

CLEAN AIR INITIATIVE FOR ASIAN CITIES

Promoting better air quality management in Asia

What is CAI-Asia?

The Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) is a multi-stakeholder network of institutions and individuals committed to improving air quality management (AQM) in Asia. It was launched in February 2001 to address the growing problem of air pollution that threatens public health, productivity, and overall quality of life in the region. ADB is a founding member of the initiative and, along with the World Bank, jointly hosts the CAI-Asia Secretariat. Its mission is to promote and demonstrate innovative ways to improve the air quality of Asian cities by sharing experiences and building partnerships.



Air pollution from mobile, stationary, and transboundary sources is a major problem in many Asian cities.

German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

Main goals:

- Share knowledge and experiences on air quality management
- Enhance the capacity of Asian cities to manage air quality
- Improve policy and regulatory frameworks at the regional level and their implementation
- Promote the implementation of integrated air quality management strategies and regulations
- Encourage innovation through pilot projects

Specific goals and key results (2005–2007)

From 2001 to 2004, CAI-Asia developed its membership and knowledge-base on AQM. In Phase 2, CAI-Asia will further emphasize the development and implementation of policies. Key elements in the strategy for Phase 2 are the establishment of local networks in the main countries and cities that are part of CAI-Asia and the identification of investment opportunities to assist in the implementation of AQM policies and strategies developed by the members of CAI-Asia. This will contribute to building the ability of Asian countries and cities to manage—and ultimately—improve air quality.

Activities and Accomplishments

Organizational development

CAI-Asia has 129 organizational members representing cities, national and local government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, international development agencies, and the private sector. To increase its effectiveness CAI-Asia develops local networks such as AIRMAC (Sri





Adopting sustainable urban transport policies helps reduce vehicle emissions

Lanka), CAI-Asia China Project Office (People's Republic of China), Clean Air Network-Nepal (Nepal), Mitra Emisi Bersih (Indonesia), and Partnership for Clean Air (Philippines). Networks are planned for Bangladesh, India, and Viet Nam.

Knowledge management and dissemination (www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia)

Through its website, CAI-Asia collects and shares information about air quality in its member cities, including success stories. CAI-Asia generates new knowledge about AQM with the help of partners and members, such as the *Benchmarking Study on Air Quality Management Capability in Selected Asian Cities*. Over 700 individuals worldwide are subscribed to the CAI-Asia listserv, which feature regular discussions on air quality, sustainable transport, climate change, and related issues. CAI-Asia is also the main convener of the Better Air Quality (BAQ) workshops. BAQ is the largest regional meeting on AQM in Asia, bringing together over 700 air quality policymakers, scientists, and implementers. BAQ 2006 will be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Clean Air Network Nepal

CAI-Asia's official local network in Nepal

ADB assisted in establishing CAN-N in 2004 through a regional technical assistance project on Regional Air Quality Management in South Asia.

Since its establishment, CAN-N has become the main forum for discussions on efforts to reduce air pollution in Nepal.

CAN-N currently has 34 members, including government and nongovernment organizations.

See www.cleanairnet.org/can-n.

Capacity building

CAI-Asia has taken the initiative, together with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, World Bank, and other partners to set up the Clean Air Training Network for Asia (CATNet-Asia). The goal of CATNet-Asia is to develop the capacity of regional and national training institutes to deliver high-quality training on AQM.

Regional cooperation and harmonization

CAI-Asia together with the United Nations Environment Programme facilitates an annual regional dialogue of AQM programs in Asia. In support of this dialogue, CAI-Asia releases each year the *Compendium of Air Quality Management Programs and Projects in Asia*. Another effective example of cooperation and harmonization is the ongoing CAI-Asia Oil Industry Dialogue for Cleaner Fuels in Asia, which aims to help stakeholders from governments and the private sector develop and adopt road maps for cleaner fuels.

Promoting and implementing AQM strategies

In support of its focus on achieving real changes in air quality, CAI-Asia encourages its local networks to develop results-oriented local AQM action plans and strategies. CAI-Asia has developed the *Strategic Framework for Air Quality Management in Asia* as a guide for decision makers.

Pilot projects

CAI-Asia implements a number of pilot projects to develop new and innovative approaches to address important regional air quality issues. Key examples:

- **Public Health and Air Pollution in Asia**, implemented by the Health Effects Institute (www.cleanairnet.org/papa);
- **Partnership for Sustainable Transport in Asia**, in cooperation with EMBARQ of the World Resources Institute (www.cleanairnet.org/psuta); and
- **Developing Integrated Emission Strategies for Existing Land Transport** in cooperation with World Bank and United States Agency for International Development's United States-Asia Environmental Partnership Program (www.cleanairnet.org/diesel).

CAI-Asia and ADB

CAI-Asia works actively with the regional departments in ADB and other development agencies to identify, prepare, and implement new technical assistance and investment projects that will support its local members in their efforts to improve air quality. ■

www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia

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