ASIA-PACIFIC COMMEMORATION OF THE 4th INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES

Operationalizing the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution: Inception Meetings of the Open-Ended Working Groups on Air Quality Standards and Data

6 September 2023 (13:00-17:00)
United Nations Conference Centre and via Video Conferencing

The theme for the fourth International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, "Together for Clean Air", highlights the urgent need for stronger partnerships, increased investment, and share responsibility for overcoming air pollution. Air pollution, indoors and outdoors, directly impacts human and ecosystem health. We all share and breathe the same air; thus, we all have a responsibility to protect our atmosphere and ensure healthy air for everyone.

ESCAP implements a project on operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP), including through the establishment of Working Groups on Data and Air Quality Standards, respectively. The project seeks to build a foundation of knowledge and expertise to support the acceleration of policies and practices to address air pollution and achieve air quality across the region that meets World Health Organization guidelines. The project will leverage and strengthen connections among existing subregional initiatives to enhance exchange of knowledge and best practices and identify key capacity gaps for further technical assistance. In this context, the Working Groups will support review of standards across the region and existing and emerging data sources that can be more widely shared to support more robust policymaking.

This meeting, as the first session of the working groups, will focus on developing terms of reference and work programme for the next two years. The outputs of the working groups will be submitted to the ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development in 2024 for the consideration by the member states.

Provisional Programme

Time	Agenda
12:00-13:00	Reception
13:00-13:20	Opening • Mr. Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division Secretary of ESCAP Background and Scene Setting presentation • Matthew Perkins, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP • Bert Fabian, Coordinator, Secretariat for the EANET • Eloise Scotford, Professor of Environmental Law, University College London, (Co-author of UNEP's Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation (2023))
13:20-14:00	Discussion of Terms of Reference for Working Group on Air Quality Standards
14:00 -15: 00	Discussion of Work Programme and Schedule of Delivery
15:00-15:20	Coffee Break
15:20-16:00	Discussion of Terms of Reference for Working Group on Data
16:00-16:50	Discussion of Work Programme and Schedule of Delivery
16:50-17:00	Summary of Meeting by UNESCAP • Review of consensus elements for Terms of Reference Drafts and Work Programmes • Next Steps