

Clean Air for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous Society



EVENT DETAILS

Clean Air – For a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous Society

[Part of Clean Air for Livable Cities | Knowledge Series from September – October 2020]

- 07 September 2019 | 10-11:30AM | Zoom

MODERATOR | Bruce Dunn, Director, SDSS, ADB

OPENING REMARKS | Bambang Susantono, Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB

PANELISTS

- **Marco Martuzzi**, Head, WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- **Nandakumar Janardhanan**, Research Manager of Climate and Energy Division and Regional Coordinator for South Asia research operations at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
- **Gantuya Ganbat**, Senior Officer for National Committee to reduce environmental pollution, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia
- **Bert Fabian**, UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

CLEAN AIR FOR HEALTH, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

In celebration of the first International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, the ADB launches a six-part knowledge series on Clean Air for Livable Cities to note the importance of clean air for health, the economy and the environment. The series kicked off with a webinar launched by ADB's Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Mr. Bambang Susantono.

This first webinar discussed the background of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, the health and economic costs of poor air quality in the Asia and the Pacific region; challenges and solutions to improve air quality in cities and communities in the region and potential investments to address air pollution.

The United Nations has designated September 7 as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies to emphasize the grave multi-dimensional impacts of air pollution; and to stimulate discussions and actions on the ground to improve air quality. This is particularly relevant for Asia and the Pacific cities which experience the worst air pollution in the world.

UCCRTF supports the clean air advocacy through co-financing TA 9608 REG: Strengthening Knowledge and Actions for Air Quality Improvement which is expected to deliver (i) an assessment of air quality situation and management practice; (ii) an evaluation of innovative cost-effective technological and policy options; and (iii) the development of City Level Clean Air Action Plans (CAAPs) along with investment estimates for air pollution control in 7 cities in 5 ADB DMCs.

Air pollution is the 5th highest ranking risk factor for death globally.

- Health Effects Institute, 2019

Of the 100 most polluted cities in the world in 2018, 99 were in Asia.

- AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

- **Air pollution is the most pressing environmental health issue today, causing 7 million deaths globally each year.** Key challenges in addressing the air pollution problem may be attributed to the difficulty in understanding the numerous emission sources and the complex interplay among various air pollutants; the challenge of communicating technical data to decision-makers; and improving the understanding of the public on the long-term effects of air pollution.
- **Evidence-based and multi-stakeholder approach in planning and project implementation is critical in air quality management and addressing air pollution.** Formulating effective measures to address air pollution requires identification of the sources of pollution – which should be based on emissions inventory in respective regions or areas. Multi-stakeholder engagement is needed to address this complexity as well as spatial challenges from differing locations and boundary issues of sources and impacts of pollution.
- **Multi-lateral banks like ADB could support governments and other stakeholders on effective air quality management through financing investments for cleaner air including renewable energy and low-carbon options; capacity-building on mainstreaming evidence-based decision-making; technology transfer; information-sharing; and enabling environment for integrated and multi-stakeholder collaboration.**

FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Event page and presentations](#)
- **Karma Yangzom**, Principal Environment Specialist | Email: kyangzom@adb.org

UCCRTF FINANCING PARTNERS

