AGENDA

International Expert Meeting on Improving Air Quality in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region

4 JUNE 2013

Venue: Ministry of Environmental Protection, Beijing

Supported by the PRC-ADB Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI) together with ADB RETA "Mainstreaming Environment for Poverty Reduction (RETA 6422)

Background and building on most recent policy recommendations

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is facing severe regional air pollution. Though the traditional coal-burning challenges have not yet been solved, a more complex air pollution challenge primarily characterized by $PM_{2.5,}$ particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers emerged and culminated in January 2013 where in many regions such as Beijing $PM_{2.5}$ levels hiked higher than 900 microns. According to the World Health Organization's evaluation of the $PM_{2.5}$ annual average concentration from over 1082 cities around the world, PRC's best rank is 808 and the worst city ranks close to the bottom of the list at 1058.

The PRC is actively engaged in an international dialogue aiming to improve air quality. There are numerous projects and policy recommendations from different agencies. A more recent report (December 2012) derived from international good practice on regional air quality by the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development proposed following policy recommendations that may serve as a guide for the expert discussion.

- **Accelerate the amendment to the *Law on the Prevention and Control of Atmospheric Pollution* (enacted 1987, last amendment in 2000)**. The existing law needs to be more responsive to the prevention and control of regional, combined and complex air pollution shaped by rapid industrialization, urbanization, and motorization. First, PM2.5 and O3, having an important impact on human health, should be placed in a core position in the prevention and control of air pollution in China. Second, incorporate air quality improvement as the core content of atmospheric environment management. Third, improve the joint prevention and control mechanism for regional air pollution to address the transmission of atmospheric pollutants across administrative boundaries. Fourth, further strengthen the penalties for violations and increase the cost of atmospheric environment illegalities. Fifth, put emphasis on the control of emissions from non-road mobile sources.

- **Improve the air quality management mechanism, and enhance air quality management capabilities.** Targets of atmospheric pollutant emissions reduction are primarily based on emission reduction technologies and economic potential, rather than

on the requirement of human health for air quality that is more severe when PM2.5 is being addressed. First, allocate the appropriate resources with reference to the air management system of Europe and the United States. Second, improve the joint prevention and control mechanism for regional air pollution to facilitate overall regional management in severely polluted Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei, the Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta. Third, increase the funding for air quality management, and advance the implementation of the National Clean Air Action Plan included in the national budget.

- **Accelerate the transformation of economic development mode and promote the continued reduction of pollutants.** In the recent three decades, the decreasing proportion of heavy chemical industries in industrialized regions of Europe and the U.S.A. contribute to the gradual reduction of air pollutant emissions in the industrial process. However, now in the late stage of industrialization, China still depends heavily on energy-consuming and high-polluting industries for economic development. First, shape a sustainable investment and consumption pattern that will reduce the dependence of local economic development on heavy chemical industries. Second, improve the technical level and reduce overall energy consumption and air pollutants while enhancing the industrial output value. Third, progressively reduce the capacity of heavy chemical industries in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta to reduce severe combined and complex air pollution.

- **Optimize the energy structure to achieve efficient, clean, and sustainable coal utilization.** Coal, around 68% of PRC's primary energy consumption is responsible for 90% of the sulfur dioxide (SO_2) emissions in China, 67% of the NO_X emissions, 40% of the soot emissions, and 70% of human-caused atmospheric mercury emissions. Coal consumption intensity is significantly consistent with the spatial distribution of regional air pollution, especially PM2.5 pollution. First, optimize the energy structure by reducing the proportion of coal in primary energy. Second, optimize the spatial distribution of coal consumption by controlling regional total coal consumption (for example in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region). Third, improve the coal consumption structure, promote the transfer of coal consumption to large-scale coal-fired equipment with best available technologies, and reduce the terminal coal consumption in the industrial and commercial sector. Fourth, put emphasis on pollution control in the whole coal life cycle to advance coal washing and distribution. Fifth, vigorously promote clean fuel adoption in households. Further, the PRC as the largest coal consumer in the world should develop and use the world's best coal-fired pollution control technologies, and gradually establish a leading position in clean coal utilization.

- **Comprehensively strengthen pollution control in mobile sources.** Mobile sources have become a prominent factor in causing ambient air quality problems. Mobile sources contribute 20% -25% of PM2.5 in major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, as well as the eastern densely populated areas. First, with regard to fuel quality, it is necessary to rapidly introduce near zero sulfur levels in both diesel fuel and gasoline. Second, with regard to vehicles, accelerate the development and implementation of a full-range of emissions standards. Third, in the aspect of roads, create a new sustainable urban transport system.

The goal of the expert discussion shall be a project/workshop proposal focusing on Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei $PM_{2.5}$ Emergency Air Pollution Planning and Development of a Roadmap to make reductions sustainable. Again, the above mentioned recommendation may serve as a guide but will need to be fine-tuned and expanded/adjusted for the requirements of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

4 June 2013

OPENING AND BACKGROUND

9:00 – 10:15

Welcoming remarks (Chair Person)
***Li Pei**, Deputy Director General, Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection*

Welcoming Remarks
***Hamid Sharif,** Country Director, ADB*

Air Quality Management and Policy Goals in China (20 min)
***Wang Xin**, Director, Division I, Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection*

Policy Suggestions for Achieving Higher Standards of Air Quality (20min)
***He Kebin,** Executive Vice-President, Tsinghua Graduate School and Professor of School of Environment, Tsinghua University*

10:15 – 10:30 Group Picture and Tea/Coffee Break

1st SESSION

10:30 – 12:30 EMERGENCY AIR POLUTTION PLANNING

Moderator: Zhao Lijian, Program Director, China Sustainable Energy Program

Status and challenges of emergency episode planning in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region (15min)
***Chai Fahe**, Vice-President, Chinese Research Academy for Environmental Sciences*

London's approach to emergency air pollution episodes (15min)
***Benjamin Barratt**, King's College London*

EU-Air Quality Directive and the implementation in Cities (15min)
***Axel Friedrich**, Former Chairman of the OECD Working Group on Transport and Founding Member of the International Council for Clean Transportation*

Discussion led by moderator:
- Key elements to address emergency air pollution episodes
- Steps to develop an emergency air pollution plan for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

2nd SESSION

14:00 – 16:00 MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM PATHS TO REDUCE PM2.5 CONCENTRATIONS

Moderator: ***Benjamin Barratt****, King's College London*

Air quality management plan requirements for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei (15min)
Yang Jintian, *Deputy Chief Engineer of Environmental Planning Institute, MEP*

US approach to regional air quality management (15min)
Dale Evarts*, Group Leader, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, US Environmental Protection Agency*
Chris James*, Principal, China and U.S. Programs, Regulatory Assistance Project*

Discussion led by moderator

- Legal solutions
- Institutional solutions
- Capacity issues
- Sector specific solutions

16:00 -16:15 Tea/Coffee Break

WRAP-UP SESSION

16:15 – 17:00 WHAT DID WE ACHIEVE? WHAT SHALL BE PROPOSED?

Moderator: Wang Xin, Director, MEP and **Jörn Brömmelhörster**, Coordinator, RKSI