



Distr.: Limited  
27 August 2024

English only

---

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**  
Sixth Meeting of NEACAP Science and Policy Committee  
24 September 2024  
Incheon, Republic of Korea

## **Discussion Paper on the draft Work Plan for the Remaining 2024 and 2025**

Note by the Secretariat

## I. Background

### *Key Recommendations from SPC-5<sup>1</sup>*

1. The Fifth Session of the NEACAP Science and Policy Committee (SPC-5) convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK) on 8 September 2023. The SPC-5 agreed on several recommendations for Category I and II activities with a decision to further deliberate on upcoming activities for 2024-2025 at the 6<sup>th</sup> SPC meeting (SPC-6).
  - **[Category I]** The Committee encouraged the secretariat to prepare concept notes of the policy dialogues articulating details such as targeted participants, scope, objectives, and usage of the report, for the consideration of member States.
  - **[Category II]** The Committee suggested the secretariat explore the possibility for the member States to undertake capacity building activities. The Committee noted existing subregional activities that could be linked to the activities of NEACAP.
  - **[Activity Planning 2024-2025]** The Committee encouraged the secretariat to prepare a draft programme of the NEACAP activities in line with NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025, for the consideration of SPC members.

### *Agreements from NEASPEC 26<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-26) on Air Pollution/NEACAP<sup>2</sup>*

2. The NEASPEC SOM-26 took place in Seoul, ROK on 23-24 November 2023. Key agreements on air pollution agenda are as follows:
  - **Policy Analysis Report and Policy Dialogue:** The Meeting **advised that the final report should be adopted at the SOM-27**. The Meeting further advised that the secretariat provide a detailed concept note for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Dialogue for the consideration of the member States to decide on the necessity of holding the Dialogue or the possibility of holding it in conjunction with the SOM-27.
  - **Development of the Next Work Plan:** in developing the next NEACAP Work Plan, the Meeting also noted that the **clear roles of Technical Centres (TC)** should be mentioned in the work plan. The Meeting further noted that **capacity building is a continuing process covering all activities** under the work plan.
  - **Organization of Annual Symposium:** The Meeting commended the successful holding of the first Symposium on Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory and Air Quality Management in Seoul, ROK on September 7, 2023, in collaboration with the National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center (NAIR) and requested to hold the NEACAP Symposium annually.

---

<sup>1</sup> The full report for SPC-5 is available at [Item 5\(a\)-Annex II NEACAP SPC-5 Meeting Report.pdf \(neaspec.org\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> The full report for SOM-26 is available at [SOM-26 Meeting Report FINALversion 0.pdf \(neaspec.org\)](#)

## II. Discussion Points

3. In light of these developments, SPC-6 will review and deliberate on the proposed work plan for the remaining 2024 and 2025, prepared by the secretariat, as detailed in **Annex I**. Following the guidance from NEASPEC SOM-26 (i.e., on the necessity of a clear plan and defined roles for the Technical Centers), the proposed work plan (1) incorporates the potential contributions of TCs in implementing NEACAP activities and (2) outlines opportunities for collaboration between ESCAP and NEASPEC in implementing the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP).

### A. Policy Cooperation

1. The meeting may wish to agree on the timeline for the finalization of the policy analysis report (**Annex V**), aiming for its presentation and adoption at SOM-27.
2. The meeting may wish to agree, in principle, to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Dialogue, after which the secretariat will prepare a concept note for SPC's review and then submit it to NEASPEC National Focal Points for consideration and approval.
3. The meeting may wish to discuss activities and engagements planned for 2025 related to the dissemination of the policy analysis report.

### B. Capacity Building

1. The meeting may wish to consider potential synergies between NEACAP and RAPAP (**Annex II**) and identify possible areas for capacity building activities and technical support.
2. The meeting may wish to consider the recommendations of the policy analysis report as a basis for identifying possible areas for capacity building activities and technical support.

### C. Knowledge and Information Sharing

1. The meeting may wish to discuss arrangements for the annual Symposium in 2025 (following the 2024 Symposium - **Annex III** - and in line with the SOM-26 request to hold the Symposium annually) and the role of TCs as possible co-organizer(s) of the event.
4. The meeting may wish to discuss the development of Rules of Procedure to better define the roles and responsibilities of the Technical Centers, contributing to NEACAP Work Plan (**Annex IV**).
5. The meeting will prepare recommendations for consideration by NEASPEC member States at the forthcoming SOM-27, scheduled in Q4 2024 to be hosted by China.

## Annex I. Draft Work Plan for the remaining 2024 and 2025

### A. Policy Cooperation

#### Objective

- To engage policymakers and stakeholders from member States to facilitate productive discussion and actions to address air quality and to promote notable country-specific accomplishments in improving air quality over last decades and to facilitate the sharing of best practices in air quality management.

#### Activity plan 2024-2025

No	Activity	Schedule	Detail	Conducted by
A.1	<b>Organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> Policy Dialogue and follow-ups</b>	24 September 2024, Incheon, ROK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present the preliminary findings of the NEACAP Policy Analysis Report to policymakers and stakeholders and gather substantial insights and comments from them</li> </ul>	Secretariat
A.2	<b>Organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Dialogue</b>	TBD, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the 1<sup>st</sup> Policy Dialogue, the secretariat will consult with the member States (through NEASPEC National Focal Points) on the necessity of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Dialogue or the possibility of holding it in conjunction with the SOM-27.</li> </ul>	Secretariat
A.3	<b>Dissemination of the report</b>	Q4 2024 or Q1 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the adoption of the report in SOM-27, Publication of the report in Q4 2024 / Q1 2025 (incorporating time needed for editing, formatting, and design)</li> <li>• Distribution through ESCAP and NEASPEC channels, in conjunction with major events in Asia and the Pacific region.</li> </ul>	Secretariat

## B. Capacity Building

### Objective

- To strengthen the capacity of the member countries through various activities, including training, workshops, and technical support to member governments.

### Activity Plan 2024-2025

No.	Activity	Schedule	Detail	Conducted by
B 1	Training workshop	9-13 September 2024, Incheon and Seoul, ROK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct a capacity building training workshop on innovative air quality data such as operating satellite data and ground remote monitoring networks.</li></ul>	Secretariat, ESCAP EDD, and NEACAP ROK TC-NIER
		TBD, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop and deliver training workshops tailored for capacity building, drawing on insights and recommendations from the Policy Analysis Report and in line with the implementation of RAPAP.</li></ul>	Secretariat and NEACAP TCs, and in collaboration with ESCAP EDD

## C. Knowledge and Information Sharing

### Objective

- To ensure experience exchange and knowledge and information sharing on recent research, policy updates, and advancements in science and technology related to air quality management.

### Activity Plan 2024-2025

No.	Activity	Schedule	Detail	Conducted by
C 1	Symposium	10 September 2024, Seoul, ROK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arrange annual symposium (see Annex III the concept note for the Symposium 2024) for modelers, researchers, and policy makers to share and discuss recent research, policy updates, and advancements in science and technology related to air quality management.</li></ul>	Secretariat and ROK TC-NAIR

		TBD, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange annual symposium for modelers, researchers, and policy makers to share and discuss recent research, policy updates, and advancements in science and technology related to air quality management.</li> </ul>	Secretariat and NEACAP TCs
--	--	-----------	---	----------------------------

TC's possible roles as co-organizer(s) in the annual symposium:

- Starting with the 2025 symposium, the secretariat is extending an invitation to any interested TCs to serve as co-organizer(s) of the event.
- The hosting of the symposium could be on a rotational basis among NEACAP TCs, in line with the goals of broadening their involvement.

#### D. Meeting of the Science and Policy Committee (SPC) in 2025

No.	Category	Time	Details	Hosted by
D1	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SPC</b>	Q2, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the progress of the NEACAP activities and discuss activities 2025 and beyond.</li> <li>• Consult with SPC members and TC representatives on interest in hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> NEACAP SPC meeting</li> </ul>	NEASPEC Secretariat

## Annex II. Creating synergies between NEACAP and RAPAP

The North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) and the Regional Action Programme for Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific (RAPAP) both aim to improve air quality through promoting science-based and policy-oriented cooperation. With this common goal, there are several ways in which NEACAP can complement RAPAP implementation, creating synergies that enhance the effectiveness of air pollution control efforts across the broader region.

Below provides an overview of the ongoing initiatives of RAPAP in addressing air pollution across Asia and the Pacific against the action areas identified in Figure 1.



**Figure 1. Action Areas of RAPAP**

Source: [RAPAP -- Asia-Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution \(unescap.org\)](https://www.unescap.org/rapap)

Since the adoption of the RAPAP, ESCAP has been implementing projects as follows:

### 1. Project on Operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution

<b>Project Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance capacity of government stakeholders, including national space institutions and/or environmental ministries, to utilize data</li> </ul>
----------------------	---

	<p>and methodologies to support the implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the access by member States to technical assistance in support their implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution</li> <li>• Enhance regional dialogue on developing evidence-based air pollution policies.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training workshops for stakeholders in national environment ministries and subregional institutions on innovative air quality data such as operating satellite data and ground remote monitoring networks.</li> <li>• Thematic expert group meetings on Air Quality Standards and data (<b>co-organized with NEACAP</b> and EANET).</li> <li>• Regional joint workshop on facilitation of air quality monitoring and open data sharing</li> <li>• Policy briefs on enhancing the region’s air quality standards and data availability.</li> <li>• Regional workshop on enhanced support of national ministries in target countries to engage in regional and subregional level cooperative dialogue <b>including through NEACAP</b>, ASEAN and other appropriate subregional platforms, to support evidence-based decisions for the improvement of national and subregional air quality.</li> </ul>

Source: ESCAP EDD Project Document on “Operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution”.

## 2. Building a Partnership and Coordination Platform for the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP)

<b>Estimated Start and End Dates</b>	1 January 2024 - 31 December 2026	
<b>Project Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen multilateral and multistakeholder coordination under the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP) for the improvement of national level air quality management.</li> <li>• Provide a common online platform for monitoring and mobilizing commitments and actions of governments and stakeholder groups.</li> <li>• Produce review reports and knowledge products on national-level progress and regional air quality trends to support biennial assessments and encourage accountability towards achieving clean air goals.</li> </ul>	
<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>RAPAP Platform for knowledge</b>	Organize annual meetings to develop and operate the RAPAP partnership, capacity building projects and coordination platform



	<b>sharing and tracking commitments</b>	Compile and analyze information on actions and national commitments by member States and stakeholders
		Develop an online RAPAP Platform for knowledge sharing, and multilateral and multistakeholder cooperation.
	<b>Access to improved data on air quality trends and policy reviews of regional progress</b>	Develop biennial review of national-level progress in the region and regional air quality status and trends based on satellite-derived air quality monitoring data
		Organize outreach and partnership events at regional forums and intergovernmental dialogue on the national-level and regional-level reviews
		Develop a long-term institutional arrangement with key partners on the operation of the platform.

### 3. Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information (PAPGAPI)

<b>Project Goal</b>	Support countries in South-East Asia and South Asia to fill the data and information gap in the nation-wide monitoring of air quality and improve model simulations of air quality, including its forecasting and warning service, utilizing satellite-derived data from the Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer (GEMS)
<b>Project implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation and operation of Pandora system</li> <li>- Collection, validation, and processing GEMS data</li> <li>- Use of satellite data for air pollution monitoring and long-range transport models</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Processing and development</li> </ul>

Source: <https://www.unescap.org/our-work/environment-and-development/climate-and-clean-air/clean-air>

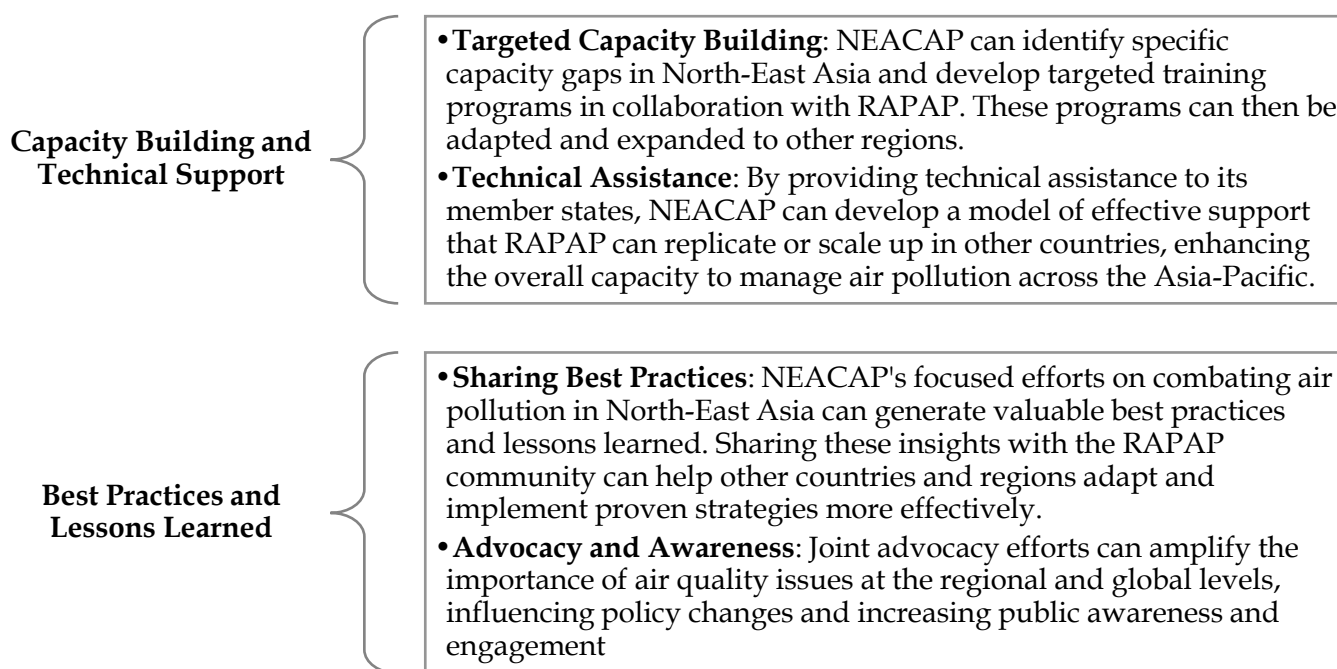
### 4. Urban Air Pollution Mitigation Project

<b>Project Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase knowledge base of air pollution in the region</li> <li>• Increase capacity to mitigate air pollution at the city level</li> <li>• Enhance policies to mitigate air pollution at the city level</li> </ul>	
<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>Pilot City Workshop</b>	Expert group meeting to review air pollution trends and analysis for the city to identify goals of the Action Plan
	<b>Pilot City Action Plan</b>	Stakeholders in pilot city develop action plans to effectively improve air quality for resilient and sustainable urbanization
	<b>Regional Workshop</b>	Findings from Pilot City to be shared in Regional Workshop to encourage more cities to take similar steps
	<b>Regional Action Plan</b>	Participant cities in the Regional Workshop to build their own Action Plans with ESCAP and partner support

<b>Knowledge Products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Working Paper - Methodology to Develop City-Level, Science-Based, Air Pollution Action Plans;</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Working Paper - Modeling Traffic Congestion Effects on Air Pollutants;</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Jambi: Air Pollution action plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Chiang Mai: Air pollution action plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Fuvahmulah: Air pollution action plan</a></li> </ul>
---------------------------	---

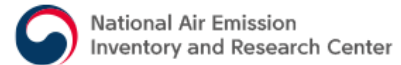
Source: <https://www.unescap.org/projects/urban-air-pollution>

Reviewing the mandated scope and implementation status, here's an outline of how NEACAP can complement RAPAP:



## Annex III. Concept Note for the Symposium 2024

(as of 26 August 2024)



# **Symposium 2024 Climate Change and Air Quality Management**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea, September 10, 2024**

## **Draft Concept Note**

### **Background**

Air pollution is a major environmental issue that adversely affects human health and ecosystems, underscoring the importance of clean air for quality of life and environmental sustainability. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution is responsible for approximately 7 million premature deaths annually, with the majority occurring in the Asia-Pacific region.

Over the past few decades, numerous efforts have been made to tackle air pollution, leading to the establishment of cooperation mechanisms at subregional, regional, and global levels. Notable among these are the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP), launched in 2018, and the Asia Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP), initiated in 2022.

Emphasizing the importance of science-based policymaking for air quality management, NEACAP organized a symposium in 2023 in partnership with the National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center (NAIR), Republic of Korea. The event highlighted scientific approaches in addressing air pollution and presented findings on the effectiveness of air quality improvement policies, which are fundamental to air quality management. This symposium inaugurated an annual commitment to facilitate information exchange and enhance international cooperation in air quality management.

### **Objective**

Building on the success of the first NEACAP Symposium in 2023, the Symposium 2024 is being organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), and the NAIR, Republic of Korea. Its

goal is to further strengthen regional cooperation and dialogue among various stakeholders not only from North-East Asia but also across the Asia-Pacific region.

The Symposium 2024 will focus on the critical nexus between climate change and air quality management. As urbanization and industrialization accelerate in the Asia-Pacific, the combined threats of air pollution and climate change are becoming increasingly severe. The Symposium 2024 aims to catalyze regional collaboration in addressing these intertwined issues, providing a valuable platform for stakeholders throughout Asia-Pacific to share insights and enhance regional efforts against climate change and air pollution.

The sessions will focus on: (1) the impact of climate change on emission sources of air pollutants and the direction of air quality management policy; (2) How to set air pollutant reduction goals for air quality management policy, and (3) the impact of air quality management policies on climate change.

### Provisional programme

TIME	Programme
09:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:30	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Jiwon Seong</b>, Head of NAIR, Republic of Korea</li> <li>○ <b>Ganbold Baasanjav</b>, Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office</li> </ul> <p><b>Congratulatory Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana</b>, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Video message)</li> <li>○ <b>KMOE</b></li> </ul>
10:30-10:50	<p><b>Keynote: Climate Change and Air Quality Management – a mid-to long-term perspective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Sangmin Nam</b>, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</li> </ul>
10:50-12:20	<p><b>Session 1. The Impact of Climate Change on Emission Sources of Air Pollutants and the Direction of Air Quality Management Policy</b></p> <p><b>Presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Yunhwa Jeong</b>, Deputy Director, Air Quality Policy Division, MOE, ROK</li> <li>○ <b>Kayla McCauley</b>, Physical Scientist, Office of Air Quality Planning &amp; Standards, EPA, US</li> <li>○ <b>Ekborndin Winijkul</b>, Associate Professor, Environmental Engineering and Management, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand</li> <li>○ <b>Sara Basart</b>, Scientific Officer, Science and Innovation Department, WMO</li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
12:20-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<p><b>Session 2. How to Set Air Pollutant Reduction Goals for Air Quality Management Policy</b></p> <p><b>Presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Taegon Song</b>, Director, NAIR, Republic of Korea</li> <li>○ <b>Di Wang</b>, Deputy Director, CRAES (Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences), China</li> <li>○ <b>John Salter</b>, Head of International Air Quality, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK</li> <li>○ <b>Dang Espita-Casanova</b>, Program Manager, CAA (Clean Air Asia)</li> <li>○ <b>Dasuki Loo Abdullah</b>, Principal Assistant Director, Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Malaysia (TBC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
15:30-15:50	Break

15:50-17:20	<p><b>Session 3. The Impact of Air Quality Management Policies on Climate Change</b></p> <p><b><u>Presentations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Rokjin Park</b>, Professor, Seoul National University, ROK</li> <li>○ <b>Sarav Arunachalam</b>, Research Professor, Institute for the Environment, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA</li> <li>○ <b>Sophie Moukhtar</b>, Head of the Air Pollution Team, Citepa, France</li> <li>○ <b>Romina Khurshid</b>, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Pakistan</li> <li>○ <b>Canan Esin Köksal</b>, Senior Environmental Expert, MOE, Türkiye (TBC)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Q &amp; A</u></b></p>
17:20-17:30	<b>Closing</b>

## **Annex IV.**

### **(Draft) Rules of Procedure for the Technical Centers of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership**

#### **Background and mandate**

1. In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP), the Technical Centers are designated by member States to support the technical work of NEACAP.

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

2. The Technical Centers will contribute to NEACAP by providing technical inputs in the development and implementation of NEACAP programmes and activities.
3. The Technical Centers will support NEACAP Work Plan, including through in-kind contribution, in line with its mandates, resources and capacities.
4. The Technical Centers will designate official representatives to participate in the meetings of the Science and Policy Committee (SPC).
5. The Technical Centers will work in collaboration with the SPC to implement relevant programmes and activities, including hosting the annual Symposium activity under Knowledge and Sharing of the Work Plan, as supported by the secretariat.

#### **Reporting**

6. The Technical Centers will report the progress of assigned activities under the NEACAP Work Plan, through reporting at the SPC meetings and providing written reports, as needed.