

North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP)

Terms of Reference

(Agreed by the Consultation Meeting on NEACAP, 13 October 2017)

1. Introduction

The pressing problem of air pollution, its adverse effects on human health and the environment in North-East Asia are well known to countries in the subregion. Countries in the subregion have taken various measures to abate air pollution and have achieved substantial progress over the last two decades. The transboundary nature of air pollution in the subregion requires effective cooperation to ensure experience exchange, information sharing, comprehensive assessment and monitoring as well as to promote dialogue on potential multilateral measures to tackle the problem. With support from NEASPEC member States, the Partnership shall provide basis for strategic cooperation through exchange of information; scientific-technical-policy collaboration, taking into account various initiatives and instruments that exist in the subregion.

2. Aims and Objectives

The Partnership is to ensure protection of the environment and human health from air pollution in North-East Asia with the following objectives.

Objectives of the Partnership include:

- a. To promote environmental cooperation, including its science, policy and technical aspects, on atmospheric air protection in the transboundary context in the subregion;
- b. To enhance and further develop information and experience exchange in national and transboundary air pollution matters;
- c. 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;
- d. To contribute, as appropriate, to the development of relevant national and subregional policies addressing air pollution based on regional and national scientific research;
- e. To promote knowledge on environmental and human health aspects of air pollution in the North-East Asian subregion.

3. Geographic scope and target pollutants

The geographic scope of NEACAP includes the territories of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

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). Step-wise approach is applied when addressing the listed pollutants as the completeness of relevant emission inventories and modeling capacities in member States may vary.

4. Core Programmes

Core programmes of NEACAP include:

- i. Exchange relevant information and data, if available covering:*
 - a. Emissions data of the above-listed target pollutants, 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. Coordinates with relevant mechanisms and synthesizes 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 air pollution transport and deposition modeling and model comparison, including source-receptor relationship (SRR) modeling, and
 - 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 further consideration;
 - c. Exchange of information on emerging technologies and potential for technological cooperation on mitigating pollution; and
 - d. Sharing of information and lessons learnt on relevant good environmental practices applied nationally.

The core programmes of NEACAP are supported through the following activities, subject to the availability of resources:

- a. Regular meetings and ad hoc meetings as agreed upon by member States;
- b. Annual or biennial subregional review reports;
- c. Seminars, workshops and trainings; and
- d. Research projects.

5. Organizational structure

The organizational structure of NEACAP includes the following: the Science and Policy Committee, the Secretariat and technical centers. Thematic/working groups can be formed within the Science and Policy Committee (SPC) depending on the needs to advice and review specific technical assessments. The Science and Policy Committee shall report to the Senior Officials Meetings of NEASPEC for the final decision.

- i. ***Science and Policy Committee (SPC)*** – as the steering body, to plan, monitor and review activities under NEACAP, and promote science-policy linkages through guiding technical assessments and dialogues. Each member State nominates two experts for the Committee, which may meet on annual or biennial basis. The Committee may also recommend activity direction and organizational structure to the SOM.
- ii. ***Technical centers*** – as designated research institutions in member States, to support the technical work of NEACAP.
- iii. ***Secretariat (NEASPEC Secretariat)*** – to provide overall programme coordination and administration of NEACAP.

6. Budget

NEACAP will be supported by the Core Fund of NEASPEC. Other funding sources, including the voluntary contributions from the member States, and multilateral financial mechanisms should be explored and utilized.

7. Roles of Member States

NEACAP is a voluntary, needs-driven partnership. Member States may actively participate in and contribute to the development of NEACAP, such as through exploring potential financial or in-kind contributions necessary for the effective functioning of the Partnership.