



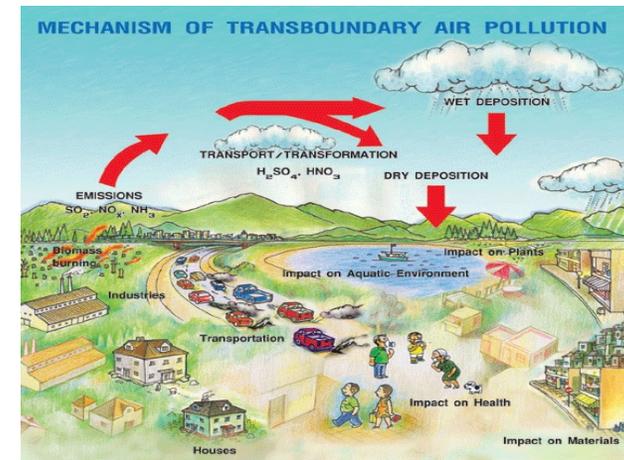
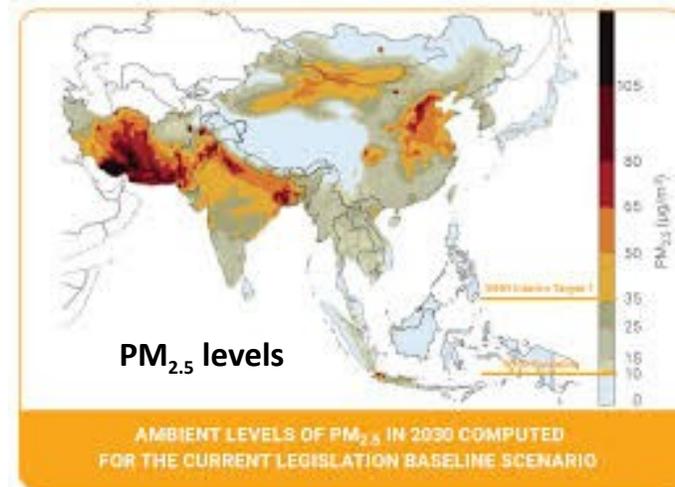
Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration)

An intergovernmental regional cooperation network to address air pollution in South Asia

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Transboundary air pollution problems in South Asia



- Air pollution problem is serious in South Asia with transboundary effects.
- South Asia is a global hotspot of air pollution, home to 37 of the 40 most polluted cities in the world. About 60% population lives in heavily polluted areas where levels of PM exceed the WHO air quality guideline. This air pollution is responsible for chronic respiratory disease and more than 2 million premature deaths a year in the region (*World Bank, 2023*).
- Needs regional cooperation to address transboundary air pollution effects.
- **The Malé Declaration is actively playing a pivotal role in regional cooperation in South Asia for addressing air problems in the region.**



Background of the Malé Declaration

- A round-table policy dialogue was held by UNEP and SEI in March 1998 in AIT, Bangkok. Representatives of the Ministry of Environment from South Asian countries participated in the meeting.
- The meeting recognized increasing regional air pollution problems in South Asia and needs to address it through regional cooperation. The meeting discussed the draft of regional cooperation.
- 7th Governing Council of the SACEP, held in Male' in April 1998, adopted the declaration and named it as the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration).
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the member countries.
- Main objective of the Malé Declaration is to aid the process of providing a clean environment through clean air
- Intergovernmental Meeting (IG), constituted from representatives of countries, is the decision-making body on work programme and budget
- Activities of the Malé Declaration has been implemented in Phases. Till date VI phase completed.
- Sida provided funding to the Malé Declaration from 1999 to 2013.



Key activities and achievements of the Malé Declaration

- Activities of the Malé Declaration have been implemented in phases. Till now, 6 phases have been completed. Strategy and work programme for Phase-VII Malé Declaration has been approved at the IG16 in January 2022.
- Since its establishment in 1998, the following events has been organized for the Malé Declaration:
 - ✓ 16 sessions of IG,
 - ✓ 19 regional and national stakeholder forums,
 - ✓ 15 regional and national capacity building training workshops
 - ✓ 8 task force or working group meetings were organized.
- Overall achievements:
 - ✓ Strengthened regional cooperation on transboundary of air pollution in South Asia
 - ✓ Strengthened air pollution monitoring
 - ✓ Built capacity of member countries air pollution monitoring, emission inventory and air quality modeling
 - ✓ Enhanced analytical and impact assessment capability at national level through integrating findings from local pollution studies and assessment studies
 - ✓ Enhanced policy formulation and air pollution prevention.
 - ✓ Awareness raised on transboundary air pollution in South Asian region.
- Member countries have recognized contribution of the Malé Declaration in their capacity



Malé Declaration activities implemented in recent years

1. A webinar on air quality management challenges in Malé Declaration Countries During the COVID-19 17 December 2020
2. Working Group Meeting on Drafting the Strategy and Work Programme for Phase-VII (2021-2025) of the Malé Declaration, 8 April 2021, Online.
3. Development of Strategy and Work Programme for Phase-VII (2022-2026) of the Malé Declaration. This has been already approved at IG16 in January 2022.
4. Capacity Development Programme on Air Quality Management and Emission Reduction of PM2.5 for the Asian Countries, 13-17 September 2021, Online (*supported by APN*)
5. 16th Session of the IG of Malé Declaration, 12 January 2022, Online.
6. Working Group Meeting on drafting the Vision Paper and Agreement for Strengthening the Malé Declaration, 23 June 2022, Online
7. Development of the Think Piece (Vision Paper) for revival of the Malé Declaration on Air Pollution and its link to Climate Change in South Asia
8. Development of draft of Agreement for Strengthening the Malé Declaration
9. Capacity Development Programme on Air Quality Management and Emission Reduction of PM2.5 for Member Countries of ASEAN Haze Agreement and Malé Declaration, 19-23 September 2022, AIT (physical) (*supported by APN*)
10. Consultation with Individual Member Countries for reviving the Malé Declaration
11. Presented Malé Declaration at the UNEP-CCAC Clean Air Week, 29 May - 1 June 2023 at UNCC, Bangkok,
12. Consultations with UN organizations, international organizations, and potential donors for partnership



Way forward, opportunities and challenges of the Malé Declaration

Way forward: Need revival of the Malé Declaration environmental challenges increases over the decades:

- ✓ Developed vision paper proposing improved mechanism
- ✓ Strategy and Work Programme for the next phase (already approved at IG16 in January 2022)
- ✓ Development of draft of Agreement for Strengthening the Malé Declaration. Member countries need to consider and sign.
- ✓ Consultation with a few member countries for reviving the Malé Declaration already done
- ✓ On going consultations with UN organizations, international organizations, and potential donors for partnership building and resources mobilizations for the Malé Declaration.

Opportunities: There is an increased focus on regional approaches to mitigate air pollution at the moment

- ✓ Member countries already agreed to provide financial support to Malé Declaration.
- ✓ Collaboration with UN ESCAP as they initiated Asia-Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution, which refers to the Malé Declaration as being an important and existing intergovernmental regional network in South Asia.
- ✓ UNEA's global resolution promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality.
- ✓ Collaboration with CCAC in 'Air Pollution Flagship' initiative.
- ✓ Collaboration with UNEP and other relevant organizations

Challenges: There are many challenges

- ✓ Lack of adequate financial resources.



**Thank you for your
kind attention**

For more information, kindly contact

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