

Asian Co-benefits Partnership Work Plan (2010-2011)

I. Introduction

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions can be accomplished through policies, programs or projects conceived specifically for that purpose. Or it can be achieved with policies, programs or projects designed to meet immediate development priorities such as improving urban air quality, water quality, and waste management while taking into account longer term climate concerns. Policies, programs, or projects considering both development and climate objectives can deliver *co-benefits*.

Effective approaches to co-benefits are likely to vary greatly between regions. In general, the ease of implementing a co-benefits approach will vary inversely with the scale and complexity of existing policies. Thus, the less developed a country's air pollution and climate policies, the easier it is to institute a co-benefits approach. But while this makes Asia a promising region for co-benefits, factors varying within the region, such as stages of economic development, merit consideration as they may contribute to interregional variation.

In recent years, a variety of stakeholders in Asia have demonstrated that integrating co-benefits into decision-making processes can reduce GHG mitigation costs or bring carbon finance to development needs. However, the absence of a mechanism to share information and coordinate stakeholders on these issues has hampered mainstreaming co-benefits into national development strategies and plans as well as sectoral policies, programs, or projects in Asia.

In June 2009 during the first International Forum for a Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP) in Hayama, Japan, panelists in a plenary session on co-benefits proposed creating an informal network to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. Over the last year, representatives from government agencies and leading international organizations held follow-up meetings in Bangkok, Thailand to further define the goals, membership, functions and activities, and implementing arrangements for an "Asian Co-benefits Partnership" (henceforth the Partnership).

Findings from the past year of co-benefits meetings included:

- A co-benefits approach has received a growing amount of attention in Asian countries, especially from government officials.
- Some countries and several international organizations as well as initiatives have been working intensively on a co-benefits approach in Asia.
- Several model co-benefits projects (i.e. methane recovery from wastewater treatment in Thailand) and joint co-benefits studies (i.e. Panzhihua and Xiangtan, China; Banjarmasin and Palembang City, Indonesia) are already underway in Asia. Cost savings from incorporating co-benefits into projects seem to be particularly significant in Asia. Sharing experiences and lessons learned from these projects can help advance a co-benefits approach.
- While many co-benefits projects require involvement of various stakeholders, there are significant communication gaps as well as limited awareness among relevant stakeholders in Asia.

- Translating co-benefits from a concept into a practice requires integration of a co-benefits approach in and across sectoral policies, especially buildings, energy, industry, transport, and waste management policies. Sectoral integration and application is important because it represents the realization of a co-benefits approach.
- Several organizations have started to create tools to help operationalize a co-benefits approach. Methodologies for co-benefits analyses must be developed, refined, and disseminated widely. Intensive capacity building activities should be undertaken to familiarize stakeholders with such methodologies.
- A co-benefits approach applies to policymaking at the local, national, regional and global level. It will be increasingly important that policymakers at all levels become familiar with co-benefits. It is nevertheless particularly important to integrate co-benefits into criteria and methodologies for *international* funding mechanisms.
- The interactions between atmospheric pollution and climate systems are an increasingly promising area for co-benefits in Asia. These interactions, especially those involving short-term warming agents such as black carbon and tropospheric ozone, need to receive greater attention in Asia. This attention would come in addition to work on co-benefits between environmental pollution and six greenhouse gases under the Kyoto Protocol.

II. Proposed Structure of the Partnership

A. Goal

The ultimate goal of the Partnership is to support the mainstreaming of co-benefits into sectoral development plans, policies and projects in Asia. The Partnership will serve as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. The Partnership will also seek to build on and complement existing networks/initiatives that offer financial and other forms of non-material support to help realize that goal.

The following are envisioned outcomes of the Partnership:

- **Knowledge base and information clearing house** on co-benefits have been established to improve and disseminate to various stakeholders in Asia, especially to policymakers;
- **Effective communication structures** on co-benefits have been created which include all major organizations and initiatives promoting a co-benefits approach;
- **National and sectoral policies** in Asia incorporate co-benefits and result in increased number of specific co-benefits projects; and
- **Cooperation among countries** in Asia for further promotion of mutually-beneficial co-benefits approach/projects has been strengthened.

B. Partnership members and target audience

Partnership members may include various stakeholders working on co-benefits in Asia, including government agencies, international development organizations, academe, civil society and the private sector etc..

Since the Partnership is an informal platform, any organization or individual that is interested in or willing to work on co-benefits in Asia can join the Partnership and contribute to activities described in the work plan.

Views on co-benefits are inherently diverse (see Appendix for varying definitions of co-benefits). Some groups are interested in the linkages between climate change and development while others focus on linkages between climate and particular sectors (energy, transport, and industry) or environmental media (air, water, and waste). To ensure the inclusive character of the Partnership, co-benefits will be viewed in a broad sense – that is, co-benefits between development and climate.

Many members in the Partnership will place a higher priority on co-benefits between environmental pollution and climate, with several members focusing specifically on air pollution and climate change. The Partnership recognizes that a narrower focus will be useful to mainstreaming co-benefits into specific sectoral policies and measures. At the same time, a broader purview will help raise awareness of co-benefits among the variety of stakeholders involved in formulating and implementing relevant policies and measures.

The Partnership aims to encourage the wide scale application of a co-benefits approach; the Partnership is designed to meet the needs of organizations (especially government agencies from developing countries in Asia) that are responsible for the formulation and implementation of sectoral policies, programs and projects. Since local level agencies frequently implement projects and policies, the Partnership will make concerted efforts to ensure its activities reach down to the local level.

The Partnership will also target organizations and persons promoting co-benefits in nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) or in global or regional assistance programs under multilateral development banks.

Researchers will play an important role in the Partnership, recognizing that in an evolving area such as co-benefits researchers can bring recent findings to other stakeholders.

C. Major functions and activities

The major functions and activities of the Partnership are:

1. Information sharing and knowledge management, including knowledge generation and dissemination
 - Knowledge management activities should be strongly promoted. Such activities may include: (a) research on the science behind co-benefits; (b) defining possible co-benefits policies at the national development or sectoral levels; and (c) methodologies to quantify co-benefits. Members of the Partnership already possess extensive knowledge on co-benefits, and have published research papers, technical documents, case study reports etc. The Partnership will gather and disseminate knowledge in a structured manner to Partnership members as well as other relevant stakeholders.
 - Information sharing and a clearing house system will help manage and share information of co-benefits in Asia, and to promote the mutually-beneficial projects, especially through demonstrations projects.

2. Enhanced communication among the Partnership members

- The Partnership Secretariat will identify organizations that are involved in co-benefits policies or projects, invite them to join the Partnership, and contribute actively to their activities.
- The Partnership will collaborate with relevant members to utilize and enhance existing websites to share information related to co-benefits.
- One of the barriers to disseminating a co-benefits approach is a limited understanding of its application to actual projects. There are effective co-benefits projects in Asia whose experiences can be shared among stakeholders. Sharing of experiences on model projects in different sectors, such as transport, air pollution control, or waste management, will be encouraged and facilitated by the Partnership.
- Seminar/s and workshop/s will be held to exchange experiences and views on concepts, policies, and methodologies on a co-benefits approach and case studies of co-benefits policies and projects.

3. Development of co-benefits policies and projects in Asia

- Joint research will be initiated and undertaken on how to integrate co-benefits policies in national development plans as well as relevant sectoral policies. Given the importance of cross-national cooperation, bilateral and multilateral research projects will need to be promoted.
- The Partnership will provide new opportunities for collaboration on specific co-benefits projects. Guidelines, manuals, and other technical documents to develop and evaluate co-benefits policies and projects will be developed and disseminated.
- Capacity building needs for a co-benefits approach (both at the policy and project level) will be identified. Based on the identified needs, capacity building activities will be developed and implemented as appropriate.
- When resources are available, demonstration projects may be developed and implemented to demonstrate the utility of co-benefits approach.

4. Strengthening of regional cooperation to promote co-benefits approach

- Inter-linkages will be established between the Partnership and existing networks/initiatives in Asia potentially related to a co-benefits approach. The issue of co-benefits will be raised at high level policy dialogues. Efforts will be made to raise awareness on co-benefits among high level policymakers in Asia through appropriate regional and international (such as the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environmental Issues).
- An appropriate funding scheme, as well as better use of existing funding schemes, may be explored to promote/accelerate co-benefits policies and projects in Asia. Funding from international and regional development agencies may be pursued to finance model projects.

D. Implementation arrangements

The Secretariat for the Partnership will be the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The main tasks of the Secretariat will include:

- Develop documents on Partnership activities including Partnership work plans for review and comments by Partnership members;
- Oversee implementation of Partnership work plan;
- Organize and promote Partnership activities, including meetings, seminars, workshops;
- Maintain communication with Partnership members;
- Assist members of the Partnership in developing co-benefits policies and projects in Asia; and
- Carry out other activities as appropriate.

The Secretariat will have a special responsibility to ensure active participation of Asian countries in Partnership activities.

An Advisory Group will be set up to provide advice to the Secretariat on the Partnership and its activities. The functions of the Advisory Group will include:

- Set and review strategic priorities for the Partnership;
- Review the Partnership work plan prepared by the Secretariat;
- Recommend the working method (including membership policy) of the Partnership; and
- Advise on fund raising activities carried out by the Partnership members to support the Partnership activities

Members of the Advisory Group are comprised of representatives from some Asian countries and international organizations. The membership of the Advisory Group will ensure that the priorities of Asian countries are adequately reflected in the activities of the Partnership.

Initial members of the Advisory Group may be:

- Asian country representatives: volunteer countries;
- International organizations: the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia), the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum (GAPF) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP); and
- Others as appropriate, such as selected sectoral agencies.

The Advisory Group will maintain contact by email and/or teleconferences and will have a minimum of one face-to-face meeting each year.

III. Work Plan 2010-2011

The work plan lists a wide range of activities that will be assessed, prioritized, revised and updated, by using the PDCA cycle (plan do check act) in due course.

Function	Activities	Organization to play the Lead role	Timeframe
Information sharing and knowledge management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop or improve appropriate websites/listserv on knowledge management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clean Air Portal and the CitiesACT portal (co-benefits policies and co-benefits projects_ ➤ Kyoto Mechanisms or AP Gateway Website ➤ Climate Change Group Website (main external Partnership website) - Collect and provide the latest scientific information on co-benefits - Develop information kits (electronic and printed matter) on co-benefits to disseminate among policy makers and other potential stakeholders - Information clearinghouse - Formulation common research agenda on co-benefits - Documenting research activities on co-benefits by Partnership members and others - Conduct assessments of awareness on, and application of, a co-benefits approach in selected Asian countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAI-Asia MOE-J IGES GAP Forum/UNEP CAI-Asia/IGES UNEP/RRCAP IGES and other members Secretariat IGES and other members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial website in place Already set up Any time Ongoing basis Initial one before BAQ 2010/COP 16 2011 2010- first half 2011
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct consultation workshops in selected Asian countries on barriers and opportunities for co-benefits in Asia - Convene seminars/workshop to widely disseminate a co-benefits approach to policymakers and other stakeholders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A Seminar on a Co-benefits Approach - Provide relevant regional existing initiatives with information/input on co-benefits, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. <i>General meetings on Climate Change and Air Pollution</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGES supported by members IGES IGES IGES/MOE-J 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010- first half 2011 As appropriate

Function	Activities	Organization to play the Lead role	Timeframe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) 	UNEP	ditto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects 	UNEP	ditto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific 	UNEP	ditto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) Project 	UNEP	ditto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thematic Working Group on Air Quality under the Regional Forum on Environment and Health 	UNEP	ditto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia 	UNEP CAI-Asia	ditto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 	UNEP	ditto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction from Industry in Asia and the Pacific (GERIAP) 	UNEP	ditto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Better Air Quality (BAQ) Meeting 	IGES/MOE-J	ditto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stockholm Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ A process initiated by the GAP Forum's Management Group to enlist wider support for international strategies which can integrate climate change and air pollution policies. 	IGES/MOE-J CAI-Asia/IGES GAP Forum/IGES	ditto Nov. 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IUAPPA World Clean Air Congress 		
	<p><i>B. Sustainable Transport</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum 	GAP Forum	Sep. 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT) 	SLoCaT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ADB Transport Forum and STI-OP implementation 	ADBTBD	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To be updated 	TBD	
	<p><i>C. Clean Energy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clean Energy Forum ➤ To be updated. 	IGES/ MOE-J	
	<p><i>D. Water and Waste</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) ➤ 3R Initiative in Asia 	IGES/ MOE-J	

Function	Activities	Organization to play the Lead role	Timeframe
Co-benefits policies and projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct gap analysis in terms of tools and methodologies for co-benefits - Develop and/or improve technical documents for co-benefits projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Co-benefits technology map ➤ Technical manual for quantitative evaluation ➤ Transport co-benefits manual (TCM) ➤ Clean Air Scorecard ➤ Integrated GHG and AP Emissions Accounting Tools for Companies ➤ The GAPF Emissions Manual ➤ NAMA Guidelines - Initiate additional activities on tools and methodologies, based on gap analysis - Prepare case study reports on co-benefits projects (sectoral projects), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Field testing of TCM on public transport projects in the Philippines and Thailand ➤ China Green Freight Project ➤ China Co-benefits Cities Project ➤ Sustainable Transport Initiative (STI) - Support the development of integrated co-benefits strategies for selected developing countries in Asia - Develop co-benefits projects, led by developing country Partnership members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGES IGES MOE-J IGES CAI-Asia CAI-Asia GAP Forum SLoCaT IGES IGES/ CAI-Asia IGES/CAI-Asia CAI-Asia CAI-Asia ADB IGES supported by other members IGES supported by other members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2010 Drafted Drafted In process Available Available Available Drafted 2011 March 2011 Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing 2011 2011
Regional cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a co-benefits framework for dialogue among policymakers in selected countries in Asia - Develop policy messages for high level policymakers - Develop appropriate financing framework for co-benefits policies and projects in Asia, including better use of existing funding mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGES supported by other members All relevant organizations IGES for draft development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before COP 16 in Dec. 2010 Dec. 2010 TBD

Annex 1

Definitions of Co-benefits

“Benefits that accrue as a side effect of a targeted policy.”

-Pearce, D. “Policy Frameworks for the Ancillary Benefits of Climate Change Policies”. CSERGE Working Paper GEC 2000-1. <http://www.uea.ac.uk/env/cserge/pub/wp/gec>. p. 1.

“The benefits of policies that are implemented for various reasons at the same time—including climate change mitigation—acknowledging that most policies designed to address greenhouse gas mitigation also have other, often at least equally important rationales (e.g. related to objectives of development, sustainability, and equity). The term co-impact is used in a more generic sense to cover both positive and negative side of benefits.”

-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (Fourth Assessment Report). *Climate Change, 2001: Mitigation*. B. Metz, O. Davidson, R. Swart. and J. Pan. (eds.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. p. 711.

“All of the positive outcomes associated with multiple, simultaneous emissions reductions.”

-Fitzgerald, J. and Villarín, J. R.T. United States Environmental Protection Agency. Integrated Environmental Strategies (IES) Program. Presentation at 2005 International Conference on Atmosphere Protection. CGE Training Workshop on Mitigation Assessments, Seoul, Korea, September 2005.

“[The] potentially large and diverse range of collateral benefits that can be associated with climate change mitigation policies in addition to the direct avoided climate impact benefits.”

-Bollen, J. Guay, B. Jamet S. and Corfee-Morlot, J. “Co-benefits of Climate Change Mitigation Policies”. Economic Department Working Papers No. 693. Paris: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2009. p. 5.