

2nd International Conference - Combating Air Pollution in the Commonwealth

Image from the event page

EVENT DETAILS

2nd Ramphal Institute International Conference: Policies and Strategies for Combating Air Pollution in Commonwealth Countries

30-31 March 2021 | Virtual Conference via Zoom, simulcast on Youtube, Twitter & Facebook

Session 1: Commonwealth Leadership for Reducing Air Pollution and its Related Impacts
30 March 2021

Moderator

- **David Gomez**, Director, The Ramphal Institute

Presenters

- **Ruth Calderwood**, Air Quality Manager City of London Corporation
- **Radha Goyal**, Secretary, Society for Indoor Environment (SIE) and Deputy Director, Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA)
- **Mani Muthukumara**, Lead Economist at the World Bank and Author of "South Asia's Hotspots"
- **Muhammad Irfan Tariq**, Director-General (Environment & Climate Change), Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan

PAKISTAN CLEAN AIR PROGRAM (PCAP) TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

The Ramphal Institute, in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the National Institute of Urban Affairs, Delhi, and with funding from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Delhi, organized a High Level Forum on Combating Air Pollution in Commonwealth Countries.

The forum, which featured 10 sessions, discussed the deleterious health effects of air pollution, particularly in urban areas; and the policy and governance to address these issues in the Commonwealth countries.

It aimed to build consensus among Commonwealth countries for adopting policies to combat the causes of air pollution, and actively support the international movement towards establishing the right to clean air and healthy environment.

Muhammad Irfan Tariq, Director General for Environment & Climate Change of the Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change emphasized the alarming air quality situation in the country and presented the government's initiatives towards addressing the issue which includes the updating and development of the Pakistan Clean Air Program (PCAP), along with promotion of clean transport and green urban development.

The development of PCAP, which is supported through ADB TA 9608 **Strengthening Knowledge and Actions for Air Quality Improvement**, aims to improve air quality in the country through systematic monitoring and implementation of various policy, technological, and management-based measures.

In Pakistan, aside from PCAP, TA 9608 also supports the development of city-level clean air action plans in Peshawar and Sialkot, and the preparation of the air quality aspects of an NDC Policy Brief for submission by the Pakistan government to UNFCCC. UCCRTF co-finances TA 9608 which is implemented in 7 cities in 5 countries Bangladesh, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Viet Nam.

2 OUT OF 10 MOST POLLUTED CITIES IN THE WORLD ARE IN PAKISTAN

2.7 YEARS
OF REDUCED LIFE EXPECTANCY

Pakistan is experiencing a life expectancy reduction of 2.7 years as a result of PM2.5 levels above the WHO levels.

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

- While air pollution problems are mostly caused by local or regional sources of emissions, **air pollution is transboundary**. Addressing this spatial complexity of sources and impacts of air pollution requires integrated, multi-sectoral and multi-jurisdictional airshed approach.
- **Cities and countries need to formulate, and advance own solutions** to mitigate and combat air pollution based on their local context and

anchored on scientific data. Evidence-based city-level action plans could inform national-level action plans.

- **Governments should enhance transboundary and international collaboration** and movement to improve air quality. Integrated and multi-sectoral actions including shifting to clean industries and transport, and green urban development should be promoted.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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