



Ministry of Population and Environment

ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

Air pollution, Climate and Health in Southern Asia and the HKH: Science-Policy Dialogue

ICIMOD Headquarters,
Lalitpur, Nepal
29 November 2017

Background:

Recent research and monitoring at numerous places across southern Asia and the Hindu Kush Himalaya show that air pollution is a widespread and growing regional problem that extends beyond cities, across vast rural areas, across international boundaries, and even across mountain ranges. It has impacts on the region's climate, on the health of hundreds of millions of people, as well as on agriculture, water resources, and incomes. While the problem has caught the attention of the public and of policymakers in many places, and while there is a growing body of scientific knowledge about the problem's sources, complexities and potential solutions, the region has few examples of the effective policies based on sound scientific evidence. In addition, most policy efforts to address air pollution in the region have been taken at the local or national levels, without consideration of the regional, trans-boundary perspective – with one exception: The Malé Declaration on the Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Trans-boundary Effects in South Asia, signed in 1998.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is an intergovernmental organization focusing on regional issues in the mountains and downstream areas of the Hindu Kush Himalaya and the Tibetan Plateau. The upcoming event, to be **co-hosted by Nepal's Ministry of Population and Environment and ICIMOD**, will bring together the region's atmospheric scientists into two-way dialogue with policymakers through panel discussions.

DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday, 29 November 2017:

Science-Policy Dialogue

Objective: To promote improved evidence-based policy making through improved two-way communication between scientists and policymakers through:

- a. Communication of the region’s scientists’ consensus to policymakers.
- b. Providing an opportunity for scientists to hear policymakers’ priorities.
- c. Providing learning opportunities from best practices elsewhere in the world.
- d. Discussing the challenges and ways to improve science-policy dialogue in each country.

Time	Contents	Participants
9:00-09:30	Opening	Senior scientists Junior scientists Policymakers Invited observers Invited media
9:00-9:05	Opening	
9:05-9:15	Welcome speech by Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment, Government of Nepal	
9:15-9:25	Welcome speech by Director General, ICIMOD	
9:25-9:30	Meeting objectives and logistics	
9:30-10:20	Panel 1: Scientists’ Consensus Chair: TBC	
9:30-10:00	Short presentations by lead scientists conveying consensus on priority areas needing policymakers’ attention.	
10:00-10:20	Moderated Discussion	
10:20-10:40	Coffee Break & Group Photo	
10:40-11:40	Panel 2: Experiences from Elsewhere Chair: TBC	
10:40-11:00	Phil Dickerson: EPA AirNow & open data sharing	
11:00-11:20	Luisa Molina: Science-based air quality management in Mexico City and Santiago, Chile	
11:20-11:40	Jimmy Gasore: AGAGE global monitoring network	
11:40- 13:00	Panel 3: Policymakers’ presentations to scientists Chair: TBC	
11:40-11:50	Overview of the Male’ Declaration by secretariat	
11:50-12:55	Brief statements by policymakers from the region describing their domestic priorities (template to be provided)	
12:55-13:00	Explanation of country Round Tables	
13:00-14:30	Lunch	