Asia: A High Level Dialogue on Advancing Air Quality Management and the World Bank's Global and Regional Action

MARCH 11 – 13:30-15:00

MR-A, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Join us for a two-part session designed to catalyze coordinated clean air action across South and Southeast Asian airsheds. We will begin with a presentation on the World Bank's global approach to air quality management—how we connect evidence, policy, and finance to help countries move decisively from ambition to implementation. This overview will highlight the Bank's role in convening governments, partners, and investors across sectors and borders, and illustrate how airshed programs and financing instruments are enabling multi-sector coordination in practice.

Building on that foundation, the session will transition into a roundtable with government officials from selected South and Southeast Asian countries. Policymakers will exchange perspectives on shared airshed challenges and identify priority areas for cooperation at the airshed level. The discussion will draw on country experiences, institutional readiness, and the political considerations that shape cross-border collaboration, with a particular focus on the Indo-Gangetic Plains and Himalayan Foothills airshed—spanning Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan—as well as Southeast Asian airsheds. By the end of the session, participants will have a clearer understanding of actionable cooperation priorities and pathways to financing and implementation.

SESSION ORGANIZER

World Bank

PROGRAM

From Policy to Practice: The World Bank's Global Approach to Air Quality Management

Dr. Daniel Mira-Salama, Lead Environmental Specialist,
The World Bank

Shared Airsheds, Many Voices: Roundtable Discussion with Policymakers from South and Southeast Asia

Sotardodo Ruth Naibaho

Head of the Development and Environment Sub-Group II
Jakarta Development Planning Agency (Bappeda)

Md Ziaul Haque

Additional Director General

Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh

Attorney Janice C. Regoso-Pammit

OIC-Regional Director of EMB-NCR

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Philippines

Kanchan Kumar Nayak

Section Chief (Pollution Control & Monitoring Division),
Department of Environment, Nepal

Moderator:

Ann Jeannette Glauber

Regional Manager for the Environment Department, South Asia Region, **The World Bank**

Achieving Clean Air at Scale: Airshed Based Air Quality Management through Sectoral Interventions

MARCH 11 – 13:30-15:00
MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Air pollution is governed by atmospheric processes that transcend administrative and jurisdictional boundaries. Emissions transport, chemical transformation, and meteorological variability often result in regional-scale pollution events that cannot be effectively managed through city- or state-level actions alone. Airshed-based management frameworks, widely recognized in international regulatory practice, provide a scientifically grounded basis for managing these cross-boundary challenges.

In India, recent advances in numerical weather prediction, air quality modeling, and operational forecasting systems have strengthened the ability to predict high-pollution episodes in advance. At the same time, the Air Quality Index (AQI) has emerged as a standardized and widely used tool for communicating air quality status and triggering graded response actions. Together, forecasting systems and AQI-based triggers create important opportunities to move from reactive, episodic interventions toward anticipatory and preventive air quality management.

Most cities in the region exceed World Health Organization air quality guidelines. Urban pollution is driven by the convergence of multiple sectoral sources including transport, construction and demolition activities, road dust resuspension, and inadequately managed solid waste, intensified by rapid urbanization and rising energy demand. While many cities have adopted sector-specific mitigation measures, implementation often remains fragmented, short-term, and weakly coordinated across departments and jurisdictions, with limited use of forecast information to guide targeted action.

In India, regulatory bodies such as the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), along with evolving State-level Clean Air Action Plans, are beginning to align sectoral interventions with city-level plans within an overarching airshed framework. These approaches highlight the potential for integrating forecasting, AQI-linked responses, and coordinated governance to deliver cleaner air at scale. However, significant challenges remain in translating scientific and policy frameworks into sustained, on-ground action, overcoming institutional silos, and mobilizing long-term investments.

The session aims to examine how cities can operationalize sectoral clean air interventions within an airshed-based air quality management framework. Specific objectives are to:

- Position the airshed as the core spatial and governance unit for managing regional air pollution.
- Examine how state air action plans can be strengthened to support cross-jurisdictional decision-making frameworks.
- Identify practical approaches for scaling sectoral (road dust, C&D activities, transport, and solid waste management) solutions within shared airsheds.

- Explore institutional arrangements and financing strategies for sustained implementation.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Clean Air Asia

PROGRAM

Opening

Dr. Archana Walia, India Director, Clean Air Asia

Delivering Clean Air at Scale: Aligning Airsheds, Sectors, and Investment for India's Future

Priya Shankar, Air Quality Lead, Environment Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies

Methodological Approach for Airshed Delineation: Meteorology, Source Interactions & Prediction

Prof. Mukesh Sharma, Professor-Emeritus, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur

Strengthening State Air Action Plans for Cross-jurisdictional framework

Dr. Prasad Modak, Managing Director, Environmental Management Centre Pvt Ltd (EMC)

Panel Discussion

- Airshed-based governance and institutional coordination mechanisms
- Leveraging meteorological forecasting and AQI-based graded response mechanisms for anticipatory action
- Scaling sectoral solutions within shared airsheds (transport, C&D, road dust, solid waste)
- Financing pathways and resource mobilization for sustained implementation

Panelists

C. K. Mishra, Ex-Secretary, MoEFCC

Tarun Kumar Pithode, IAS, Member Secretary, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) (TBC*)

Pazhaniyandi Velayudhan Pillai, Director, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC) (TBC*)

Dr. Sachin Dinkar Ghude, Scientist, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)

Dr. Mukesh Sharma, Professor-Emeritus, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur

Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director of Research and Advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

Tanmay Tathagat, Director, Environmental Design Solutions (EDS)

Closing

Dr. Archana Walia, India Director, Clean Air Asia

Asia Regional Exchange: Sharing City Best Practices on Clean Air Actions

MARCH 11 – 13:30-15:00

CR-4, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Asia, covering 30% of the world's geographical area and home to 60% of the global population, is a vital driver of global economic growth. Many developing countries in Asia are undergoing rapid urbanization, industrialization, and motorization, while facing challenges in tackling air pollution and mitigating climate change.

The session will highlight proven practices and innovative approaches that cities have implemented to address air pollution issues. Through a series of city case presentations, ranging from regional joint prevention and control efforts to refined regulatory models, intelligent vehicle emissions supervision, industrial VOC governance, and pilots of near-zero carbon construction sites, the session will showcase effective city-level clean air solutions with strong potential for replication and scaling. A moderated panel discussion will further provide a platform for dialogue among city and regional representatives.

Aligned with the BAQ 2026 themes of Driving Actions and Solutions and Forging Partnerships, the session aims to inspire and facilitate learning among Asian countries and cities to move towards better air quality management and coordinated control of air pollution and carbon emissions.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Clean Air Asia

Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, PRC (FECO-MEE)

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks

Yong Wang, Division Director, **FECO-MEE**

Keynote Speech

Efficacy of PRC's Clean Air Actions to Tackle PM_{2.5} Pollution

Qiang Zhang, Professor, **Tsinghua University**

City Best Practices

A Pathway to Regional Cleaner Air: Joint Prevention and Control in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei and Surrounding Areas

Dr. Yi Tang, Associate Professor, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences

Dr. Xiu'e Shen, Director, Beijing Municipal Ecological and Environmental Monitoring Center

Shanghai's Pioneering Paradigm for Industrial VOC Control: Driving the Coordinated Governance of Ozone and PM_{2.5}

Dr. Mengya Bu, Engineer, Shanghai Academy of Environmental Sciences

Shanghai's Intelligent Supervision of Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicle Emissions: Advancing the Refined Management of Mobile Sources

Dr. Haixia Dai, Senior Engineer, Shanghai Academy of Environmental Sciences

Regional Dialogue Panel

Dr. Yi Tang, Associate Professor, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences

Mr. Yan Liu, Deputy Director, Division of Atmospheric Environment, Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau

Dr. Mengya Bu, Engineer, Shanghai Academy of Environmental Sciences

Dr. Ma. Obiminda Cambaliza, Research Scientist, Manila Observatory

Ms. Le Thanh Thuy, Deputy Head of the Environmental Management Department, Hanoi Department of Agriculture and Environment

Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon, Specialised Expert on Air Quality and Noise Management, Pollution Control Department, Thailand

Mr. Barkhasragchaa Baldorj, Head of Environmental Monitoring Division, Central Laboratory of Environment and Meteorology of Mongolia

Ms. Erni Pelita Fitratunnisa, Head of Environmental Pollution and Damage Control Division, Jakarta Environment Agency

Closing Remarks

Clean Air Asia

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Breathing Hope: Inspiring Health amid Heat and Haze

MARCH 11 – 13:30-15:00

MR-H, LEVEL 2, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Extreme heat and air pollution are converging crises in Asia and the Pacific, driving premature mortality, lost productivity, and widening health inequities, particularly in rapidly growing cities. The session “Breathing Hope: Inspiring Health amid Heat and Haze” responds to this challenge by aligning with ADB’s Climate and Health Initiative (CHI) and development of Advanced Early Warning and Response (AWARE) interventions that position air quality and heat stress management as central to resilient, inclusive development. By focusing on the heat–health–air quality nexus, the session complements BAQ 2026’s emphasis on using clean air as a lever for sustainable growth, well-being, and climate co-benefits.

There is growing evidence that combined exposure to high temperatures and fine particulate matter sharply increases cardiorespiratory and occupational health risks, yet most sector investments treat climate, air quality, and health in isolation. ADB’s Climate and Health Initiative seeks to close this gap by mainstreaming climate-sensitive health risk analytics, early warning systems, and resilient service delivery into country operations, including urban development, energy, transport, and social protection. This BAQ session will serve as a platform to discuss emerging measures that integrate heat and air quality indicators into project design, results measurement, and financing structures, thereby operationalizing the Initiative’s goals in developing member countries.

Objectives

1. To present innovative tools and approaches—such as multi-hazard climate and health risk assessments, integrated air quality and heat early warning systems, and city-level exposure mapping—that can be embedded in ADB-supported operations and co-financed initiatives.
2. Showcase concrete examples, concepts, and scalable interventions that link air quality improvements with reduced heat-related illness, productivity gains, and stronger primary health and social protection systems.
3. Catalyze partnerships among ADB, national and city governments, universities, the private sector, and philanthropies to co-design cross-sector projects on “cool, clean, and healthy cities.”

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Asian Development Bank (Health Practice Team)
National University Singapore, ARUP, Rockefeller Foundation,
AskASIA

PROGRAM

1. Welcome & Framing (5 minutes)

The session opens by establishing the compounded health risks of heat and air pollution, highlighting emerging science, vulnerable populations, and the economic consequences of inaction.

Dr Brian Riley, ADB

2. Scene Setting: Compounded Health Impacts (15 minutes)

Michael Rattinger, ADB

3. Indonesia Experience: Heat and Health Action (10 minutes)

This keynote presentation will share Indonesia’s experience in addressing heat related health risks and implementing related programmes within the national public health system.

Dr Then Suyanti (Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia)

4. Partnerships and financing pathways for integrated approaches: Pollution and Heat (10 minutes)

This keynote presentation will explore the role of partnerships in catalysing integrated approaches that address heat, air pollution, and health risks together.

Jaya Singh Verma, FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office)

5. Panel Session + Menti: Designing Cool, Clean, Healthy Cities (45 minutes)

This interactive panel will explore how to move from recognising compounded heat and air pollution risks to structuring and implementing integrated climate–air quality–health action at scale.

Panelists: Heather Doyle (UNDP Asia-Pacific), Pierpaolo Mudu (WHO), Tong Zhu (WMO)

Facilitator: Ching Ang, Arup

6. Closing and Synthesis (10 mins)

Dr Brian Riley, ADB

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Dialogue on Scaling Up Investments on Air Quality Management (AQM) in Thailand (by invitation)

MARCH 11 – 13:30-15:00

THEATRE, GROUND FLOOR, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This “by invitation” dialogue, organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), will bring together representatives from government, development organizations, the private sector and other key stakeholders supporting or exploring opportunities to support the implementation of Thailand’s Second Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Action Plan at the national and/or sub-national levels. (Reference: [Second PM2.5 National Action Plan Thailand Unofficial ENG.pdf](#)).

At the dialogue, an overview of ADB’s flagship Asia Clean Blue Skies Program, as well as ADB’s proposed Thailand Air Quality Investment Program will be presented based on key findings and recommendations from a rapid air quality scoping study in Thailand). Sample project-level features of the investment program will also be highlighted. Participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback, such as identifying gaps and potential areas for collaboration based on their own existing or planned interventions to help implement the PM2.5 Action Plan in Thailand.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

PROGRAM

Emcee: **Phantipha Wannaphagoon**, Thailand Resident Mission, ADB

Welcome Remarks

Aaron Batten

Country Director, Thailand Resident Mission, ADB

Opening Remarks, Thailand

Pornphrom N.S. Vikitsreth

Advisor to the Governor and Chief Sustainability Officer of Bangkok, **Bangkok Metropolitan Administration**

Teeraphong Wimonjittrananon, Deputy Director General, **Pollution Control Department of Thailand**

ADB Asia Clean Blue Skies Program and Proposed Thailand Air Quality Investment Program

Karma Yangzom

Principal Environment Specialist, ADB

Panel Discussion: Actions Towards an Integrated Thailand Air Quality Investment Program

Moderator:

Suwida Kingmuangkow

Thailand Resident Mission, ADB

Accelerating Thailand’s E-mobility Transition: Sustainable Transport Bus Electrification Project

Chutinthorn Mankhong, Director, Bureau of Safety Planning, **Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP)**, Thailand

Leadership by Private Sector: Electric Tuk Tuks—Redefining How Cities Move

Tawit Sangveraphunsiri, Head of Operations, **Urban Mobility Tech Co. Ltd.**

Rural-Urban Air Quality Nexus: BMA’s Alternative Rice Straw and Stubble Management

Aukrit Unahalekhaka, CEO, THARA GREEN

Open Floor Discussion

Key Takeaways and Next Steps

Glynda Bathan-Baterina, Deputy Executive Director, Clean Air Asia

Closing Remarks

Yevgeniy Zhukov

Director General, CCSD, ADB

Bridging the E-mobility Investment Gap: From Pipeline to Projects

MARCH 11 – 15:30-17:00

MR-C&D, LEVEL1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Across the region, e-mobility pilots and early-stage initiatives have generated valuable experience and demonstrated potential benefits for cleaner air. As these efforts mature, attention is shifting to how they can be expanded, adapted, or connected to longer-term programmes and investment pathways.

Aligned with the BAQ 2026 theme, “Together for Clear Skies: Driving Action, Accelerating Investment,” this session focuses on advancing e-mobility programmes by building on existing experience. It explores how countries can shape next-phase programme elements—such as additional project components, partnerships, and enabling conditions—and consider how these can be positioned to engage climate and development finance in support of sustained implementation.

The session aims to:

- Share country experiences and identify next-phase elements for advancing the e-mobility programme;
- Draw insights from financing agencies on how e-mobility programmes are considered, assessed, and supported, helping clarify pathways for engaging climate and development finance;
- Provide a platform for participants to connect with potential partners, explore collaboration opportunities, and identify next steps for advancing e-mobility programmes.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Clean Air Asia, DLSU, EVAP, UEMI
E-Mobility Support and Investment Platform, Wuppertal Institute

PROGRAM

Part 1: Country Experiences and Pathways in E-Mobility Project Development

Introductory Remarks

Aaron Batten

Country Director, ADB, Resident Mission in Thailand

Transition/Introduction of speakers

Grench Manibo

Project Coordinator, Clean Air Asia

E-mobility development in the Philippines

Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa

Executive Director
Board of Investments

E-mobility development in Malaysia

Abdul Hakim Bin Ab Rahim

Head of Sector Decarbonization in the Climate Action Division
Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation

E-mobility development in Bangladesh

Md Tusher

Deputy Mass Transit Engineer
BRT DCTA

E-mobility development in Hanoi, Viet Nam

Lê Đức Anh

Deputy Head of Transport Infrastructure Management Division,
Hanoi Department of Construction

E-mobility development in India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India

E-mobility development in Europe: lessons from the GIANTS project

Stefan Werland

Senior Researcher and Co-Head of Berlin Office
Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy
gGmbH | GIANTS project

Part 2: Financing and the E-Mobility Transition

Recap and Panel Introduction

Moderator:

Bert Fabian

Senior Transport Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Panel Discussion:

Reactions to Country Experiences

Bowen Wang

Senior Transport Specialist
The World Bank

Syeda Hadika Jamshaid

Climate Change and Carbon Market Advisor
NDC Partnership

Dr. Katrin Luger

Section Chief for Transport Research and Policy Section of the
Transport Division
ESCAP

Shailesh Vickram Singh

Massive Fund

Synthesis and Wrap-up

Bert Fabian

Senior Transport Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Closing Remarks

Grench Manibo

Clean Air Asia

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Financing Modalities for Clean Air: Pathways to Scale Innovations and Solutions

MARCH 11 – 15:30-17:00

MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Air pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental and development challenges of our time, contributing to millions of premature deaths annually, exacerbating climate change, and with far-reaching impacts on economic productivity and quality of life. It undermines progress toward inclusive and sustainable development, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations and urban centers particularly in developing economies.

Proven technologies and policies to combat air pollution are already well established, the challenge lies in securing the sustainable, catalytic funding needed to scale them. Mobilizing public and private capital, incentivizing innovation, and strengthening stakeholder collaboration are essential to translating solutions into lasting impact. With less than 1% of international development aid targeting air pollution, there is a critical funding shortfall. This disparity highlights the urgent need for innovative financing approaches that can better integrate air quality objectives into broader climate and development investment frameworks.

Asia has a diverse set of financing mechanisms, including Japan's Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) and the Japan Fund for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JFJCM), alongside other bilateral and multilateral development funds. These mechanisms collectively demonstrate a proven blueprint for integrating air quality, climate, and other development goals through results-based finance. Through facilitation of technology transfer, and fostering partnerships with cities, national governments, and the private sector, these initiatives provide important lessons on how financing can be structured to support clean air co-benefits, enhance climate mitigation, and accelerate implementation at scale.

This session explores the evolving landscape of financing modalities that support clean air initiatives, showcasing concrete experiences on JCM and JFJCM and other funds. It will highlight real-world experiences from governments that have successfully accessed and implemented clean air financing, and bring together insights from development partners, practitioners, the private sector, and other stakeholders to discuss how to unlock and scale these efforts.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Ministry of Environment, Japan (MOEJ)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Clean Air Asia

PROGRAM

Session Host: **Dr Meihua Zhu**, Head of Planning and Training Department, **Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)**

Welcome remarks

Yoko Watanabe, Director of Environment, **Asian Development Bank**

Welcome remarks

Tomoyuki Izumi, Director of the Environment Management Bureau International Cooperation, **Ministry of the Environment, Japan**

State of Air Quality Financing in Asia

Shrish Sinha, Representative from **Clean Air Fund**

Introduction to JFCM and JCM

Shohei Okano, Environment and Carbon Market Specialist, **Asian Development Bank**

Presentation of Practices and lessons on unlocking finance and accelerating action and panel discussion

Moderator

Ayano Kotani, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Panelists

Presentation: Vietnam Case

Dr. Hai Minh Tran, Vice rector, Institute for Public Policy and Rural Development, **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**
Dr. Ken Yamashita, Senior Research Fellow, **Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)**

Presentation: India Case

Anupam Saini, Assistant Director, **International Services National Productivity Council**
Fumihiko Kuwahara, Professional Engineer, Manager-Environment Department, **Suuri Keikaku Co., Ltd.**

Presentation: Indonesia Case

Robby Dewanfara, Head of Division, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, **Environment Agency of Bandung Regency**
Hidenori Ishiguro, JANUS

Presentation: Mongolia Case

Kenichi Maekawa, Consultant Development Department, **EX Research Institute Ltd.**

Key messages and wrap up by the Moderator

Ayano Kotani, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Fireside chat: Matching needs of cities with financing solutions

Moderator: **Dr Meihua Zhou**, ACAP

Panelists:

- **Hon. Prasert Jittpleecheep**, Deputy Governor, **Chiang Rai, Thailand**
- **Hon. Akmal Muradovich Jumaboyev**, First Deputy Governor, **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**
- **Hon. Mamutov Abat Fayzullayevich**, Deputy Mayor, **Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan**
- **Narangeravuu Altangerel**, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, **Mongolia**
- **Dr Le Ngoc Cau**, Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology, and Climate Change, **Vietnam**
- **Ms Reena Gupta**, Chairperson, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) **India**
- **Drs.H.Ruli Hadiana**, Bandung Directorate, **Indonesia**

Wrap up/Closing

Dr Meihua Zhou, ACAP

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Designing integrated bankable solutions for air quality with private sector participation

MARCH 11 – 15:30-17:00

THEATRE, GROUND FLOOR, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Context and key issues facing air quality management (based on the latest 2025 State of Global Air Quality Funding Report):

- Air quality projects made up only 1% of total international development funding from 2019-2023 while funding for projects that extend fossil-fuel use increased by 80% in 2023 from \$5.3 billion to \$9.5 billion.
- Majority of the global air quality funding from 2019-2023 went to transport sector (accounting for 61%) and multi-sectorial solutions (accounting for 28%) and the rest (building – 10%, energy generation – 6%, agriculture – 5% and waste – 4%).
- “Of the 8.1 million premature deaths from air pollution every year, over 5 million are attributed fossil fuel burning”.
- 65% of outdoor air quality funding went to just 3 countries between 2019-2023: the Philippines, Bangladesh and China which highlights funding need for other countries with poor air quality.
- Projects with air quality co-benefits received an increase in funding from \$27.1 billion in 2022 to \$28.8 billion in 2023 which do not have explicit air quality objectives but contribute to air pollution reduction. Examples include electric-vehicle (EV) incentive programmes for commercial fleets which demonstrates importance of designing integrated interventions with multiple co-benefits.
- Evidence from the World Bank shows that integrated air quality and climate policies could save more than 2 million lives annually by 2040 and boost global GDP by up to \$2.4 trillion each year.

Source: Clean Air Fund. 2025. [State of Global Air Quality Funding 2025](#).

OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the session are to:

- Share examples of designing cross-sectorial integrated solutions contributing to air quality from transport, energy, urban development and textile industries;
- Present decarbonization as an opportunity to attract private sector in climate finance and air quality improvement;
- Share lessons learned from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Viet Nam and Mongolia based on their experience of designing and implementing projects to contribute to air quality.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks

Cindy Tiangco, Director, Emerging Areas Energy Sector Office, ADB

Presentations by

- **Azerbaijan Railways Company (ADY)** about its Railway decarbonization project and how it is making modal shift as part of broader clean transport and air quality strategies.
Nargiz Samadova, Chief Sustainability Officer, ADY
- **Baku metro's** energy efficiency and decarbonization initiatives including modal shift, emissions reduction, and bankable clean transport solutions
Nargiz Mustafayeva, the Head of Strategic Development Department, Baku Metro
- **Kyrgyz Republic: Climate Finance Center (CFC)** operationalization about its initiatives on preparing EV charging infrastructure design, linking clean transport, power systems, and urban air quality objectives.
Dastan Abyldaev, Climate Policy, Finance and Carbon Market Expert, CFC, Kyrgyz Republic
- **Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT)** on its initiative on integrating the rapidly growing number of EVs and their charging into power grid operations and utilization as an energy storage resource.
Piyapart Buttamart (France), Engineer, Business Developer, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), Thailand
- **Mongolia Coal to Solar Transition:** summary of efforts to reduce air pollution in Ulaanbaatar and key lessons learnt for way forward.
Delgerzul Lodoisamba, Air Pollution Expert, ADB consultant

Panel Discussion

Moderator:

Rafayil Abbasov, Principal Energy Specialist, ADB

Q&A discussion

Key takeaways and call to action

Rafayil Abbasov, Principal Energy Specialist, ADB

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Delivering Solutions at Scale: Key Perspectives from World Bank-financed Programs and Insights from Clean Air Solutions Providers

MARCH 11 – 15:30-17:00

MR-A, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Join us for a two-part session focused on how governments and the private sector can accelerate regional air quality management. We will open with an overview of ongoing World Bank programs in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and Himalayan Foothills and in East Asia & Pacific, highlighting how these initiatives translate policy and evidence into implementation. This first segment will provide concrete examples of program design, delivery models, and early results.

The session will then shift to a panel discussion with private-sector technical leaders and solution providers who are implementing clean air solutions on the ground. Drawing on lessons from established coordination efforts, speakers will showcase practical and scalable approaches that enable cross-jurisdictional action. The conversation will probe the financing tools and market conditions needed to make these solutions viable and sustainable, and incentives that catalyze private-sector participation. By exploring what it takes to cultivate robust AQM ecosystems, the session will illuminate how public and private actors can unlock innovation and deliver measurable clean-air outcomes across the region.

SESSION ORGANIZER

World Bank

PROGRAM

Clearing the Skies in South Asia: the World Bank's Program and Insights from a Regional Solutions Book

Dr. Martin Heger

Senior Environmental Economist
The World Bank

The World Bank's Air Quality Initiatives in East Asia and Pacific

Dr. Daniel Mira-Salama

Lead Environmental Specialist
The World Bank

Shared Airsheds, Market Solutions: Roundtable with Private Sector Solutions Providers in South and Southeast Asia

Rajiv Mangal

Vice President Safety, Health & Sustainability
Tata Steel

Piotr Jakubowski

Co-founder & Chief Growth Officer
Nafas

Shweta Sijapati

Partnership Manager
Build up Nepal

Xing Li Li

President
Laowan Clean Heating Industry Co. LTD.

Moderator:

Dr. Martin Heger

Senior Environmental Economist
The World Bank

Closing Remarks

Ann Jeannette Glauber

Regional Manager for the Environment Department, South Asia Region
The World Bank

BAQ 2026 SESSION

People-Centered Solutions: Making Inclusive Urban Planning Work for Clean Air and Climate Action

MARCH 11 – 15:30-17:00

MR-F, LEVEL 2, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Urban planning directly shapes exposure to air pollution and climate risks — through land use, transport systems, housing design, and access to public space. Yet many planning processes continue to rely on technical standards and top-down decision-making but fail to reflect how different groups actually experience the city.

Children navigating unsafe streets, women balancing mobility and care work, older persons with limited physical access, and low-income communities living near pollution hotspots are often absent from planning tables — or consulted too late to influence outcomes. As a result, well-intentioned plans may reinforce inequality, limit uptake, or face resistance during implementation.

In line with the BAQ 2026 theme, *“Together for Clear Skies: Driving Action, Accelerating Investment,”* this session focuses on how inclusive, people-centered planning can improve air quality and climate outcomes while strengthening public trust and implementation success. Rather than treating inclusion as part of a checklist or an abstract principle, the session highlights concrete planning approaches, tools, and decision pathways that integrate lived experience into urban and transport planning, leading to solutions that work both technically and socially. The session also highlights how behavioral insights and user-led research can inform inclusive planning and communication strategies that bridge the gap between policy intent and everyday action.

The session aims to:

- Demonstrate how inclusive planning improves air quality and climate outcomes by aligning urban and transport solutions with real-world behavior, access needs, and social contexts.
- Discuss practical “how-to” approaches for inclusive planning (such as participatory tools, behavioral insights, and engagement pathways) that planners and project teams can apply.
- Show how Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) can function as a planning lens, not an add-on, through concrete examples from transport and air quality initiatives.
- Create a space for dialogue between communities, governments, and development partners on what inclusive planning requires in practice, and what it deliberately does not attempt to do.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Clean Air Asia

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC)

PROGRAM

Keynote Presentation:

Why Inclusion Matters for Clean Air and Climate Action

Atty. Glynda Bathan-Baterina, Deputy Executive Director, **Clean Air Asia**

City-Level Case Snapshots

Impact stories demonstrating how inclusive planning, behavioural insights, and community participation improve air quality, climate outcomes, and policy uptake

- **Antipolo, Philippines:** Embedding inclusive transport solutions in city development plans
Rowena Zapanta, City Administrator/City Planning and Development Coordinator
- **Bangkok, Thailand:** User-led behavioral research and inclusive communication approaches for air quality action
Tul Pinkaew, Founder/Director Strategy, SideKick Creative Media Agency for Social Change
- **Jakarta, Indonesia:** tactile infrastructure through community-informed and needs-responsive planning
Deliani Poetriayu Siregar, Urban Planning and Inclusivity Manager, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy

Peer-learning Session

Facilitated small-group discussions, where each station is led by a speaker and grounded in the real case or approach presented earlier in the session.

The peer-learning session will take a World Café format with three stations:

- **Station 1 (Antipolo):** Rowena Zapanta, City Administrator/City Planning and Development Coordinator and GIZ
- **Station 2 (Bangkok):** Tul Pinkaew, Founder/Director Strategy, SideKick Creative Media Agency for Social Change and Clean Air Asia
- **Station 3 (Jakarta):** Deliani Poetriayu Siregar, Urban Planning and Inclusivity Manager, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy and ICSC

Wrap up

Moderator

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Solutions for Clean Air: From Asia to the World

MARCH 11 – 15:30-17:00

MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Air pollution remains a critical public health and environmental crisis in Asia. However, it also presents a significant opportunity for collaboration between cities and countries across Southeast and South Asia to achieve substantial climate and health co-benefits. A shift from isolated, city-by-city efforts toward a unified regional approach is essential because air pollution is fundamentally a transboundary issue that ignores administrative and political boundaries. Through shared solutions, cities and countries can identify and scale evidence-based interventions that have already demonstrated success within specific Asian contexts. Simultaneously, promoting coordinated actions allows nations to develop regional frameworks that align local initiatives with broader regional goals. This is particularly vital for airshed management and multi-sectoral alignment, requiring deep cooperation between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and philanthropies. The goal is to move from fragmented local efforts to a synchronized regional movement. By "sharing" best practices and "coordinating" implementation, the region can more effectively reach critical targets in reduction of PM 2.5 and the World Health Assembly's goal to halve air pollution-related deaths by 2040.

The session was conceived with three key objectives:

- Share evidence-based solutions from Southeast and South Asian countries and cities
- Discuss actions required at regional, national, and sub-national levels to accelerate progress toward 2030 goals
- Launch the CAF-CAA Clean Air Zone Asia Report, providing a framework for urban air quality management

SESSION ORGANIZER

Clean Air Fund

PROGRAM

Opening remarks and scene setting

Aakriti Kapoor

Portfolio Manager, Clean Air Fund

Clean Air Solutions for faster climate action and health outcomes – Clean Air Fund and Bloomberg's approaches

Jane Burston

CEO, Clean Air Fund

Priya Shankar, Air Quality Lead, Environment Program, **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

Panel discussion: Asia driving clean air solutions

- Air shed approach
- Science based AQM policy
- Clean air zones

Dr. Anju Goel

Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

Ahn Meg Adonis

Sustainable Transport Lead, Clean Air Asia

Dr. Trailokya Saud

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Dr. Angela Chaudhuri

CEO, Swasti Health Catalyst

Fakri Karim (Moderator)

Head of Indonesia Portfolio, Clean Air Fund

Panel discussion: Opportunities for scaling action in Asia by 2030:

Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, **ESCAP**

Marhasak Denny Tarluga Silaban, Acting Director of Air Quality Protection and Management, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia

Shruthi Srinivasan

Manager – Policy and Research
Energy Policy Institute (EPIC) – UChicago India

Karthik Ram

Head of India Portfolio
Clean Air Fund

Fu Lu (Moderator)

Regional Director – Southeast Asia
Clean Air Fund

Audience Q&A and wrap up

Aakriti Kapoor

Portfolio Manager – India, Clean Air Fund

Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Manage Agricultural Open Burning and Wildfires in Southeast Asia and Beyond

MARCH 11 – 15:30-17:00

MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Agricultural open burning and landscape wildfires are major contributors to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) pollution in Southeast Asia, with widespread implications for air quality, public health, climate change, ecosystems, and regional environmental stability. The burning of agricultural crop residues, particularly rice straw, alongside unmanaged vegetation fires and seasonal wildfires, continues to intensify haze episodes and transboundary air pollution across the region.

This session addresses the growing recognition that agricultural burning, wildfire risk, and broader landscape fire management challenges are closely interconnected and require integrated solutions. It provides a regional platform to share practical experiences, policy-relevant insights, and emerging approaches aimed at reducing open burning, mitigating wildfire risks, and promoting more sustainable land and residue management practices. By bringing together perspectives from policy, research, and implementation, the session highlights how coordinated action can support cleaner air and more resilient landscapes. This regional focus is further supported by the recently adopted UNEA resolution on strengthening the global management of wildfires (resolution 7/10), which calls for integrated prevention-oriented approaches, strengthened regional cooperation, and closer alignment of air quality, land-use, and climate policies.

The session offers a timely opportunity to:

1. Share evidence-based approaches and lessons learned in reducing agricultural open burning and associated wildfire risks across diverse national and local contexts;
2. Strengthen coherence between policy frameworks, on-the-ground practices, and enforcement mechanisms for integrated management of agricultural burning and wildfires; and
3. Situate national and sub-regional experiences within broader ASEAN and Mekong cooperation efforts on biomass burning, wildfire prevention, and transboundary air pollution control.

By contributing to ongoing regional dialogues on transboundary haze pollution, wildfire management, and climate-resilient land use, the session provides insights into scalable and replicable approaches that can inform similar efforts across Southeast Asia. It aligns strongly with BAQ 2026 themes on clean air, climate action, health protection, and integrated, cross-sectoral solutions.

The session objectives include:

- Sharing lessons learned and practical insights from interventions aimed at reducing open burning of agricultural crop residues within existing policy, institutional, and farming contexts, and their implications for wildfire prevention and landscape fire management.
- Highlighting the air quality, health, and climate benefits of reducing agricultural open burning and unmanaged fires,

drawing on national evidence and regional experiences related to PM_{2.5} pollution, biomass burning, and wildfire emissions.

- Facilitating regional knowledge exchange among Southeast Asian countries, ASEAN mechanisms, and Mekong sub-region partners on effective strategies, challenges, and enabling conditions for integrated management of agricultural burning and wildfires.
- Discussing opportunities for scaling up and replication of successful approaches through existing regional networks, communities of practice, and cooperation frameworks addressing biomass burning, wildfire risk reduction, and transboundary air pollution.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

PROGRAM

Emcee: **Grace Christine Richardson**, Master Student, Asian Institute of Technology

Welcome & Introductory Remarks

Mozaharul Alam, Regional Climate Change Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Michael BUCKI, Counsellor for Environment, Agriculture & Health, **Delegation of the European Union to Thailand**

Setting the scene

Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh, Professor, **Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)**

AQMx Sectoral Guidance

Juliette Laurent, Air Quality Specialist, **Climate and Clean Air Coalition**

Panel Discussion

Scaling Up and Replication in Southeast Asia and Beyond

Siwaporn Rungsiyanon, Specialized Expert on Air Quality and Noise Management, Air Quality and Noise Management Division, **Pollution Control Department, Thailand**

Thavisith Bounyasouk, Director, Planning and Cooperation Division, **Department of Agriculture, Lao PDR**

Chandath Him (Online), Deputy Director, Air Quality, Noise, and Vibration Management, **Ministry of Environment, Cambodia**

Saharjo Bambang, Professor, **IPB University**

Bidya Banmali Pradhan, Senior Air Pollution Specialist, **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development**
Representative from FAO (TBC)
Representative from ADB (TBC)

Wrap-Up and Way Forward

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Day 2 | 12 March 2026 | Thursday

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

TIME	SESSIONS (ORGANIZERS)	VENUE
09:00-10:30	PLENARY: Driving Actions and Solutions (Climate and Clean Air Coalition)	ESCAP HALL, LEVEL 2, UNCC
10:30-11:00	COFFEE BREAK / SCIENCE & SOLUTIONS EXCHANGE (POSTERS & EXHIBITION)	LEVEL 2 FOYER, UNCC
11:00-12:30	Special Session: Breathe Better: What leading cities are doing differently (Bloomberg Philanthropies, Breathe Cities, Clean Air Asia)	ESCAP HALL, LEVEL 2, UNCC
12:30-13:30	LUNCH	RECEPTION HALL, GF, UNCC
13:30-15:00	Advancing Green Shipping in Asia: Solutions, Enablers, and Regional Pathways (Clean Air Asia and partners)	MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Mitigation of Super Pollutants: Harnessing Multiple Co-Benefits for Air Quality, Health, Climate, Cryosphere, and Economy (GIZ SEACAI, CAF)	MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Roundtable discussion on Needs and Opportunities in the Lower Mekong Region (Clean Air Asia, AIT, CCAC)	MR-A, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Closing the air quality capacity gap: The Air Quality Management Exchange Platform (AQMx) (CCAC)	MR-C&D, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Accelerating Investment for Clean Air in Indonesia: Unlocking Financing Opportunities at the Subnational Level (ADB)	THEATRE, GF, UNCC
	Turning commitment into impact: city pathways through the Clean Air Accelerator (C40 Cities)	MR-F, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Clean Air Across Borders: Advancing Regional Action in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and Himalayan Foothills (ADB, ICIMOD, World Bank)	MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC
15:00-15:30	COFFEE BREAK / SCIENCE & SOLUTIONS EXCHANGE (POSTERS & EXHIBITION)	LEVEL 2 FOYER, UNCC
15:30-17:00	Data-Driven Decisions: Leveraging tools on big data collection, analysis, and visualization to drive air quality management decisions (Clean Air Asia and partners)	THEATRE, GF, UNCC
	Regionally Coordinated Actions on Air and Super Pollutants through National strategies: Towards Health, Climate and Water Security in the IGP-HF (ICIMOD)	MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Next-Generation Monitoring and Assessment System for Air Pollution in East Asia (MOEJ, ACAP)	MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Air Quality-Climate-Health Nexus (Peking University, Clean Air Asia, The Energy Foundation)	MR-C&D, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Advancing Low Emission Zones: Tools for Maturity Assessment and Emissions Modelling – Examples from SE Asia (ADB)	MR-F, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Shared Air, Shared Future: Embedding Intergenerational Equity in Clean Air Investments and Decisions (Breathe Mongolia, UNIDO)	MR-A, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Air Quality Finance Roundtable: Pathways for Asia-Pacific (by invitation) (ADB, Clean Air Asia)	MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC
17:00~	[Bangkok Air Walk] Portable Air Quality Monitor & Walkability Tour - Organized by AirGradient	Starting point at the UNCC
	"Women Driving Change in the Transport & Energy Sectors: An Evening of Connection and Inspiration" Co-hosted by GIZ Thailand & UNEP	GARDEN PAVILION, SUKOSOL HOTEL
	Networking Cocktails hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Japan	LEVEL 2 FOYER, UNCC

BAQ 2026 PLENARY

Driving Actions & Solutions

MARCH 12 – 09:00-10:30

ESCAP HALL, LEVEL 2, UNCC

BACKGROUND

Building on the outcomes on air quality in the G20 Environment & Climate Sustainability Working Group and the emerging findings from the forthcoming Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) Economic Assessment, the event will feature two key notes focused on building political will and overcoming barriers to action, followed by a panel discussion highlighting innovative solutions.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Climate and Clean Air Coalition

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks

Climate and Clean Air Coalition

Keynote: Building political will, including the G20 outcomes

Dr. Patience Gwaze

Chief Directorate, Air Quality Management

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment,
South Africa

Keynote: Breaking down barriers to action

Dr. Eric Zusman

Scientific Advisory Panel, Climate and Clean Air Coalition; Research
Director, IGES

Panel Interventions:

- Innovative approaches to addressing data gaps
- Building capacity, including use of AQMx
- Implementing improved vehicle standards in Cambodia
- Eliminating open waste burning through regional roadmaps and city action plans
- Synergies between air pollution control and GHG mitigation

Panelists

Dr. Christa Hasenkopf

Director of the Clean Air Program, **Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)**

Dr. Hiroaki Takiguchi

Senior Advisor (Environmental Management), Global Environment
Department, **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

Yeonju (June) Jeong

Senior Programme Management Officer, **UNEP**

Miho Hayashi

Programme Manager, **Institute for Global Environmental
Strategies (IGES)**

Dr. Yixuan Zheng

Associate Researcher, **Chinese Academy of Environmental
Planning**

Discussion Moderated by Dr. Patience Gwaze

BAQ 2026 SPECIAL SESSION

Breathe Better: What leading cities are doing differently

MARCH 12 – 11:00-12:30

ESCAP HALL, LEVEL 2, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Recent data shows that cleaner air is possible faster than expected, with stories of rapid success coming from cities across the globe. Asian cities like Bangkok are taking a leading role in the next wave of clean air action, utilizing both examples of successes from other regions and new cutting-edge solutions. Breathe Cities - a first-of-its-kind initiative delivered by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Clean Air Fund, and C40 Cities - is supporting this effort, showing what is possible when strong data, community engagement, city leadership, and international lesson-sharing are combined.

This special session will showcase new data on the global and regional state of air quality, including from the upcoming Breathe Cities research report "Breathe Better: How leading cities have rapidly cut air pollution", and Clean Air Asia flagship report "Air Quality in Asia: Status and Trends 2026 Edition", combined with local impact through case studies of city action, including the leading role that Breathe Cities like Bangkok and Jakarta are playing, taking bold ambition on air quality to inspire global and regional replication. With perspectives from city leaders, clean air actors, technical experts, and civil society voices, the session will highlight the Breathe Cities whole-of-city approach.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Bloomberg Philanthropies, C40, Clean Air Fund, and Clean Air Asia

PROGRAM

Welcome & Scene Setting

This opening sets the scene for a global conversation on how cities are delivering clean air in practice. It highlights why city leadership matters now, what global and regional data show about progress, and how leading cities are translating evidence into action through governance, data, and partnerships.

Cecilia Vaca Jones

Executive Director, **Breathe Cities**

Evidence Snapshot: From Global Trend to Asia Progress

This segment brings together global city-level evidence and Asia-wide trends, highlighting where progress is happening, how cities are contributing and what this means for clean air delivery in the region. The segment also marks the release of new global and regional reports on the state of air quality, as well as the leadership of cities in delivering pollution reduction.

Iyad Kheirbek

Director of Air Quality, **C40**

Glynda Bathan-Baterina

Deputy Executive Director, **Clean Air Asia**

Screening of "Voices for Clean Air" Video

A short video featuring community voices and city perspectives, grounding the discussion in the lived health and socio-economic impacts of air pollution and underscoring the importance of public trust and engagement in sustaining clean air action.

Integrated Dialogue: Delivering Clean Air in Asia Cities

This panel explores how clean air is delivered in practice across diverse Asian contexts, and how lessons can travel when cities align political leadership, data, communities, and partnerships. The dialogue reflects a whole-of-city approach, bringing together city leadership, clean air actors, civil society, and technical experts.

Anumita Roychowdhury

Executive Director, **Centre for Science and Environment**
(moderator)

Pornphrom N.S. Vikitsreth

Governor Advisor, **Bangkok Metropolitan Administration**

Novita Natalia Kusumawardani, Co-founder, **Bicara Udara**

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director, **Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate**

City Spotlight: Leadership in Action

Building on the earlier discussion on governance, data, and community engagement, this segment brings city leaders to reflect on how these elements translate into concrete action. Representatives from Jakarta and Beijing will share how their cities are implementing policies, strengthening institutions, and coordinating across sectors to sustain progress on air quality. The conversation highlights how leadership, evidence, and collaboration come together to deliver cleaner air.

Cecilia Vaca Jones

Executive Director, **Breathe Cities** (moderator)

Dudi Gardesi Asikin

Deputy Head of the Environment Agency, **Jakarta Provincial Government**

Liu Yan

Deputy Director, Department of Air Quality Management, **Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau**

Closing remarks

Synthesize the session and reflect on the leadership of cities.

Priya Shankar, Air Quality Lead, Environment Program,
Bloomberg Philanthropies

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Advancing Green Shipping in Asia: Solutions, Enablers, and Regional Pathways

MARCH 12 – 13:30-15:00

MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Southeast Asia plays a pivotal role in global and regional shipping, facilitating international trade and hosting 10 of the world's 50 busiest container ports. Maritime emissions from the region are rising, primarily due to increased maritime activity, contributing to climate change and air pollution. The region now faces a critical window to shape its maritime future and avoid long-term lock-in to high emission pathways.

Southeast Asian countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand are advancing towards green shipping, integrating maritime decarbonization into national strategies and exploring alternative fuels and sustainable port initiatives. While promising building blocks are in place, the transition remains at an early stage, with persistent challenges in technology readiness, fuel supply, financing, and cross-sector coordination

This session will bring together policymakers, port authorities and operators, industry players, and researchers, featuring rapid-fire pitches on proven maritime decarbonization solutions and a panel discussion on unlocking green shipping in the region.

Session objectives:

- Foster regional collaboration and share expertise among key maritime stakeholders
- Showcase concrete and scalable solutions already being tested or deployed in Asia or globally
- Identify the enabling environment required to turn solutions into reality

SESSION ORGANIZER

Clean Air Asia

PROGRAM

Welcome Remarks & Framing the Session

Bjarne Pedersen

Executive Director, **Clean Air Asia**

RAPID-FIRE PITCHES

The Solutions We Have: Technologies and Pathways Accelerating Maritime Decarbonization

- **Navigating Opportunities and Challenges: Green Shipping in Southeast Asia**
Meg Adonis, Sustainable Transport Lead, **Clean Air Asia**

- **Emission control areas and other domestic maritime policies**
Prof. Huan LIU, Professor, School of Environment, **Tsinghua University**
- **Green shipping corridor development**
Iyad Kheirbek, Director of Air Quality, **C40**
- **Inland waterway vessel electrification**
Marine Department, Thailand (TBC)

Q&A

The Support We Need: Policies, Finance and Collaboration to Unlock Green Shipping

Moderator:

Freda Fung

ClimateWorks Foundation

Panelists:

Dr. Siti Noraishah Azizan

General Manager, Johor Port Authority

Nosep Kristoro

PT. Pelindo

Tom Buckland

Technical Director

Logika

Mohd Tarmizi Osman

Assistant Director

Safety, Security and Environment Division Marine Department - Malaysia

Adrian Sammons

Asian Development Bank

Dr. Syuhaida Ismail (for consideration)

Q&A

Summary, key insights, and closing remarks

Huihui Cheng, China Transport Program Director, **Clean Air Asia**

Mitigation of Super Pollutants: Harnessing Multiple Co-Benefits for Air Quality, Health, Climate, Cryosphere, and Economy

MARCH 12 – 13:30-15:00

MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This session brings together experts from regional networks, national governments, and leading organizations to share insights on harnessing co-benefits for air quality, health, climate, the cryosphere, and the economy through the mitigation of super pollutants.

Super pollutants, black carbon and tropospheric ozone, are responsible for significant near-term warming and millions of premature deaths every year. Reducing these short-lived climate pollutants offers a powerful opportunity to achieve rapid gains for air quality, health, climate stabilization, cryosphere protection, and local economic resilience. This session brings together experts from regional platforms, national governments and leading organizations to share insights through TALK-style stories followed by a moderated discussion. Speakers will highlight practical solutions and cooperation pathways across ASEAN and South Asia, showing how national actions can be scaled through mechanisms such as the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution and Male' Declaration. The session will also explore how climate finance and air quality policy can reinforce each other to accelerate SLCP mitigation.

Objectives

To exchange benefits, practical solutions, current plan and policies, and further cooperation to mitigate Super Pollutants in South Asia and Southeast Asia

Specific objectives

1. Demonstrate the multiple co-benefits of mitigating super pollutants across air quality, health, climate, cryosphere protection, and economic resilience.
2. Highlight practical solutions and strengthen cooperation pathways in Asia, including examples from regional platforms (ASEAN, Male' Declaration) and national governments.
3. Catalyze finance and policy integration by connecting SLCP/super pollutants action to climate finance, including opportunities via the CCAC Finance Hub and other multilateral mechanisms.

Expected results

At the end of the session, participants will...

1. Clear understanding of why SLCP mitigation delivers the fastest, highest-impact multiple co-benefits this decade.
2. Actionable measures participants can apply in their own work, including sector-specific examples and cooperation models.
3. Recognition of financing pathways that can support national and regional SLCP interventions.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

GIZ SDC SEACAI (Southeast Asia Climate & Clean Air Initiative)
Clean Air Fund (CAF)

PROGRAM

Welcome participants

Monnapa Poosomboonwattana, GIZ Project Advisor

Opening remarks

Jane Burston, CEO, Clean Air Fund

Alvaro Zurita, GIZ Project Director

Talk 1: Science & Co-benefits (Story-based science)

One big idea + One real story

Ram Lal Verma, Science Manager - Super Pollutants, Clean Air Fund

Talk 2: Transboundary Haze Mitigation Efforts (Policy in Action)

Tell a real example from the field

Patrick Bueker, GIZ Deputy Project Director

Talk 3: Regional Platform Perspective (Regional Cooperation Story)

Focus on a concrete cooperation success, not history

Parth Sarathi Mahapatra, ICIMOD

Talk 4: National Implementation Story (Country example)

Highlight measurable results & timing

Sirapong Sooktawee, Director of Standardization and Laboratory Group, Department of Climate Change and Environment (DCCE), Thailand

Talk 5: Financial Approaches or Fund Mobilization for Super Pollutants Mitigation

Dr. Clyde Hutchinson, Technology Specialist, ADB-Korea Climate Technology Hub, ADB

Summary of talks and invite speakers back to the stage

Integrated Panel Discussion

Driving multiple co-benefits through super pollutant mitigation

Panel Moderator: **Jane Burston**, CEO, Clean Air Fund

Q&A

Jane Burston, CEO, Clean Air Fund

Panel wrap-up

Jane Burston, CEO, Clean Air Fund

Closing Remarks

Philippe Brunet, Counsellor

Head of Cooperation

Regional Thematic Hub in Bangkok

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Shirish Sinha, Executive Director of Programmes, Clean Air Fund

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Roundtable discussion on Needs and Opportunities in the Lower Mekong Region

MARCH 12 – 13:30-15:00

MR-A, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Across the Lower Mekong Region, countries are advancing efforts to tackle one of their most pressing and shared challenges: air pollution and climate change. Thailand, Lao PDR, and Cambodia have each laid the foundations for cleaner, healthier futures through their national climate and air quality policies, yet they continue to face constraints in data systems, regulatory capacity, and sustainable financing. Recognizing that air pollution transcends borders, the *Lower Mekong Regional Hub for Clean Air* was designed and established to harmonize knowledge, strengthen institutions, and mobilize resources to drive collective action across the subregion.

Aligned with BAQ 2026's call to drive action, accelerate investment, and forge partnerships, this roundtable brings together government representatives, development partners, and financing institutions to explore the next frontier of clean air collaboration in the Lower Mekong Region and beyond. The session will present the Hub's key programs, ranging from near real-time air quality monitoring and emissions inventory systems to regional knowledge sharing and policy alignment, and invite discussion on investment opportunities to sustain and scale these efforts.

Prospective donors and financing institutions will provide feedback and share guidance on grant opportunities, application processes and requirements. By connecting needs with resources, the roundtable aims to translate shared ambition into concrete pathways for cleaner air, improved health, and climate resilience for communities in the Lower Mekong region.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Clean Air Asia
Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

PROGRAM

Opening remarks and significance of the session

Dana Babela

Sustainable Cities Specialist, Clean Air Asia

Listya Kusumuwati

Programme Manager, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) (*pre-recorded video*)

Overview of the Lower Mekong Regional Hub

Dr. Ekbordin Winijkul

Associate Professor, AIT

Country overview on status and needs for projects

The presentations will feature project ideas aimed at strengthening air quality management, with a focus on, but not limited to, advanced monitoring of air quality and climate pollutants to inform action and support the mobilization.

Chandath Him

Deputy Director, Air Quality, Noise and Vibration Management Department, **Ministry of Environment, Cambodia** (*online*)

Bounmany Soulideth

Deputy Head, Modelling Division, Biotechnology and Ecosystem Institute (BEI), **Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Lao PDR**

Dr. Sirirat Yensong

Environmentalist (Professional level), Pollution Control Department, **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand**

Expert Feedback on Country Presentations

Dr. Ekbordin Winijkul

Associate Professor, AIT

Feedback on proposed projects and sharing of information on funding opportunities

Bayarmaa Amarjargal

Climate Change Specialist, Emerging Areas Team, Energy Sector Office, **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

Dr. Fu Lu

Regional Director for Southeast Asia, **Clean Air Fund**

Dr. Christa Hasenkopf

Director, Clean Air Program, **Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)**

Junko Morizane

Deputy Director, Environmental Management and Climate Change Group, Global Environment Department, **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

Moderated by:

Ms. Dang Espita-Casanova

Associate Program Director, **Clean Air Asia**

Summary, key insights, and closing remarks

Rungsiyanon Siwaporn

Deputy Director General,
Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

- [CCAC Project Portfolio Page](#)
- <https://beatingairpollution.com/>
- <https://lowermekongemissionwatch.com/dashboard>

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Closing the air quality capacity gap: The Air Quality Management Exchange Platform (AQMx)

MARCH 12 – 13:30-15:00

MR-C&D, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Capacity of countries to improve air quality has been identified as a key gap, alongside finance. Recognizing this gap, UNEA-6/10 Resolution on “the promotion of regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally”, called for the development of a global online knowledge platform on air quality management. In response to this call, the Air Quality Management Exchange (AQMx) platform was launched on the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2024.

Developed under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition’s (CCAC) Clean Air Flagship, which has as one of its goals to “promote strengthening capacity at all levels of governance to advance integrated air quality and climate planning and action”, AQMx is designed as a one-stop-shop for information and guidance on air quality management to assist countries worldwide with trusted tools and resources to implement effective clean air policies and meet WHO Air Quality Guidelines and associated interim targets.

This workshop will present the AQMx platform and how it supports air quality managers, with testimonies from users and a focus on the Public Engagement and Communications Guidance, and Road Transport Sectoral Guidance. It will actively engage participants through a live demonstration of the platform and will provide an opportunity for open discussions to explore air quality managers needs and challenges in terms of access to guidance, and how future iterations of AQMx, targeted training sessions and establishment of regional knowledge hubs can meet them.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

PROGRAM

Introductory Remarks

Juliette Laurent

Air Quality Specialist

CCAC

Keynote: Testimony from an AQMx user

Cristan Tolvett

Member of the AQMx Focus Group

Keynote: Leveraging AQMx for capacity-building activities

Hiroaki Takiguchi

Senior Advisor (Environmental Management)

JICA

Applying the AQMx Guidance on Public Engagement and Communications to develop a clean air communication strategy

Glynda Bathan-Baterina

Deputy Executive Director

Clean Air Asia

Member of the AQMx Technical Advisory Group

Applying the AQMx Guidance on Road Transport to introduce vehicle emission standards and inspection/maintenance

Ittipol Pawarmart

Environmental Specialist

Thailand Pollution Control Department

Applying the AQMx Guidance on Waste to eliminate Open Waste Burning

Lucy Stevens

Practical Action / AQMx Waste Expert

(online)

Interactive session: Brainstorming future AQMx content and functionalities

Closing Remarks

Juliette Laurent

Air Quality Specialist

CCAC

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Accelerating Investment for Clean Air in Indonesia: Unlocking Financing Opportunities at the Subnational Level

MARCH 12 – 13:30-15:00

THEATRE, GROUND FLOOR, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Indonesia's urban areas, such as the Greater Jakarta region, face escalating air pollution challenges driven by intensifying mobility patterns, rapid urbanization, waste burning, and industrial activities. While national and subnational policies and plans have outlined strategies to improve air quality, implementation remains fragmented and inconsistent, and financing options at the subnational level are still limited. Subnational governments struggle to mobilize investment due to disparities in fiscal capacity, competing budget priorities, and the fact that air quality improvement efforts often do not generate direct financial returns—making such projects less attractive for private sector participation.

Strengthening investment readiness among subnational governments and aligning air quality actions with fiscal and financing mechanisms are therefore crucial to deliver measurable and long-term improvements in air quality, especially in urban areas.

This session will take the form of a talk show and will identify key investment barriers for air quality improvement at the subnational level; explore opportunities and innovative financing solutions; and facilitate dialogue among national and subnational governments, development partners, and financial institutions to develop actionable recommendations. During the session, ADB's Water and Urban Development (WUD) team will also present the findings of a meta-study on Blue Skies Jakarta: Pathways for Integrated Air Quality Improvement, completed in October 2025, to foster dialogue and knowledge exchange.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Asian Development Bank, Water and Urban Development

PROGRAM

Introductory remark

Andrew Franciscus

Senior Program Officer Indonesia Resident Mission, ADB

Opening remark

Neeta Pokhrel

Director Water and Urban Development, ADB

Presentation, "Exploring Subnational Financing for Air Quality Improvement, Case Study: Greater Jakarta Area," Asian Development Bank

Jasmine S. Tillu

Urban Development Specialist, ADB

Moderated panel discussion

Moderator

Jasmine S. Tillu

Urban Development Specialist, ADB

Panelists

- **Nizhar Marizi**, Director of Environment, **Bappenas**
- **Marhasak Denny Tarluga Silaban**, Acting Director of Air Quality Protection and Management, **Ministry of Environment, Indonesia**

Interactive dialogue with audience

Moderator

Jasmine S. Tillu

Urban Development Specialist, ADB

Summary and way forward

Emcee

Andrew Franciscus

Senior Program Officer Indonesia Resident Mission, ADB

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

- Article: Asian Development Bank, 2025. How Green Spaces, Emissions Standards, and Early Warnings Can Improve Jakarta's Air. Asian Development Blog, 11 September 2025. Access via this link.
- **Meta study summary:** Blue Skies Jakarta: Pathways for Integrated Air Quality Improvement Meta-Study Summary

Accelerating clean air action in Asian cities: Unlocking delivery through collaboration

MARCH 12 – 13:30-15:00

MR-F, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The C40 Clean Air Accelerator (CAA) brings together more than 50 global cities, including 11 in East, Southeast Asia, Oceania, and South Asia that have committed to improving air quality, and protecting public health through coordinated, cross-sector action. As clean air solutions become increasingly well understood, the defining challenge for cities is no longer what to do, but how to organise for delivery and sustain progress.

This session is anchored in a collaboration lens. It examines how global city networks, city governments, and delivery partners work together to turn commitment into day-to-day action. Drawing on experience from Asian cities engaged in the Clean Air Accelerator, air quality and related networks and platforms, the session explores how collaboration operates at different levels, across cities globally, across departments within cities, and with communities and delivery partners on the ground.

This session aims to:

- Highlight how mayoral leadership and commitment, particularly through C40 accelerators, together with cross-city collaboration, create shared ambition, peer learning and momentum for clean air action.
- Show how collaboration inside city governments enables clean air delivery across departments, plans, and operational teams.
- Examine how community-centred and equity-focused collaboration strengthens ownership, data use, and accountability.
- Share transferable insights for cities seeking to move from commitment to sustained delivery.

SESSION ORGANIZER

C40 Cities

PROGRAM

Welcome and Opening - Collaboration as the engine of clean air delivery

Set the stage on why collaboration (not just technical solutions) is essential to sustaining clean air action, and how city networks, accelerators, and peer platforms enable collective ambition and coordinated progress on clean air.

Iyad Kheirbek

Director of Air Quality Programme, C40

City collaboration in practice: Inside city systems.

Spotlight on how cities use collaboration across departments, data, and planning processes to turn clean air commitment into routine delivery.

- **Seoul** demonstrates how sustained clean-air progress is achieved by building on existing systems over decades, with stable roles, routines, and accountability structures that endure even as policies and plans evolve.
- **Hanoi** highlights how clean air action advances in fast-growing cities through pragmatic, step-by-step coordination across agencies, keeping momentum despite seasonal pollution and complex institutional settings.
- **Quezon City** shows how clean air delivery moved from strategy to everyday practice by embedding responsibility within operational departments and community-facing teams, making air quality a shared, citywide function rather than a standalone plan.

Songjae Yang, Senior Manager for Air Quality Policy Division of the **Seoul Metropolitan Government, Seoul**

Le Thanh Thuy, Deputy Head of the Environmental Management Division under the **Hanoi Department of Agriculture and Environment, Hanoi**

Vanessa Claire B. Vinarao, Acting Chief, Climate Change Mitigation Division, **Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department, Quezon City**

Collaboration beyond city government: Communities, equity, and enabling tools

Insights on how partnerships with communities and delivery organisations support equitable, sustained clean air action beyond government alone.

Moderator

Fadhil Firdaus, City Advisor Jakarta, **C40**

Panelists

- **Imelda Maidir**, Senior Indonesia Country Coordinator, **Vital Strategies**
- **Elisabeth Rianawati**, Program Director, **Resilience Development Initiative (RDI)**
- **Dominika Kalinowska**, Director Transport Projects Thailand, **Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**
- **Vivian Pun**, Regional Technical Head of Breathe Cities, **C40**

Closing synthesis: Collaboration that lasts

Shirley Rodrigues, Board member of C40 Cities

Clean Air Across Borders: Advancing Regional Action in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and Himalayan Foothills

MARCH 12 – 13:30-15:00

MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

A billion of people, which are living across the Indo-Gangetic Plains and the Himalayan Foothills region (IGP-HF), which includes parts of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, remain exposed to alarming levels of air pollution^{1,2,3}. In many parts of the region, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) levels reach up to twenty times the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline—far exceeding what is considered safe. For people living across the region, this means higher risks of non-communicable diseases, lost income, and reduced quality of life. This affects the region's development, through health costs, lost productivity, food insecurity, and environmental damage. The economic costs have been estimated at around 10 percent of GDP.⁴

Air pollutants can travel across borders and impact air quality, ecosystems and people's health far from the source.⁵ These challenges cannot be solved by any one nation alone. Therefore, it is vital for the countries to work together and coordinate their monitoring, planning, and abatement efforts. Reducing air pollution is a regional public good as its benefits are shared across neighboring countries.⁶

Adopting a regionally coordinated and integrated approach for clean air in IGP-HF is essential for meaningful and transformative progress. Regional processes and initiatives including Science Policy Finance Dialogue (SPFD) for Air Quality Management in IGP-HF region leading to the Kathmandu Roadmap for Improving Air Quality⁷ and the Thimphu Outcome Towards Clean Air in IGP-HF⁸, and the proposed regional SPFD cooperation platform have built strong momentum for collaboration. These initiatives complement the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution.⁹

Effective management requires cooperation to address shared challenges like cross-border air pollution. This session will explore regional cooperation and integration (RCI) approaches for clean air in the IGP-HF and identify opportunities including through joint programs or projects, implementation of common standards, coordinated policies, and facilitating access to regional trust funds and financing pools. This session will identify actionable pathways to deepen regional cooperation. This session will build on the ICIMOD-led Session on *Regionally Coordinated Actions on Air and Super Pollutants through National strategies: Towards Health, Climate and Water Security in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and Himalayan-Foothills*.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Asian Development Bank, International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), World Bank

PROGRAM

Introductory Remarks

Yoko Watanabe

Director, Environment, ADB

Ann Jeannete Glauber, Practice Manager, Environment Department (South Asia), World Bank

Setting the scene: Current landscape, uncertainties, and opportunities for regional cooperation and integration in IGP-HF

Ashish Tiwari, Action Area Air Lead, ICIMOD

Advancing Regional Cooperation in the IGP-HF: Science-Policy-Finance Dialogues Anchored in National Strategies and a Voluntary Cooperation Platform

Vanisa Surapipith, Head, Air Pollution Cluster, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), AIT

Based on the results from the scoping study by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Regional Resource Centre for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP), Technical Partner of the Malé Declaration Secretariat

Interventions from IGP-HF Countries & States

Government representatives from **Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan**

Panel discussion with regional institutions and development partners

Moderator:

Yurendra Basnett, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, South Asia Regional Department (SARD), ADB

Panelists

- **Norbu Wangchuk**, Director General, **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**
- **Jaya Singh Verma**, Senior Policy and Programme Manager, Energy Climate Directorate, FCDO, British High Commission, New Delhi
- **Anand Shukla**, Senior Adviser, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)
- **Martin Heger**, Senior Environmental Economist, World Bank

Summary

Yurendra Basnett, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, South Asia Regional Department (SARD), ADB

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/sar/publication/striving-for-clean-air>

² <https://www.stateofglobalair.org/resources/report/trends-air-quality-and-health-impacts-insights-central-south-and-southeast-asia>

³ <https://www.icimod.org/press-release/millions-of-people-across-the-indo-gangetic-plain-and-himalayan-foothills-continue-to-breathe-hazardous-air/>

⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/sar/publication/a-breath-of-change-solutions-for-cleaner-air-in-the-indo-gangetic-plains-and-himalayan-foothills>

⁵ <https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/47f50ae1-6828-407a-81e1-ef1566702351/content>

⁶ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/666906/regional-public-goods-asia-europe.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.icimod.org/kathmandu-roadmap-jumpstarts-collective-management-of-the-hkh-airshed/>

⁸ <https://lib.icimod.org/records/tpn8m-tcg54>

⁹ <http://www.sacep.org/programmes/male-declaration>

Data-Driven Decisions: Leveraging tools on big data collection, analysis, and visualization to drive air quality management decisions

MARCH 12 – 15:30-17:00

THEATRE, GROUND FLOOR, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

A science-based approach to addressing air pollution has been increasingly emphasized, focusing on the collection and use of data to guide decisions and actions. The more detailed information is available, the better we can understand potential risks and determine the actions needed to respond quickly. More governments and non-government institutions now collect data not only for compliance and policy decisions but also to effectively communicate the information and resulting actions to the public. With rapid developments in IoT, automation, and the growing accessibility of online datasets, there are now more tools available to support this approach. To make the most of these advancements, it is important to combine digital transformation with timely solutions and decisions that can directly address air pollution.

This session will explore data platforms, decision support tools, and other similar implementations that use air quality data to drive evidence-based decision making. Presentations will include novel uses of technologies such as AI to supplement data gaps, integration of data for decision-support tools, multi-hazard early warning systems, impact monitoring, and other similar applications on the compilation, analysis, and visualization of data to inform air quality management decisions. In particular, it is envisioned to:

- Present dashboards focused on air quality data and describe how it informed policies of governments and decisions of stakeholders;
- Highlight the intersect of digital transformation with real-world actions to improve air quality
- Discuss important success factors and enabling conditions in the operationalization of such tools so others can adopt as needed.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Clean Air Asia

PROGRAM

Opening remarks and significance of the session

Everlyn Tamayo

Air Quality and Climate Change Science Lead, **Clean Air Asia**

Carlo Bontia

Senior Researcher, **Clean Air Asia**

How China Air Pollution Data Center leverages big data collection, analysis, and visualization towards action

Prof. Zheng Mei

Professor, **Peking University**

Near-real Time Emission Inventory Platform for Air Quality Management in the Lower Mekong Sub-region

Dr. Ekbordin Winijkul

Associate Professor, **Asian Institute of Technology**

Lessons across continents: How AirQo's Open Data Infrastructure Shapes African Clean Air Actions

Dr. Deo Okure

Project Lead, **AirQo**

Data to Action – Insights from the data-driven and spatial approach of the Global Methane Hub

Vidvatta Sharma

Regional Associate, Asia, **The Global Methane Hub**

Safeguarding children with real-time air quality monitoring: Combining low-cost sensors and AI

Judith Hanan

Technology for Development Manager, **UNICEF**

Anthony Mockler

Data Scientist, **UNICEF**

Question and Answer

Everlyn Tamayo

Air Quality and Climate Change Science Lead, **Clean Air Asia**

Dr. Prachi Goyal

Air Quality Specialist, **Clean Air Asia India Office**

Summary and key insights

Dr. Zbigniew Klimont

Lead, Pollution Management Research Group

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Closing remarks

Clean Air Asia

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

- The China Air Pollution Data Center
<https://www.capdatabase.cn/en>
- Emission Inventory From Forest Fire and Open Burning in Lower Mekong Sub-region
<https://beatingairpollution.com/>;
<https://lowermekongemissionwatch.com/dashboard>
- AirQo: low-cost sensors and applying AI to inform policy and mitigation actions
<https://www.ccacoalition.org/partners/airqo>;
<https://www.airqo.africa/home>; <https://analytics.airqo.net/>
- Nationwide School AQ Monitoring in Lao PDR with UNICEF and Addressing Air Pollution with Artificial Intelligence
<https://www.airgradient.com/blog/project-lao-pdr-with-unicef/>;
<https://www.unicef.org/innovation/stories/addressing-air-pollution-artificial-intelligence>
- Air Quality Warning and Integrated Decision Support System for Emissions (AIRWISE): Enhancing Air Quality Management in Megacities
<https://www.ccacoalition.org/resources/air-quality-warning-and-integrated-decision-support-system-emissions-airwise-enhancing-air-quality-management-megacities>

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Regionally Coordinated Actions on Air and Super Pollutants through National strategies: Towards Health, Climate and Water Security in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and Himalayan-Foothills (IGP-HF)

MARCH 12 – 15:30-17:00

MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Air pollution is one of the most urgent public health and environmental challenge in South Asia, particularly across the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Himalayan Foothills (IGP-HF). Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) also known as super pollutants such as black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone precursors, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) significantly degrade air quality, harm health, accelerate climate warming, and threaten water security. These pollutants drive PM_{2.5} exposure, ground-level ozone formation, heat stress, and glacier melt, disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations and fragile ecosystems, with cascading effects on agriculture, food security, and livelihoods.

Mitigation strategies for super pollutants must be integrated into broader air quality management frameworks to ensure efficiency and maximize impact. Both air pollutants and super pollutants share common sources, sectors, and resources such as energy, transport, industry, agriculture and others making siloed approaches ineffective. Hence, within a given airshed i.e. the IGP-HF, by aligning strategies, countries can leverage shared monitoring systems, mitigation strategies, policy instruments, and financing mechanisms to deliver significant co-benefits for health, climate, and water security.

Due to their transboundary nature, SLCPs & air pollutants demand coordinated regional responses. Their interconnected impacts on health, climate, and water resources call for an integrated framework rather than isolated interventions. Mitigation of super pollutants offers immediate, high-impact benefits: targeted reductions in black carbon and methane can quickly improve health outcomes, curb near-term warming, and slow cryosphere loss delivering co-benefits for climate resilience and water security. An integrated approach also enables coordinated regional action, reduces duplication of efforts, and accelerates progress toward national clean air goals and international commitments like NDCs and SDGs. Ultimately, embedding super pollutant mitigation within air quality management plans creates a unified platform for tackling multiple challenges simultaneously, ensuring that interventions are cost-effective, scalable, and sustainable.

This session will convene policymakers, scientists, health experts, and practitioners to explore actionable pathways and collaborative solutions for better air quality management along with rapid SLCP reduction, strengthening regional cooperation and accelerating progress toward shared health, climate, and development goals.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

PROGRAM

Facilitator: Khushboo Sharma, ICIMOD

Introductory Remarks

Bidya Banmali Pradhan, Senior Air Pollution Specialist, ICIMOD

Release of Documents

- Guidance document on CEMS in Bhutan
- Reducing Agricultural Nitrogen and Secondary PM_{2.5} in the IGP-HF
- Executive summary of Forest Fire Solutions

ICIMOD, FCDO

Scene Setting Presentation

Embedding super pollutant mitigation within air quality management strategies: Leveraging shared monitoring systems, policy instruments, and financing mechanisms to deliver co-benefits for health, climate, and water security.

Ashish Tiwari, Air Lead, ICIMOD

Moderated Panel Discussion

Panelists

Sachin Ghude Scientist F Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, India

Amanda Curry Brown, Clean Air Flagship Coordinator, Climate and Clean Air Coalition

Karma C Nyedrup, Environment Specialist, Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), Bhutan

Hasana Shrestha, Environment Inspector, Department of Environment Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal

Jaya Singh Verma, Policy and Programme lead, Asia Pacific Region at Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Karma Yangzom, Principal Environment Specialist Environment, ADB Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, Manila

Smt B Chandrakala, Secretary Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Go. Uttar Pradesh India

Call to Action, Way Forward & Closing Remarks

Qianggong Zhang, Head of Climate and Environmental Risks, ICIMOD

Q&A

Moderator

Vote of Thanks

Parth Sarathi Mahapatra, Intervention Manager, ICIMOD

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

[Framework for Sustainable Biomass Energy Roadmap Development](#)
[Executive summary on roadmap for biochar carbon removal in Nepal:](#)
[Cross-learning from feasibility assessment in India and Nepal](#)
[Status of Air Quality in Bhutan: A Fact Sheet](#)
[The Thimphu Outcome Towards Clean Air in IGP-HF](#)
[Variability of ambient black carbon concentration in the Central Himalaya and its assessment over the Hindu Kush Himalayan region - ScienceDirect](#)
[Ambient Endotoxin in Pm10 and Association with Inflammatory Activity, Air Pollutants, and Meteorology, in Chitwan, Nepal](#)
[A year-long observational analysis of atmospheric trace gases and particulate matter in Kathmandu](#)

Next-Generation Monitoring and Assessment System for Air Pollution in East Asia

MARCH 12 – 15:30-17:00

MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Air pollution remains one of the most serious environmental and developmental challenges worldwide, causing millions of premature deaths each year and significantly affecting climate change, economic activity, and quality of life. These impacts are particularly pronounced in developing countries, where environmental management systems often lag rapid urbanization and industrialization.

In Northeast Asia, air quality has shown an improving trend through coordinated efforts among governments, the private sector, and civil society. However, across the Asian region, air pollution remains a critical challenge due to the transboundary movement of pollutants, highlighting the growing importance of region-wide approaches.

Many countries continue to face constraints such as insufficient monitoring infrastructure, limited availability of reliable data, and a lack of sustainable financing. In response, international cooperation is being advanced to strengthen air pollution monitoring and assessment capacities in Asia.

By linking public mechanisms such as the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) with private-sector innovation, these efforts aim to facilitate the introduction of cost-effective and high-precision monitoring systems, while also promoting co-benefits between air pollution control and climate change mitigation.

This session will present an overview of ongoing academic initiatives and showcase private-sector technologies that support implementation in developing countries, illustrating pathways toward next-generation air pollution monitoring and assessment systems in Asia.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)

PROGRAM

Session objectives and overview

Dr. Mingqun Huo, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)

Welcome remarks

Tomoyuki Izumi, Environmental Management Division, Water and Air Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ)

Panel Presentation:

Establishment of a Next-Generation Monitoring and Assessment System for Air Pollution in East Asia

Moderator

Dr. Hiroyuki Sase, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)

Establishment of a Next-Generation Monitoring and Assessment System for Air Pollution in East Asia

Dr. Hiroyuki Sase, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)

Satellite Utilization for Air Pollution Monitoring

Dr. Isamu Morino, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)

LCS Monitoring for Understanding Urban Pollution Mechanisms

Dr. Akie Yuba, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)

Panel Discussion

Technical Solutions

Monitoring

ENVEA - APAQ Group
Shimadzu Corporation
HORIBA Ltd
Green Blue Corporation

Climate Change

JFE Engineering Corporation
BEMAC Corporation
TROMSO Co., Ltd.
SYSTEM ENG SERVICE Co., Ltd

Closing reflections and next steps

Siwaporn Rungsiyanon, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Air Quality-Climate-Health Nexus

MARCH 12 – 15:30-17:00

MR-C&D, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Air pollution and climate change are deeply interconnected crises that jointly threaten health, the environment, and sustainable development. Shared emission sources—such as fossil fuel combustion, industrial processes, agriculture, and waste—drive both challenges, creating compounding impacts on human well-being. The global cost of health damages from air pollution reached [US\\$8.1 trillion](#) in 2019, and over [8 million deaths](#) are attributed to air pollution exposure annually. At the same time, climate change is intensifying extreme weather and heat-related health burdens, underscoring the urgent need for integrated responses.

The session, “**Air Quality-Climate-Health Nexus**,” will explore how coordinated, science-based solutions can deliver multiple co-benefits for clean air, climate resilience, and public health. It will bring together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to exchange actionable insights and practical experiences across sectors.

Aligned with BAQ 2026 themes of **Driving Actions and Solutions** and **Forging Partnerships**, the session aims to highlight proven measures, promote cross-sectoral collaboration, and build stronger links between environmental, climate, and health communities—catalyzing collective progress toward cleaner air, a safer climate, and healthier communities across Asia.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Peking University, Clean Air Asia, The Energy Foundation

PROGRAM

Opening and Welcome Remarks

Moderator

Dr. Jicheng Gong, Professor, **Peking University**

Speakers

Prof. Tong Zhu, Professor, **Peking University**

Prof. Ailan Li, WHO Representative to Thailand, **World Health Organization**

Panel Discussion: Bridging Science, Policy, and Action

Interactive discussion among panelists on opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration and pathways for implementing integrated air-climate-health strategies in Asia and beyond.

Moderator

• **Dr. Tao Xue**, Associate Professor, Peking University

Round 1

Moderator

• **Dr. Tao Xue**, Associate Professor, Peking University

Panelists

- **Dr. Desiree Narvaez**, former Environmental Health Specialist, UNICEF
- **Dr. Heather Doyle**, Regional Team Lead, Health, Bureau for Asia and Pacific, UNDP
- **Dr. Pallavi Pant**, Head of Global Initiatives, Health Effects Institute
- **Dr. Wei Wan**, China Director, Clean Air Asia (TBC)

Round 2

• **Dr. Jicheng Gong**, Professor, Peking University

Panelists

- **Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh**, Professor, Asian Institute of Technology
- **Xin Liu**, Program Director, Environmental Management, The Energy Foundation
- **Kaye Patdu**, Environment Specialist, Asian Development Bank
- **Dr. Jun Liu**, Associate Professor, University of Science and Technology Beijing

Summary and Closing Remarks

- **Prof. Shiqiu Zhang**, Professor, Peking University
- **Prof. Tong Zhu**, Professor, Peking University

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

1. Kang, N., et al. (2025). Beyond the halving commitment: China can do more to achieve clean air for global health. *The Innovation*, 6(10).
2. Yao, Y., et al. (2025). Equitable energy transitions for a healthy future: combating air pollution and climate change. *bmj*, 388.
3. Xue, T., et al. (2024). Health-oriented strategies are needed to optimize China's 2025 clean air action plan. *Science Bulletin*, S2095-9273.
4. Xue, T., et al. (2024). Health benefits from the rapid reduction in ambient exposure to air pollutants after China's clean air actions: progress in efficacy and geographic equality. *National Science Review*, 11(2), nwad263.
5. Wang, Y., et al. (2024). Valuing mortality risk reductions in a fast-developing society: A meta-analysis of stated preference studies in China from 1998 to 2019. *Social Science & Medicine*, 363, 117471.
6. Xue, T., et al. (2019). Rapid improvement of PM_{2.5} pollution and associated health benefits in China during 2013–2017. *Science China Earth Sciences*, 62(12), 1847-1856.

Advancing Low Emission Zones: Tools for Maturity Assessment and Emissions Modelling – Examples from SE Asia

MARCH 12 – 15:30-17:00

MR-F, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Urban air pollution remains one of the most significant environmental risks to human health, with road transport playing a major role through emissions of NO₂ and fine particulate matter. The World Bank estimates global health damages from PM_{2.5} pollution reached \$8.1 trillion in 2019, equivalent to 6.1% of GDP. Low Emission Zones (LEZs) offer an effective policy tool to address transport-related air pollution by restricting high-emitting vehicles from designated urban areas.

This session presents two complementary tools developed under ADB RETA 58399 to support LEZ implementation in Southeast Asian cities: (1) a LEZ Maturity Assessment Toolkit that provides a structured framework for assessing preparedness not only in cities but also across different geographic areas affected by the industry or intensive fleet operation; and (2) a GPS-enhanced transport and emissions model that can simulate LEZ scenarios and quantify impacts on pollutants including PM_{2.5}, NO_x, CO, and HC. These tools support the BAQ 2026 themes by providing actionable, data-driven approaches to accelerate clean air investments in Asian cities.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

REGISTRATION

Limited to 30 seats. [Register here](#).

PROGRAM

Part 1: Overview on Advancing Low Emission Zones and other measures to reduce traffic related pollution – examples from SE Asia

In this session, we will focus on the LEZ Maturity Toolkit—a structured framework designed to help cities, industrial zones, ports, and airports understand their preparedness for implementing a Low Emission Zone. While LEZs are increasingly considered across the region, cities begin from very different starting points. The toolkit provides an objective way to assess what requirements are already in place, identify key gaps, and determine the most appropriate next steps. It offers two tailored pathways—one for urban contexts and one for industrial or port environments—ensuring that support, whether technical assistance, modelling, or policy development, is aligned with each city's specific needs.

Rebecca Stapleton, ADB

Part 2: LEZ Maturity Assessment Toolkit

In this session, we will focus on the LEZ Maturity Toolkit—a structured framework designed to help cities, industrial zones, ports, and airports understand their preparedness for implementing a Low Emission Zone. While LEZs are increasingly considered across the region, cities begin from very different starting points. The toolkit provides an objective way to assess what requirements are already in place, identify key gaps, and determine the most appropriate next steps. It offers two tailored pathways—one for urban contexts and one for industrial or port environments—ensuring that support, whether technical assistance, modelling, or policy development, is aligned with each city's specific needs

Honor Puciato, Ricardo

Part 3: Transport and Emissions Model

This section introduces ADB's transport and emissions model—an analytical tool that supports LEZ assessment by estimating how different LEZ designs influence traffic patterns and pollutant emissions. By combining GPS based transport modelling with locally calibrated emission factors, the tool provides a rapid, evidence driven way to evaluate LEZ scenarios and quantify their potential impacts.

Sebastian Mueller, ADB

Part 4: Interactive session - Toolkit application and case examples

This workshop will guide participants through a structured activity to reflect on maturity gaps and priority actions that need to be recognised and act as a process of selection of LEZ as a solution for growing transport emissions.

Facilitators

Rebecca Stapleton, ADB
Sebastian Mueller, ADB
Honor Puciato, Ricardo
Eleri Paterson Hughes, Ricardo
JM Reyes, Ricardo

Part 5: Summary and closing remarks

This session explains how the LEZ Maturity Toolkit aligns with ADB's project pipeline—helping determine whether a city is ready for screening, feasibility, or implementation—and outlines the next steps, timeline, and feedback process.

Rebecca Stapleton, ADB

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Shared Air, Shared Future: Embedding Intergenerational Equity in Clean Air Investments and Decisions

MARCH 12 – 15:30-17:00

MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Intergenerational dialogue, collaboration, and leadership are essential for accelerating progress in clean air initiatives. These elements diversify perspectives and solutions, preserve institutional memory, and empower the clean air movement to align with other environmental justice causes.

This session aims to showcase how children, youth, and different generations, both individually and collectively, contribute to advocacy and commitment to clean air. Additionally, it will serve as a platform for dialogue across all sectors on how intergenerational equity can enhance investment and promote inclusive decision-making in climate action.

The presentations, discussions, and results of the side-interactive activities will support the creation of a conference paper that will act as a baseline reference and a framework for mainstreaming intergenerational equity in clean air investments and initiatives.

This topic is significant as it highlights the crucial importance of intergenerational equity—guided by the “Leave No One Behind” principle—in climate change action and structural initiatives.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Lead: Breathe Mongolia – Clean Air Coalition, Clean Air Asia
Co-lead: De La Salle University, Urban Electric Mobility Initiative, Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines

PROGRAM

Welcome Remarks

Dang Espita-Casanova, Associate Program Director, Clean Air Asia

Intergenerational Equity: Its Relevance and Role in Clean Air Investments

Enkhuun Byambadorj, Executive Director, Breathe Mongolia – Clean Air Coalition

Small Hands, Big Impact: How Children Are Driving -Climate and Clean Air Action

Steven Setiawan, Co-Thematic Focal Point of Climate Action Working Group, Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP

Youth in Charge: The Battery and Navigation Green Kit Assembly (BANGKA)

Winner, GEF-UNIDO E-mobility Idea Competition

- **Marissa Francisco Munar**, *MSc Energy Engineering*, University of the Philippines Diliman
- **Carl Lester Vasquez Fabian**, *MSc Electrical Engineering Student*, University of the Philippines Diliman

Youth in Leadership: Youth Driving Environmental Solutions

Boran Choi, Youth Voices Coordinator for Pollution Free Planet United Nations Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific Office

Running Together: Advancing Clean Air Through Community Building

Kultida Ruechai, Executive Assistant, Urban Design and Development Center (UDDC)

Youth representatives

UrbanBetter and UDDC

Highlights: Intergenerational Interactive Events

Panel Discussion: An Intergenerational Dialogue

All Speakers

Moderator:

Enkhuun Byambadorj, Executive Director, Breathe Mongolia – Clean Air Coalition

Closing Remarks

Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa

Executive Director

Philippine Board of Investments

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

Alberini, A., & Chiabai, A. (2007). Urban environmental health and sensitive populations: How much are the Italians willing to pay to reduce their risks? *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 37(2), 239–258.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.regsciurbeco.2006.08.006>

Climate and Clean Air Coalition. (2023, May 31). CCAC youth engagement strategy.
<https://www.ccacoalition.org/resources/ccac-youth-engagement-strategy>

Patz, J. A., Campbell-Lendrum, D., Gibbs, H., & Woodruff, R. (2008). Health impact assessment of global climate change: Expanding on comparative risk assessment approaches for policy making. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1136(1), 407–412.
<https://doi.org/10.1196/annals.1454.051>

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Air Quality Finance Roundtable: Pathways for Asia-Pacific (by invitation)

MARCH 12 – 15:30-17:00

MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This strategic session aims to present an overview of projects and investments contributing to air quality, synthesize current barriers to financing such activities, discuss solutions to these and catalyse partnerships to address Asia's urgent clean air challenges. By identifying successful financing mechanisms and project needs across Asia and the Pacific, the session will guide financing toward impactful solutions that align with environmental, health, climate, and development goals.

Objectives:

- Showcase successful financing in the region and identify barriers and solutions to increase access and scale up financing for better air quality
- Identify gaps in financing and the enabling environment in Asia to meet clean air, health, climate, and development goals
- Discuss key modes for continued collaboration and alignment for project development and financing

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Clean Air Asia

PROGRAM

Facilitator: *Beth Cosgrove, ADB*

Welcome and opening remarks

Anouj Mehta, Advisor, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships, ADB

Funder insights and open discussion

- Sharing on current and planned projects or investments contributing to improved air quality
- Identify types of financing being utilized
- Understand barriers encountered and proposed solutions
- Are the current financing mechanisms adequate? How can they be best utilized?

Moderated by

Jennifer Romero-Torres, Principal, Sustainable Finance, ADB

Representatives providing insights:

- **Andrew Franciscus**, ADB
- **Shirish Sinha**, Clean Air Fund
- **Patrick Buker**, GIZ
- **Hiroaki Takiguchi**, JICA
- **Shailesh Vikram Singh**, Massive Earth Foundation
- **Rui Luo**, Bloomberg Philanthropies
- **Batari Saraswati**, SYSTEMIQ

Next steps

Facilitated by

Glynda Bathan-Baterina, Deputy Executive Director, Clean Air Asia

Recap of key insights and proposed way forward

Beth Cosgrove, Environment Finance Specialist, ADB

Day 3 | 13 March 2026 | Friday

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

TIME	SESSIONS (ORGANIZERS)	VENUE
09:00-10:30	PLENARY: Forging South-South Partnerships and Accelerating Collective Action on Air Pollution (ESCAP, UNEP)	CR-2, LEVEL 2, UNCC
10:30-11:00	COFFEE BREAK / SCIENCE & SOLUTIONS EXCHANGE (POSTERS & EXHIBITION)	LEVEL 2 FOYER, UNCC
11:00-12:30	How do we communicate air quality to elevate it in the public, political and policy agenda? (AQLI-EPIC, HEI)	MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Air Quality Hybrid Monitoring and Modelling towards Prioritization of AQM Measures (CAA and BAQ partners)	THEATRE, GF, UNCC
	Financing the Philippine Climate-smart Rice Transition (Clean Air Asia, International Rice Research Institute, CCAC)	MR-C&D, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Air Pollution and Health in Indonesia: Reflections, Actions, and Policy Directions (RCCC UI, ViriyaENB)	MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Shared Atmosphere, Shared Responsibility: ASEAN Solutions for Better Air (ADB)	MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	Scaling Low-Emissions Transport: Where We Are and What Is Being Done (ATO, UNEP, SFC, ACFA)	MR-A, LEVEL 1, UNCC
	National action to implement clean air and human rights in Asia-Pacific (UNEP)	MR-F, LEVEL 1, UNCC
12:30-13:30	LUNCH	RECEPTION HALL, GF, UNCC
	Asia Clean Blue Skies Program (ACBSP) Coordination Workshop [by invitation] (ADB)	ASIA PACIFIC FOYER, GF, UNCC
13:30-15:00	CLOSING PLENARY	CR-2, LEVEL 2, UNCC
	END OF CONFERENCE	

Forging South-South Partnerships and Accelerating Collective Action on Air Pollution

MARCH 13 – 09:00-10:30

CR-2, LEVEL 2, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Asia-Pacific region bears an estimated two-thirds of global premature deaths from air pollution, posing one of the most significant environmental and health threats to the region. Persistent and high PM pollution is a major concern, with many major cities in South Asia observing PM_{2.5} concentrations exceeding the WHO interim target 4 for more than 40% of the days in a calendar year in 2023. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is another major urban air pollutant, with most large cities in Asia and the Pacific exhibiting especially high concentrations of tropospheric NO₂. Beyond human health impacts—which include premature mortality and morbidity—air pollution imposes substantial economic costs and contributes to widespread environmental degradation. In Asia, economic losses linked to air pollution are estimated between US\$180 million and US\$ 2.2 billion.

Air pollution does not respect borders. The transboundary dynamics of air pollution, which traverse administrative boundaries, necessitate shared solutions, and a holistic, region-wide approach. The Asia-Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP), adopted by ESCAP member States in 2022, reflects a consensus that collaborative and synergistic policy interventions, open data, and capacity building are key to tackling this crisis effectively. RAPAP provides a framework to promote clean air through five key action areas, including air quality management, monitoring and data sharing, best practices exchange, capacity building and commitment to multilateral cooperation. This push towards region-wide coordination was echoed globally at the Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in February 2024, where member States adopted resolution UNEP/EA.6/Res.10, calling for enhanced regional partnerships to improve air quality worldwide.

In line with UNEA resolution UNEP/EA.6/Res.10, UNEP supports countries in tackling air pollution by strengthening science-based cooperation and regional partnerships. UNEP works with governments and stakeholders to enhance comparable air quality data, coordinated policies, and joint action. Mechanisms such as the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and the Environment, and the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), complement the implementation of RAPAP by promoting harmonized monitoring, open data platforms and data sharing, practical knowledge exchange and policy support to implement solutions to improve air quality and health across the region.

Objectives:

- Foster dialogue on opportunities for partnerships and collective action to tackle air pollution, including pathways to scale successful practices and drive tangible regional progress towards clean air.
- Identify clear roles and establish shared priorities for strengthening regional cooperation to address air pollution, enabling member States, donors, academia, civil society, and the private sector to advance joint solutions.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

ESCAP and UNEP

PROGRAM

Stage Setting and Keynote

Presentation: Air quality in the Asia-Pacific Region and opportunities for regional cooperation

Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

Presentation: Strategic partnerships for clean air in the region

Yujeong Kim, Senior Programme Management Officer, UNEP

Keynote: Forging south-south partnerships and accelerating collective action on air pollution

Shirley Rodrigues, Commissioner, **Our Common Air**

Commission; Chair, Breathe Cities Advisory Committee; and C40 Cities Board Member

Panel discussion: Regional and multistakeholder cooperation for clean air

The panel will explore opportunities for coordinated action and partnerships, particularly in context of the five action areas of RAPAP, namely air quality management, monitoring and data sharing, best practices exchange, capacity building and commitment to multilateral cooperation.

Opening remarks by moderator

Elisea Gozun, Member, Board of Trustees, **Clean Air Asia** (Moderator)

Case presentation (PRC):

Role of interagency & multilevel coordination and public private partnerships in combating air pollution

Long Yang, Deputy Director General, Department of Atmospheric Environment, **Ministry of Ecology and Environment, PRC**

Panel discussion

- **Md Ziaul Haque**, Additional Director General, Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh
- **Sarawut Thepanondh**, Associate Professor and Dean, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University and Thailand's Scientific Advisory Committee Member for the EANET
- **Michael Rattinger**, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Asian Development Bank
- **Nujpanit Narkpitaks**, Technical Advisor, Health and Environment, FHI 360
- **Achim Haug**, CEO, AirGradient

Closing remarks by moderator

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

For more information on RAPAP, please visit:

<https://www.rapap-platform.org/>

For more information on UNEP's work on air quality, please visit:

<https://www.unep.org/topics/air>

BAQ 2026 SESSION

How do we communicate air quality to elevate it in the public, political and policy agenda?

MARCH 13 – 11:00-12:30

MR-E, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND

This session, structured as a townhall, seeks to answer two questions: Why has air pollution struggled to make it to the top of the public and political agenda, and what would it take to change that? In many contexts, data- or health-driven messaging has not translated into widespread engagement and action, leaving a persistent gap between impacts and public and policy agendas. This session seeks to explore how innovative communication strategies — rooted in new ways of engaging diverse audiences — can elevate the salience of air pollution and drive action towards clean air for all.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Air Quality Life Index (AQLI), Energy Policy Institute at UChicago (EPIC) and Health Effects Institute (HEI)

PROGRAM

Welcome remarks and context setting

Dr Pallavi Pant, Head of Global Initiatives, Health Effects Institute (HEI)

Tanushree Ganguly, Director, Air Quality Life Index (AQLI), Energy Policy Institute at UChicago (EPIC)

PART A: Setting the agenda

Communicating to elevate pollution on the global agenda

Nathan Borgford-Parnell, Scientific Affairs Lead, Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

Communicating Health & Impact: Why the message isn't landing?

Dr. Dwi Augstian, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Dept. of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, **Universitas Padjadjaran**

Communicating Solutions: Translating Complex Science into Believable Action

Dr Sarath Guttikunda, Co-Founder, **Urban Emissions Pvt. Ltd**

Audience reflections

PART B: People, political will and collective action

Communicating air pollution's impacts for Political Attention: What Moves Decision-Makers

Dr Alice Kaudia, Team Leader and Founder, Pristine Sustainable Ecosystems, Kenya and Former Environment Secretary, Gov. of Kenya

Communicating with the Public: From Awareness to Engagement

Saad Amer, Founder, Justice Environment & Consultant, United Nations

Communicating Public Demand: Turning Voice into Policy Action

Weenarin Lulitanonda, Co-founder, **Thailand Clean Air Network (TCAN)**

Kandhana Apirapakon, Communications Lead, **TCAN**

Audience reflections

Closing and Way Forward

Dr Pallavi Pant, Head of Global Initiatives, Health Effects Institute (HEI)

Tanushree Ganguly, Director, Air Quality Life Index (AQLI), Energy Policy Institute at UChicago (EPIC)

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

State of Global Air Report, 2025

Air Quality Life Index, Annual Report, 2025

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Air Quality Hybrid Monitoring and Modelling towards Prioritization of AQM Measures

MARCH 13 – 11:00-12:30

THEATRE, GROUND FLOOR, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In addressing air pollution, there is a need to understand which actions can provide the most benefits and where the actions are most needed. Air quality monitoring provides tangible evidence on the status of air quality and outcomes of air quality management strategies. In order to balance costs and to cover more sites for monitoring, hybrid approaches combine reference-grade ground monitoring with satellite and low-cost monitoring. Air quality dispersion and chemical models also help to better understand the movement, formation, and concentration of air pollutants under different scenarios which can inform the prioritization of air quality management measures.

This session aims to understand the latest developments and real-world applications of tools and data related to air quality hybrid monitoring and modelling, with a focus on:

- The latest developments in the use of non-reference sensor and remote sensing technologies to complement reference air monitoring stations;
- Success in the use of hybrid monitoring, source apportionment, and modelling in informing policy and prioritization of AQM actions
- Way forward and recommendations in order for other cities or countries to adopt and scale-up presented case studies

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Clean Air Asia

PROGRAM

Opening remarks and significance of the session

Everlyn Tamayo, Air Quality and Climate Change Science Lead, Clean Air Asia

Global and regional perspectives

Key developments in the use of sensors in advancing air quality management and effective communication to policy makers and stakeholders

Tim Dye, Founder, TD Environmental Services (*online*)

Real-life applications: case studies on the use of hybrid AQ monitoring and modelling

Walkability results with AirGradient

Achim Haug, CEO and Founder, AirGradient

The use of a sensor monitoring network and modelling to quantify air quality, health, economic benefits of AQMP measures in Quezon City, Philippines

Andrea Villaroman, Department Head, Quezon City Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department

Air pollution dispersion analysis in Greater Jakarta and surrounding areas using WRF-Chem

Azka Ghaida, Air Quality and Climate Lead, Clean Air Asia Indonesia Office

Real-time Source Apportionment of particulate matter in China and India

Andre Prevot, Head of the Gas phase and Aerosol Chemistry Group, Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI)

Panel Discussion with Question and Answer (Interactive through Menti and live)

All speakers, **Clean Air Asia**

Summary, key insights, and closing remarks Clean Air Asia

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

- Starting a monitoring network but not sure where to begin? Use our guide! [\[LINK\]](#)
- Global Observing SATellite for Greenhouse gases and Water cycle [\[LINK\]](#)
- Daily high-resolution surface PM_{2.5} estimation over Europe by ML-based downscaling of the CAMS regional forecast [\[LINK\]](#)
- Satellite-based services to support sustainable land use practices under the European Green Deal [\[LINK\]](#)
- AirGradient Map [\[LINK\]](#)
- QC adds more air quality monitoring sensors; boosts air quality management capability [\[LINK\]](#)
- Assessing the Impact of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) Adoption on Air Quality and Public Health in Indonesia [\[LINK\]](#)
- Real-time characterization and source apportionment of fine particulate matter in the Delhi megacity area during late winter [\[LINK\]](#)
- Real-Time Characterization of Aerosol Compositions, Sources, and Aging Processes in Guangzhou During PRIDE-GBA 2018 Campaign [\[LINK\]](#)

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Financing the Philippine Climate-smart Rice Transition

MARCH 13 – 11:00-12:30

MR-C&D, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Rice production in the Philippines is both vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and a significant contributor to it. Addressing these dual challenges requires not only technological innovation but also robust financing mechanisms and private sector engagement.

The Financing the Philippine Climate-Smart Rice Transition will serve as a catalyst for investment-driven dialogue and may showcase how targeted multi-stakeholder collaboration can accelerate investment flows toward low-emission, climate-resilient agriculture, thus advancing both air quality and sustainable development outcomes. This event will bring together government agencies, research institutions, donors, and private sector actors to:

- showcase climate-smart technologies and practices that improve resilience and sustainability in rice production across the Philippines;
- explore innovative financial tools and strategies to close funding gaps and support the widespread adoption of climate-smart agriculture;
- identify opportunities for private sector involvement in scaling sustainable rice production and reducing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs); and
- encourage collaboration among key stakeholders to align policies, resources, and actions.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Clean Air Asia, International Rice Research Institute

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks & Context Setting

Dang Espita-Casanova, Associate Program Director, Clean Air Asia

Rice and SLCP Mitigation in the Philippines

Dr. Alisher Mirzabaev, Senior Scientist, International Rice Research Institute

Panel Discussion

Moderator:

Precious Benjamin, Sustainable Cities Lead, Clean Air Asia

Key Barriers to Scaling SLCP Mitigation in Rice Production

Dr. Eduardo Jimmy Quilang, Deputy Executive Director, Philippine Rice Research Institute, Department of Agriculture

Enabling Farmer Adoption of SLCP Mitigation Practices

Engr. Heathel Loren Laoayen, Farmer & Owner, HeaGer's Hut

Private Sector Solutions: Business Models and Partnerships for Scalable, Sustainable Action

Jay-Rness Ceria, Brand, Marketing, & PR Manager, Straw Innovations

SLCP mitigation and Agricultural Policy

Agnes Catherine Miranda, Director, Climate Resilient Agriculture Office, Department of Agriculture

Creating Synergies Across Finance, Private Sector, and Government to Drive Climate-Smart Rice Production

Smitha Hari, President, auctusESG

Financial Instruments to Advance Climate-Smart Rice Production

Vidvatta Sharma, Regional Associate, Asia, Global Methane Hub

Carbon Market Frameworks to Secure Benefits for both Farmers and Implementers

(tbc)

Q&A

Key insights and Closing Remarks

Listya Kusumawati, Programme Manager, Climate and Clean Air Coalition

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Air Pollution and Health in Indonesia: Reflections, Actions, and Policy Directions

MARCH 13 – 11:00-12:30

MR-H, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES

Rapid economic growth, increasing population density, urbanization, and rising energy and transportation demands are key drivers of air pollution, particularly in developing countries such as Indonesia. These conditions have made air pollution one of the most pressing public health challenges in the country.

According to IQAir (2023), Indonesia ranks as the 14th most polluted country globally. The annual average concentration of PM_{2.5} remains alarmingly high, seven to ten times above the World Health Organization's recommended guidelines. Exposure to harmful pollutants such as PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, CO, SO₂, NO₂, and O₃ has been shown to increase the risk of respiratory illnesses, exacerbate chronic non-communicable diseases, and contribute to premature mortality. The State of Global Air 2024 report identifies air pollution as the second leading risk factor for death worldwide, accounting for approximately 8.1 million global deaths in 2021.

In Indonesia, the health impacts of air pollution are increasingly evident, marked by rising cases of asthma, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and cardiovascular diseases. Findings from the Global Burden of Disease 2019 further highlight that four of the ten most prevalent diseases in the country are respiratory conditions strongly associated with air pollution exposure.

These trends underscore the urgent need to strengthen air pollution control efforts and ensure that government policy directions are grounded in scientific evidence and aimed at protecting public health.

Objectives

- To reflect on the current state of air pollution and its health impacts by presenting trends in air quality and health data.
- To identify key challenges in air pollution control, including technical, institutional, and policy-related barriers.
- To facilitate a multisectoral dialogue aimed at formulating operational actions for "What Should We Do?" in addressing the health impacts of air pollution.
- To develop policy recommendations and operational strategies that support data integration, early warning systems, and health-centered air pollution control measures.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Research Center for Climate Change, University of Indonesia (RCCC UI), ViriyaENB

PROGRAM

Opening & Introductory Remarks

Prof. Dr. Budi Haryanto, SKM, MKes, MSc, FCR
RCCC UI

Panelist Presentations

Moderator: **Dr. Fitri Kurniasari**, RCCC UI

Findings from Air Pollution & Health Impact Research in Jakarta

Prof. Dr. Budi Haryanto, SKM, MKes, MSc, FCR
RCCC UI

Programs for Prevention & Control of Health Impacts

Dr. Then Suyanti, MD
Ministry of Health, Indonesia

Trends in Air Quality & Sources of Pollution (Jakarta, Dec 2025)

Annisa Zahara, First Expert Environmental Impact Controller of Air Quality Protection and Control/Management, **Ministry of Environment, Indonesia**

Report on Air Pollution & Associated Health Impacts

Ririn Radiawati Kusuma, Indonesia Director, **Clean Air Asia**

Exposure to PM_{2.5} & Urinary Malondialdehyde in Public Transport Drivers

Damai Arum Pratiwi, SKM, MKM
Airlangga University

Guided Discussion & Q&A

Moderator: **Dr. Fitri Kurniasari**, RCCC UI

Summary of Key Insights & Policy Recommendations

Moderator: **Dr. Fitri Kurniasari**, RCCC UI

Closing Remarks

Prof. Dr. Budi Haryanto, SKM, MKes, MSc, FCR
RCCC UI

Shared Atmosphere, Shared Responsibility: ASEAN Solutions for Better Air

MARCH 13 – 11:00-12:30

MR-G, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Looking ahead to 2045, ASEAN recognizes clean air as both a shared resource and a collective responsibility. The ASEAN Community Vision 2045 calls for coordinated action to address transboundary pollution, integrate air quality into climate and biodiversity agendas, and establish monitoring and financing systems that deliver co-benefits for health, resilience, and sustainable growth.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committed to supporting ASEAN in realizing this vision. ADB is scaling up engagement across critical areas—including energy security, critical minerals, food security, air quality and urban transport, the digital economy, health, and sustainable finance—ensuring regional priorities are matched with practical solutions and resources.¹⁰

The Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ), Asia's leading forum on air quality, supported by ADB, addresses pollution from transport, energy, agriculture, waste, construction, and industry. With its emphasis on actionable solutions—particularly national and city-level policies—BAQ has a proven track record of shaping policy, catalyzing initiatives, and fostering partnerships.

An ASEAN-focused session, ***Shared Atmosphere, Shared Responsibility: ASEAN Solutions for Better Air***, will be convened at BAQ 2026 (11–13 March, Bangkok). This 90-minute panel will amplify ASEAN's leadership on air quality—a transboundary challenge no country can address alone—and showcase its priorities at Asia's premier forum. This initiative underscores the strong alignment between ASEAN's Vision 2045 and ADB's regional agenda, particularly in advancing climate resilience, sustainable urban transport, and public health. By leading this session, ADB signals its long-term commitment to ASEAN while mobilizing resources and expertise to turn vision into practice.

The panel will spotlight how regional cooperation—through joint policies, innovative financing, and community participation—can drive cleaner air, healthier people, and more resilient ecosystems. Green and digital technologies will be highlighted as key enablers, improving monitoring, transparency, and financing while reducing costs and widening equitable access. Building on ASEAN's long-term vision, the discussion will outline practical pathways to scale solutions linking air quality management with climate action, biodiversity protection, and public health outcomes.

Session Objectives: (i) Highlight ASEAN's collective strategies for air quality management and cross-border cooperation. (ii) Demonstrate practical approaches leveraging financing, community participation, and digital innovation. (iii) Map

policy and partnership pathways that generate shared benefits for public health, sustainability, and resilience.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Asian Development Bank

PROGRAM

Introductory Remarks by Moderator

Karma Yangzom, Principal Environment Specialist, Asia Clean Blue Skies Program, **ADB**

Presentation to set the context

Zbigniew Klimont, Research Group Leader of the Pollution Management Group within the Energy, Climate, and Environment Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Remarks from the Chair of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC)

TBC

Panel Discussion

Panelists

- Representative from the Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines
- **Anuar Bin Ishak**, Principal Assistant Director of Air Division, Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Malaysia
- Representative from the Department of Climate Change and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
- **Kiyoung Lee**, Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Graduate School of Public Health, Seoul National University; Director of the Center for Global Environmental Health; and Project Manager of the Clean Air for Sustainable ASEAN (CASA) Initiative (online)
- **Frank Hammes**, Global CEO, IQAir
- **Attilio Poli**, Regional Director, ENVEA Group

Open the discussion to the audience

Moderator (ADB)

What opportunities does ASEAN have under ADB's Asia Clean Blue Skies Program?

Moderator (ADB)

¹⁰ In 2022, ADB launched the Asia Clean Blue Skies Program (ACBSP) to elevate its role in improving air quality across the Asia-Pacific region. The program scales up investments in clean air, strengthens knowledge sharing, and leverages partnerships to drive coordinated action. A cornerstone of ACBSP is its support for knowledge and capacity-building activities, with the Better Air Quality Conference serving as a milestone platform for advancing solutions and partnerships. Now in its second phase, ACBSP is intensifying efforts to expand investments and accelerate clean air initiatives. The program's impact has been recognized globally: the Clean Air Fund identified ADB as the second-largest investor in air quality improvements, a distinction partly driven by ACBSP's activities. This recognition underscores ADB's growing leadership in mobilizing resources, fostering innovation, and building regional cooperation for cleaner, healthier, and more resilient communities.

BAQ 2026 SESSION

Scaling Low-Emissions Transport: Where We Are and What Is Being Done

MARCH 13 – 11:00-12:30

MR-A, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This session examines the current state of transport systems across Asia and the Pacific, and what global, regional, national initiatives are learning about accelerating low-emissions transport transitions. Speakers will address electrification, clean fuels and freight fleet transition, drawing on data, policy experience, and applied research to identify where progress is being made—and where persistent barriers remain.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

ATO, UNEP, SFC, ACFA

PROGRAM

Opening and, session overview

June Yeonju Jeong, UNEP

State of Play – Transport and Air Pollution in Asia-Pacific
Alvin Mejia, Asian Transport Observatory (ATO)

UNEP Global Used Vehicle Trades

Ariadne Baskin, UNEP

Findings from ACFA-supported study on oxygenated gasolines

Prof. Ir. Puji Lestari, Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Indonesia

China's practices and experiences in clean transportation

Zhuoshi He, VECC, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences

Moderated panel discussion incorporating audience questions

Interactive discussion with speakers and audience

Closing summary and thanks

National action to implement clean air and human rights in Asia-Pacific

MARCH 13 – 11:00-12:30

MR-F, LEVEL 1, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In October 2025, the ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment (R2HE) was adopted at the 47th ASEAN Summit. The Declaration is the first regional soft law instrument to provide for the substantive and procedural elements of the right to a healthy environment, aligning with the UN General Assembly resolution 76/300 on environmental rights.

Through the Declaration, ASEAN Member States have acknowledged the growing need to address the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution. They further declared their commitment to promoting and fostering scientific and technical programmes on environmental issues including pollution, and called for enhanced collaboration to share and exchange information and knowledge on the impacts of pollution on people and the planet, as well as on measures to address such impacts.

Effective air quality management requires robust air quality legislation based on adequate scientific information which puts human health at the centrepiece and principles of good governance. This session focuses on the role of national air quality actors in implementing the ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment. Panelists will examine the link between the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and clean air, and how national legislation can support the realization of the R2HE.

SESSION ORGANIZER

UN Environment Programme

PROGRAM

Introductory Remarks

Georgina Lloyd on behalf of Marlene Nilsson

Deputy Regional Director

UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment on protecting clean air

Astrid Puentes Riaño

Special Rapporteur on the human right to a healthy environment

Introduction of panelists

Christian Ranheim

Responsible Solutions AS

Establishing legislative foundations for effective air quality governance

Renée Gift, Legal Officer, UNEP Law Division (online)

State obligations on air pollution to support fulfilment of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Windi Arini

Regional Director a.i., Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Effective national measures to address transboundary air pollution

Jansen Oloan Silalahi

Environmental Impact Controller of Air Quality Protection and Control/Management, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia

The transboundary obligations on air pollution to support fulfilment of human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Roberto Cadiz

Former Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

Shared Air, Shared Responsibility: Multi-Level Governance Solutions for ASEAN's Air Quality Challenges

Patrick Bueker

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)

Discussion

Christian Ranheim

Responsible Solutions AS

Closing remarks

Georgina Lloyd

Regional Sub-programme Coordinator for Environmental Governance, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

LIST OF OTHER LEARNING/REFERENCE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SESSION

UNEP 2023, [Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation](#)

UNEP 2021, [Regulating Air Quality: the First Global Assessment of Air Pollution Legislation](#)

BAQ 2026 PLENARY
CLOSING PLENARY
 MARCH 13 – 13:30-15:00
 CR-2, LEVEL 2, UNCC

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Closing Plenary brings together leaders from national and local governments, intergovernmental organizations, academia, funding institutions, and civil society to articulate how they are advancing ambitious, actionable solutions to reduce air pollution. As countries and cities intensify efforts to meet health, climate, and development goals, this plenary serves as a platform for concrete commitments and cross-sector collaboration.

PROGRAM

Welcome and introduction

Glynda Bathan-Baterina

Deputy Executive Director, **Clean Air Asia**

[PANEL] Accelerating Solutions Through Concrete Actions

This two-part panel brings together key representatives from national and city governments, intergovernmental bodies, academe, funders, and civil society organizations to outline concrete policies, actions, and partnerships that they will undertake to leapfrog air pollution reduction efforts.

Organizations will emphasize how they will collaborate across sectors and partners to catalyze ambitious actions that drive cleaner air, healthier communities, and more resilient development.

Panel 1: Government representatives and intergovernmental bodies

Moderator

Dr. Shiqui Zhang, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, **Clean Air Asia** and Professor of Environmental Economics at **Peking University**

Panelists

- **Sidhartha Sankar Kundu**, Deputy Secretary, **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh**
- **Hon. Akmal Muradovich Jumaboev**, First Deputy Governor for Financial and Economic Affairs and Poverty Reduction, Sergeli District, **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

- **Hon. Seytova Leyli**, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change of the **Republic of Karakalpakstan**
- **Atty. Janice Regoso-Pammit**, OIC - Regional Director, Environment Management Management Bureau - NCR, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, **Philippines**
- **Dr. Patience Gwaze**, Chief Directorate, Air Quality Management Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, **South Africa**
- **Luiz Mandalho**, Chief of Division, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, **Brazil**
- **Ashish Tiwari**, Air Lead, **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**

Panel 2: Stakeholders supporting governments in catalyzing actions

Moderator

Priya Shankar, Air Quality Lead, Environment Program, **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

Panelists

- **Yoko Watanabe**, Director, **ADB**
- **John Warburton**, Lead, Asia Pacific, Climate Resilience Department (CRD), Energy and Climate Directorate, **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)**
- **Shirish Sinha**, Executive Director of Programmes, **Clean Air Fund**
- **Amanda Curry-Brown**, Clean Air Flagship Coordinator, **Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)**
- **Daniel Mira-Salama**, Lead Environmental Specialist, **World Bank**
- **Tong Zhu**, Professor, College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, **Peking University**

Chair's Summary

Bindu Lohani

Chairman, Board of Trustees, **Clean Air Asia**

Closing Remarks

Bjarne Pedersen

Executive Director, **Clean Air Asia**