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NEACAP/SPC-2/4

03 June 2020

2nd Meeting of NEACAP Science and Policy Committee

2-3 June 2020

Recommendation of the Second Meeting of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership Science and Policy Committee and Technical Centers

1. The second meeting of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) Science and Policy Committee and Technical Centers was held on 2-3 June 2020 by virtual meeting. The meeting discussed the priority areas of NEACAP and overall goals and activities thereof. The Draft NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025 (hereinafter referred to as “the Work Plan”) was discussed and will be submitted to the 24th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-24) of NEASPEC for the formal endorsement.
2. The draft Work Plan was developed as a basis to initiate the work of NEACAP and will be subject to further revision from time to time if necessary. In particular, the Science and Policy Committee (SPC) of NEACAP plans to have a mid-term review in 2022 on the implementation of the Work Plan to make necessary adjustments, as agreed upon by the member States.
3. The SPC recommends the SOM-24 to consider the following Work Plan for adoption, discuss the timely start and implementation of the Work Plan, and mobilize contributions of the member States, such as through the involvement in NEACAP activities by their respective Technical Centers (TC). That is, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, National Institute of Environmental Research of the Republic of Korea, and Scientific Research Institute for Atmospheric Air Protection of the Russian Federation, as of June 2020. The SPC also requests the Secretariat to consult with the Technical Centers to identify their specific roles and organize a joint meeting of Technical Centers to further define their respective roles thereof.
4. Having considered the interests and capacity of member States as well as the institutional capacity of NEACAP, the SPC requests the Secretariat to promote plans and activities with a phased approach. Thus, the priority activities of 2021-2025 will focus on immediate benefits and collaboration opportunities for member States.

(draft) NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025

I. Introduction

1. The NEACAP Terms of Reference (TOR) adopted at the 22nd Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC in 2018 defines the partnership objectives as follows to ensure protection of the environment and human health from air pollution in North-East Asia¹.
 - To promote environmental cooperation, including its science, policy, and technical aspects, on atmospheric air protection in the transboundary context in the subregion;
 - To enhance and further develop information and experience exchange in national and transboundary air pollution matters;
 - To act as the key voluntary framework in addressing transboundary air pollution issues in North-East Asia, covering China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation;
 - To contribute, as appropriate, to the development of relevant national and subregional policies addressing air pollution based on regional and national scientific research;
 - To promote knowledge on environmental and human health aspects of air pollution in the North-East Asian subregion.
2. According to the NEACAP TOR (hereinafter as "the TOR"), the core programmes of NEACAP include:
 - i. Exchange relevant information and data, if available covering:
 - (a) Emission data of the target pollutants of NEACAP², at periods of time and formats to be agreed upon,
 - (b) Information on the transport and deposition of target pollutants,
 - (c) Information on emissions control technologies and national policies in use and/or under-development, and
 - (d) Information on experience and challenges of researches on modeling and emission inventory;
 - ii. Coordinate with relevant mechanisms and synthesize their results in accordance with the NEACAP activities including:
 - (a) Subregional emissions inventory development and maintenance,
 - (b) Air pollution monitoring through existing programmes and frameworks, including national networks and multilateral initiatives,
 - (c) National and regional pollution transport and deposition modeling and model comparison, including source-receptor relationships (SRR) modeling, and

¹ Terms of Reference of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP)
http://www.neaspec.org/sites/default/files/NEACAP%20TOR_adopted%20in%20the%20SOM-22.pdf

² Target pollutants of NEACAP include, but not limited to, pollutants of national and subregional concern, namely Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), Ozone, and other relevant pollutants, including Sulfur Oxides (SO_x), Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Black Carbon, Ammonia (NH₃) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

- (d) Integrated assessment modeling;
- iii. Propose potential technical and policy measures to tackle air pollution through:
- (a) Science-based, policy-oriented consultations among national scientists, experts, policy- and decision-makers of the member States,
 - (b) Development of technical and policy scenarios for future consideration,
 - (c) Exchange of information on emerging technologies and potential for technological cooperation on mitigation pollution, and
 - (d) Sharing of information and lessons learnt on relevant good environmental practices applied nationally.
3. The TOR defines that the core programmes of NEACAP are supported through (a) regular meetings and ad hoc meetings; (b) annual or biennial subregional review reports; (c) seminars, workshops and trainings; and (d) research projects, subject to the availability of resources.
4. In order to elaborate and operationalize the core programmes provided by the TOR, a series of consultations and discussions was conducted including the 1st meeting of SPC and TC in July 2019, the 23rd Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-23) of NEASPEC in October 2019, and the 2nd meeting of SPC and TC in June 2020. In addition, a survey on NEACAP priority areas was conducted by the Secretariat in April 2020 to inform the 2nd meeting of SPC and TC.
5. Members of the SPC and representatives of TCs had intensive discussions at the 2nd meeting of SPC and TC, following the decision of the SOM-23 to identify the priority areas under the core programmes as well as activities to be formulated thereof, based on their scientific knowledge and experiences working with respective governments. Based on the discussion, the NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025 herein was developed and agreed by the participants to guide NEACAP to formulate detailed activity plan with budget.

II. Approach to the implementation of the core programmes

6. According to the report of SOM-23, the 2nd Meeting of NEACAP SPC and TC in June 2020 considered the activities contained in the core programmes and suggested that their prioritization should consider the necessity and feasibility of the activities, collaboration with existing relevant regional/subregional framework, and the activities to reduce duplication. The meeting also suggested that the potential priority areas could be divided into Categories I and II. Category I refers to activities that can be started without specific intensive preparatory work and provide immediate benefits for member States. “Policy and technology cooperation” was identified and agreed as the priority area in this Category.
7. Category II refers to activities which are duly important for building scientific approaches for policy making but requiring scientific and collaborative preparation as well as development of capacity of experts to initiate the activities. Methodological research on (i) Emission Inventory, and (ii) Policy Scenario and Integrated Assessment Modelling in individual member States was considered to be the potential priority area in this Category, which need further discussions.

8. After discussion, the 2nd Meeting of SPC and TC concluded that “Policy and technology cooperation” was identified as the priority area for the NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025. Thus, the NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025 is suggested to focus on defining the goals and approaches together with an indicative list of activities on “Policy and technology cooperation” (see Table 1). In the course of implementation, actual activities will be identified taking the indicative list of activities as references.

Table 1 Priority area identified for NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025

Policy and technology cooperation	
Goals and Approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange information on emissions control technologies and national policies in use and/or under-development, if available • Propose potential technical and policy measures to tackle air pollution through science-based, policy-oriented consultations, policy scenarios and information exchange among national scientists, experts, policy-and decision-makers of the member States
Indicative Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose potential technical and policy measures through sharing information and lessons learnt on relevant good environmental practices applied nationally • Organize policy dialogue for exchanging information and policy experience in collaboration with the relevant processes, such as the Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP) • Conduct policy analysis on air pollution management in support of policy dialogue and technology cooperation • Support voluntary collaboration among member States on the Best Available Techniques • Support technology forum on emerging technologies and deployment in priority areas such as transport, industry and residential sectors

9. Policy and technology cooperation are to facilitate NEACAP member States to share information on policies, technologies and best practices and undertake technological cooperation. The work on policy and technology cooperation will be undertaken in close consultation with member States on the topic and modality of policy analysis and dialogue in collaboration with existing mechanisms and platforms.
10. Technical Centers, as designated research institutions in member States, are expected to support the technical work of NEACAP. The detailed roles of each Technical Center will be further discussed and defined, as agreed upon by the member States, based on consultation with the centers reflecting their intended areas of contributions as well as expertise and capacity.

11. The budget plan for the planned activities will be prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the NEASPEC's practices, and the budget execution will be duly reported to the SPC meeting and SOM.

12. The implementation and monitoring of activities will be coordinated by the SPC and overseen by SOM in accordance with the NEACAP Terms of Reference and SPC Rules of Procedure. In addition to the regular review of the work, the SPC will have a mid-term review in 2022 of the Work Plan's implementation with a view of making necessary adjustments.

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