Regional: Mainstreaming Air Quality in Urban Development through South–South Twinning

Project Name	Mainstreaming Air Quality in Urban Development through South–South Twinning
Project Number	46250-001
Country	Regional
Project Status	Active
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	**TA 8751-REG: Mainstreaming Air Quality in Urban Development through South-South Twinning** Technical Assistance Special Fund — US$ 500,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships
Sector / Subsector	**Water and other urban infrastructure and services** - Urban policy, institutional and capacity development
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	No gender elements
Description	The scope of work under the TA includes (i) assessment of the current status of clean air management at city level and identification of areas for improvement in up to 10 Asian cities; (ii) setting-up of South-South twinning arrangements in six (6) shortlisted cities to facilitate sharing of experiences and good urban air quality management practices between Asian countries and cities; (iii) review policy initiatives and planned actions for air quality improvement in PRC and recommend improvements (iv) organizing country level knowledge exchange on priority actions for air quality management; and (iv) collating and disseminating TA learning in the form a knowledge product on air quality management.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	Seven out of 10 cities in developing Asian countries have unhealthy levels of air pollution, when measured as annual levels of particulate matter with size range of not greater than 10 microns (PM10). Recent scientific understanding further highlights the pressing need to address air pollution. Recent estimates from the 2010 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) found that outdoor air pollution is a much more significant public health risk than previously known_contributing annually to 2.1 million premature deaths in Asia. This is translated to 52 million years of healthy life lost in Asia alone, with significant economic implications_that accounts to 2/3 of the burden worldwide. For the first time, outdoor air pollution is among the top 10 risks worldwide and among the top five or six risks in the developing countries of Asia. In 2013, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared exposure to outdoor air pollution, especially particulate matter, as carcinogenic to humans. The IARC also classified diesel exhaust as a _known_ human carcinogen. Of primary concern is exposure to particulate matter and NOx from older diesel. Diesel emissions also include black carbon which contributes to global warming. _ More people will be exposed to air pollution as hundreds of millions of people will be added to Asian cities in the next decades. Over 50% of the population now lives in cities, where exposure to roadside air pollution is high. For instance, 55% of the people in Delhi and 76% of people in Beijing are living within 500 meters of a freeway and 50 meters of a major road where exposure are high. Over the next 30 years, another 1.1 billion people are expected to be living in cities. A systematic and integrated air quality management approach is necessary to address the growing air pollution problems. Unfortunately, the status of air quality management in Asian cities vary widely and have not developed quickly enough to respond to the changing urban landscape and evolving challenges in reducing air pollution. Some of the challenges of air quality management in Asian cities include: " Cities need support in identification of effective air quality management measures and their prioritization. This includes assessment of existing resources and allocation of resources, as necessary. " Reliability of air quality monitoring data is poor for several Asian cities because of the lack of technical capacity and support to sustain air quality monitoring systems. " Cities still need technical assistance and guidance in conducting their own emissions inventories, source apportionment which are important inputs to effective air quality management. The proposed TA addresses these issues to promote evidence-based long-term planning in air quality management and selection of appropriate strategies. The TA will assess the current status of air quality management in 10 Asian cities, representing different population size, and will set-up South-South twinning arrangements to facilitate sharing and learning of good urban air quality management practices in Asia. The TA will also have a provision to review the air quality management initiatives in People's Republic of China (PRC) and recommend improvements in key policy instruments for their effective implementation. The TA will provide opportunities to promote sharing of experiences and knowledge in air quality management among up to four countries in the region through workshops and working sessions. The participating countries and the beneficiary cities will be encouraged to develop and disseminate policy and project level interventions to improve air quality within their jurisdictions. The TA will make use of the Clean Air Scorecard Tool (CAST) (developed through a previous ADB technical assistance) to assess status of air quality management and to recommend actions for improvement.
Impact	The capacity to manage urban air pollution is enhanced in ADB's DMCs in Asia through knowledge and experience sharing on urban air quality management among participating Asian countries.

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	City governments in ADB's DMCs in Asia have better understanding of the potential areas for improvement in air quality management.
Progress Toward Outcome	
Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	Phase 1 Output 1. Development and application of selection criteria for participating cities and countries Output 2. Recommendations on PRC's National Action Plan on Air Pollution Prevention and Control and Road Map for its Implementation Phase 2 Output 3. Assessment of the status of clean air management in up to 10 Asian cities using CAST Output 4: South-South city twinning arrangements established and air quality management experiences and good practices shared between twinned Asian cities Output 5. South-South national-level twinning arrangements established and air quality management experiences and good practices shared among participating countries Output 6. Summarize the learnings of the study in the form of a knowledge product

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	Output 1: Development and application of selection criteria for participating countries and cities 50 cities were shortlisted for twinning. The shortlisting process was conducted using the Air Pollution and Health Index of the Clean Air Scorecard Tool (CAST) to more than 400 Asian cities forming part of the CitiesACT air quality database Clean Air Asia, with support of its partners including ADB, World Bank and the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, developed CitiesACT - an online database providing access to air quality, climate change, transport and energy data and indicators for Asian cities and countries. CitiesACT is part of the Clean Air Portal and maintained by Clean Air Asia. Data is compiled from international and national statistical sources, national and local statistical yearbooks, responses to survey questionnaires, secondary data from Clean Air Asia country networks and partners, and personal correspondence with national ministries, among others. CitiesACT also contains air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions indicators for transport and energy generated by Clean Air Asia. For more information on the CitiesACT database, visit http://citiesact.org/ and supplemented by an analysis of time series of air quality data (from 2012 to 2014). The aim was to identify the cities with air pollution levels exceeding the WHO guideline values but also demonstrated some AQM capacity. Results of the assessment were used to develop selection criteria to further narrow down the list to ten cities and at least four countries which would be leading candidates to be invited to participate in the Phase 2 twinning activities. Output 2: Recommendations on PRC's national Action Plan on Air Pollution Prevention and Control and Roadmap for its Implementation As part of its support to PRC, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) collaborated with the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) in organizing a workshop in July 2014 to identify key challenges and gaps in air quality management and set the way forward for the development of recommendations. As one of the outputs in Phase 1 of the TA, Clean Air Asia assisted MEP by building on the outcome of the 2014 workshop and providing recommendations towards finalization of its policies on air pollution prevention and control. The review covered PRC's legislation and plans on air pollution prevention and control. The TA then provided feedback on air quality management in PRC for the 13th Five Year Plan and developed recommendations to the amendment of the Law on Air Pollution Prevention and Control. In PRC, Clean Air Asia has worked closely on air quality management at both the national level (with the Ministry of Environmental Protection) and at the local level (provincial Environmental Protection Departments and City Environmental Protection Bureaus) for more than 10 years. The Clean Air Asia China Office organizes China Air Quality Management city workshops yearly in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection, PRC to facilitate learning among cities and to dialogue with national government on air quality management challenges based on emerging issues and new air quality legislation and policies. The Clean Air Asia China City Network has 13 members: Changsha, Chengdu, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Guiyang, Hangzhou, Harbin, Jinan, Lanzhou, Luoyang, Qingdao, Tianjin and Urumqi. Clean Air Asia China Office also provides periodic policy briefs to the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of the Ministry of Environmental Protection on relevant air quality management concerns. The recommendations on the AQM component of the 13th FYP were based on a review of the status of AQM in PRC, stakeholder interviews, and review of international experience. The recommendations were as follows: 1. Set long-term targets and develop an integrated strategic plan for air quality standards compliance; 2. Clarify the responsibilities of stakeholders and establish an incentive mechanism for delivering commitments; 3. Integrate with energy planning to promote efficient, clean and sustainable energy utilization; 4. Streamline stationary source management by emission permit system; 5. Upgrade control policies on vehicles; and 6. Enhance emission control on non-road mobile sources. In addition, TA supported a Workshop/Training on VOCs control in Pharmaceutical and Organic Chemical Industry in PRC in October, 2016. The Phase 2 is on-going.
Geographical Location	

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	
During Project Implementation	

Responsible Staff

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Timetable

Concept Clearance	30 Sep 2014
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	07 Nov 2014
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	21 Apr 2017

TA 8751-REG

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
07 Nov 2014	-	07 Nov 2014	18 Nov 2016	31 Oct 2017	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization							Cumulative Disbursements	
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500,000.00	07 Nov 2014	282,458.12

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