Possible Options to Strengthen the Regional Framework on Air Quality Management in East Asia

Better Air Quality Conference
Hong Kong 2012
Session: Regional Cooperation and Management of Air Quality

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7 December 2012

Why Greater International Cooperation is Desirable

Key problems to solve:

- Overall air pollution is increasing in East Asia
- Transboundary movement is becoming more important
- Need to address multiple issues simultaneously
  - Local air pollution
  - Transboundary aspects
  - Linkage with climate change
- Need to reduce costs of control measures (e.g. through cobenefits)
- Need to strengthen capacity building
- Need more research on air pollution problems
- Strengthen the links between science and policy
- Greater emphasis on reduction/mitigation measures

ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:	1. Facilitate a common understanding resulting in policy actions 2. Actions should be coordinated to enhance effectiveness and efficiency

Existing Selected Cooperation Frameworks

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	FRAMEWORKS
Global/hemispheric	UNFCCC, GAPF
More than one subregion	EANET, Joint Forum
Subregional	ASEAN Haze Agreement, Male Declaration, TEMM, LTP, NEASPEC

PROBLEMS WITH EXISTING FRAMEWORKS

- Duplication & overlap, extra cost
- Insufficient funding
- Limited effectiveness
- Insufficient scope: need more emphasis on mitigation
- Should strengthen linkage to policy & implementation

Past Efforts to Strengthen International Cooperation in Northeast and Southeast Asia

- **Focused on strengthening each framework individually**
  - Different countries had different priorities or reservations
  - Results limited: small changes, no significant expansion of scope, no focus on reduction measures
    - EANET: New Instrument
    - NEASPEC: New review study
    - LTP: Currently discussing new stage
- **Possibility to merge some frameworks**
  - Differences in geographic scope and focus
  - Administrative differences and complexity

- A common interest among countries to strengthen international cooperation is emerging
- But there are different views on what is the best way

Parameters/Scope of an International Cooperation Framework

Desirable Functions

- Monitoring
- Modelling
- Assessment
- Research
- Emissions Reduction/Mitigation
- Capacity Building

Scope of Pollutants - Options

- Multi-pollutant (more comprehensive)
- Climate/air
- SLCF
- Expandable

Multipollutants-Multieffect Approach is Desirable

- Comprehensive, integrated approach
- Based on scientific modeling to maximize cost effectiveness

Global/Hemispheric Level Options

RATIONALE

- Many pollutants are now global or hemispheric: GHG, Ozone, Aerosols
- Desirability of linking & coordinating regional frameworks
- Global scope addresses trade competitiveness concerns of mitigation measures more comprehensively

OPTIONS	COMMENTS
Global Convention on Atmosphere (Vancouver Declaration 2010, IUAPPA)	• Would be comprehensive • Difficult to agree, long time to negotiate • Linkage/ division of responsibility w/ climate • Structure, focus? Modeled after LRTAP? Binding/Voluntary? Principles/Action?
Global standards to link to regional/subregional conventions	• Easier to agree • Could be weaker than a global convention • Would build on existing mechanisms and promote cooperation among them

Regional/ Subregional Level Options

RATIONALE

- Regional linkage of air pollution is clearer, especially to local aspects
- Easier to reach agreement due to fewer countries

OPTIONS	ADVANTAGES/CHALLENGES/COMMENTS
1. More coordination among existing frameworks (e.g. strengthen Joint Forum	• Good in theory, difficult in practice • Does not solve overlap & duplication • Information sharing could be main benefit
2. Stronger efforts to strengthen existing frameworks	• Seems easiest, but limited past effectiveness • Does not solve overlap & duplication • Hard to increase efficiency & cost effectiveness
3. Merge existing frameworks	• Better chance to reduce overlap & duplication • Challenges: differences in functions, geographic scope, administrative procedures
4. Create new framework (Asian LRTAP?)	• More optimal scope (more ambitious) • How to relate to existing frameworks • Cost sharing? Secretariat?

Discussion of Geographic Scope

- Regional / subregional focus more realistic in short/medium term.
- Advantages & disadvantages of regional/subregional focus

Northeast Asia (subregional)

- Quicker focus on reduction measures is possible
- Which countries to include – 3, 4, 5?

N.E. Asia + Southeast Asia (2 subregions)

- May need to emphasize capacity building
- Trans-subregional aspects (haze, ABC, ozone)

Northeast + Southeast + South Asia (3 subregions)

- Trans-subregional aspects (haze, ABC, ozone)
- May need to emphasize capacity building
- More differences in priority pollutants, emissions sources

Fewer members:

- Easier to reach agreement, quicker actions
- Advantage for subregional but not regional scale

More members:

- More difficult to reach agreement, slower
- Better for larger scale problems
- Fewer frameworks may be more efficient

- **Asian participation in global air pollution frameworks should be strengthened (e.g. GAPF, HTAP, etc.)**

Strengthening the Science Policy Interface for Air Pollution Issues in Asia

More scientific capacity building

More research & cooperative research

Stronger regional epistemic community

Common understanding of air pollution problems

Institutional framework to provide scientific advice to policymakers

Key issue in East Asia

- **Which of these aspects to focus on?**

Existing Selected Cooperation Frameworks and Science-Policy Interface

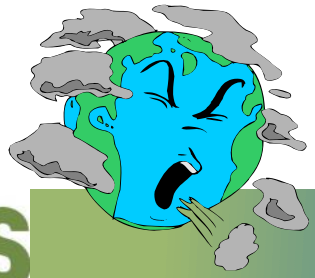
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	FRAMEWORKS	SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE
Global/hemispheric	UNFCCC, GAPF	HTAP, IGAC, IPCC
More than one subregion	EANET, Joint Forum	EANET/SAC
Subregional	ASEAN Haze Agreement, Male Declaration, TEMM, LTP, NEASPEC	ASEAN Haze: Panel of Experts Male Decl.: Stakeholder Forums TEMM, LTP, NEASPEC: governments sponsor projects

PROBLEMS WITH EXISTING SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE

- (Different interfaces have different problems)
- Sometimes difficult for scientists (especially from differing countries) to reach a common understanding
- Governments sometimes restrict the scope of scientific activity and advice, not up to date with latest scientific knowledge
- Advice is not always relevant to governments or communicated effectively
- Interface is sometimes not adequately institutionalized
- Governments often do not take scientific advice (due to different priorities, or inadequate understanding)

Considerations for strengthening the institutional framework for science input into policy

- Create new body or link to existing cooperation framework?
- Organizational format (international science panel?)
  - How to choose members?
  - Governance
  - Secretariat
  - Management procedures
- Funding source?
- Geographical focus: Subregional? Multiple subregions? Global?



Thank You

Acknowledgment: The research for this presentation was supported by ERTDF S-7-3 of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.