Ninth Session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED9)

Side Event

Advancing Clean Air in Asia and the Pacific: Lessons from North-East Asia for Regional Action

Thursday, 2 July 2026, 13:30-16:00 (UTC+7)

Meeting Room A, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok Thailand

Organizer(s)

Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES), National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) of the Republic of Korea, North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP), and ESCAP

Overview

Air pollution remains a critical environmental challenge in the Asia-Pacific region, with far-reaching impacts on public health, ecosystems, and sustainable development. Beyond the immediate environmental impact, air quality is intrinsically linked to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically impacting good health and well-being (SDG 3), , supporting transitions to more energy efficient systems (SDG 7), promoting healthier urban environment (SDG 11), and strengthening low carbon development and environmental resilience (SDG 13).

In recent years, countries in North-East Asia have demonstrated notable progress in improving air quality through strengthened policy frameworks, advanced technological solutions, enhanced monitoring systems, and broader multistakeholder cooperation efforts. In particular, China and the Republic of Korea, have implemented comprehensive measures to reduce air pollutant emissions, strenghhen air quality governance, and promote cleaner energy transitions. These national expreriences provide valuable approaches that simultaneously address air pollutionand climate change challenges, at the same time, contribute to achieving the SDGs.

In addition, national efforts are further amplified by partnership platforms promoting clean air for all. At the regional level, efforts to strengthen cooperation on clean air have been advanced through the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP), adopted by ESCAP member States in 2022, to promote coordinated actions on air quality mangement, monitoring and data sharing, capacity-building, and policy cooperation across Asia and the Pacific. At the subregional level, the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) facilitates science-based policy dialogues,

capacity-building, and knowledge exchange, ensuring that national air quality management aligns with broader sustainability objectves while also contributing to the implemenation of RAPAP and exploring synergies between clean air policies, climate mitigation efforts, and broader sustainable development objectives.

This side event, co-organized by CRAES, NIER, NEACAP and ESCAP, is designed to showcase national achievements and bilateral cooperation experiences between China and the Republic of Korea as well as collaborations advanced through various partnership platforms in the Asia-Pacific region on clean air. The event will also promote exchange of experiences and lessons learned on air quality management across different subregions in Asia and and identify approaches for implementing synergies on air quality management towards strengthening partnerships, enhancing regional cooperation and advancing SDG implementation across the Asia-Pacific region.

Objectives/Expected Outcomes

The side event aims to:

- promote knowledge sharing on policies, strategies, and technologies on air quality management and its synergies with SDG implementation drawing from the achivements and experiences of China and the Republic of Korea;
- highlight the role of subregional and regional partnership platforms in advancing cooperation on air quality management fostering inter-regional exchanges; and
- enhance awareness, strengthen networks among stakeholders, and identify opportunities for scaling up cooperation approaches that support coordinated and synergistic effort on clean air, climate change, and SDG implementation across the Asia-Pacific region.

Programme

13:00	***Light refreshments will be served for side event participants***
13:30-13:50	**Opening** · Ms. Lin Yang, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, ESCAP *[3 mins]* · Mr. Hu Jingnan, Director, Atmospheric Environment Institute, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences *[3 mins]* · Mr. Daeil Kang, Director, Atmospheric Environmental Research Department, Air Quality Research Division, NIER *[3 mins]* · Special Remarks: Honorable Gita Chaudhary, Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Environment, Nepal *[8 mins]*
13:50-14:50	**Clean air for all: Harnessing country experiences in building synergies** · **Lessons from North-East Asia** *[30 mins]*

	This segment will showcase country and subregional experiences on promoting clean air ○ Mr. Hu Jingnan, Director, Atmospheric Environment Institute, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences ○ Dr. Lim-Seok Chang, Deputy Director, China-Korea Cooperation Center [ROK-side] ○ Ms. Gantuya Ganbat, Country Member, NEACAP Science and Policy Committee · **Building cross-country synergies** *[30 mins]* Through a moderated discussion format, this segment will showcase cross-country collaborations with China and ROK on air quality management. ○ China-Korea Environmental Cooperation Center: Ms. WU Jieyun, Executive Director [China-side] Dr. Lim-Seok Chang, Deputy Director [ROK-side] ○ Prof. Surat Bualert, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Kasetsart University
14:50-15:50	**Clean air for all: Fostering synergies through partnerships** · **Regional action – Scene Setting** ○ Regional developments: Mr. Lorenzo Santucci, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Division, EDD, ESCAP *[10mins]* ○ Subregional perspective: Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development *[10mins]* · **Partnerships for synergies** *[40 mins]* Through a moderated discussion format, this segment will present experiences from other Asia-Pacific subregions and identify opportunities for cooperation. ○ Ms. Yujeong Kim, Senior Programme Management Officer, UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office ○ Dr. FU Lu, Regional Director for South-East Asia, Clean Air Fund ○ Mr. Ekachai Lojanaphiwat, Project Manager, Southeast Asia Climate and Clean Air Initiative, GIZ
15:50-16:00	**Interactive Discussion** · Open floor discussion with all participants **Closing**