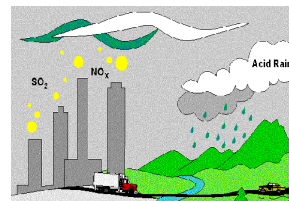


ACID RAIN IN ASIA

NEWSLETTER



Bi-monthly reports on Acid Rain and Emissions Reduction in Asia Project by UNEP/ Environment Assessment Program for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok in close collaboration with Asian Develop-

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Acid Rain in Asia, Phase II Project Overview

In 1991, in response to the emerging threat of acid rain, a group of researchers from Asia, Europe and USA initiated an international collaborative effort to study the problem of sulfur deposition in Asia. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank provided funds to support the initiative. The ADB and the World Bank then jointly carried out an initial investigation (project entitled "Acid Rain and Emissions Reduction in Asia: Regional" under Phase I) of the factors and effects of acid rain in Asia which confirmed the seriousness of the problem in many parts of the region. This initial investigation had the primary objective of developing a policy tool (RAINS-ASIA) for analyzing acid rain implications of energy use and alternative mitigation strategies for different parts of the Asian region. RAINS-ASIA Phase I was funded with US\$ 1.2 million from the ADB and the World Bank, and was completed in June 1995. The model covers the countries of East, South and South-East Asia.

During the final symposium of Phase I, implementation of Phase II was suggested. On 15 February 1995, the ADB regional Technical Assistance (TA) Screening Committee endorsed

the TA for Acid Rain and Emissions Reduction in Asia, Phase II, to integrate the findings of the previous technical assistance (Acid Rain and Emissions Reduction

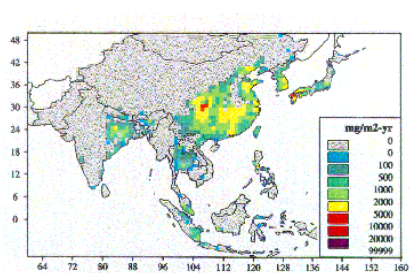


Fig. 1: Excess Sulfur deposition over critical loads in 1990

in Asia, Phase I), into the decision-making and policy formulating process of the countries in the region. The ADB's Management approved concept clearance on 13 March 1995. China, India, Indonesia and Thailand were identified in the previous studies as potential major sources of acid rain causing emissions (ARCEs) among the developing member countries of ADB.

UNEP Environment Assessment Program for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/EAP-AP) has followed both the ADB and the World Bank funded projects completed in 1995 on Acid Rain and Emissions Reduction in Asia with great interest. The coordination of

environmental policies within the United Nation system and encouraging environmental protection throughout the world is one of the major objectives of the EAP-AP. UNEP has been involved in gathering of information and database in Asia which are essential in evaluating the national and transboundary impact of acid rains, developing of the Acid Rain and Emissions Reduction in Asia Phase II in Europe, convening and initiating high government officials meetings to address the acid rain problems, and evaluating of policies and technologies to reduce ARCEs. In view of these, a Memorandum of Understanding on working arrangements between the ADB and the EAP-AP in the implementation of the project on Acid Rain and Emissions Reduction in Asia, Phase II was signed on 13 August 1997.

The main objective this TA is to expand and apply the methodology developed in Phase I to a broader set of air pollution applications in Asia so that crucial geographical and sectorial tradeoffs of alternative energy and abatement strategies can be addressed comprehensively. The other objectives of this TA are to (i)

First Regional Seminar on Acid Rain and Emissions Reduction in Asia

A policy tool (RAINS-Asia) for analyzing acid rain implications of energy use and alternative mitigation strategies for different parts of the Asian region was developed during phase I of a major acid rain project carried out by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Currently, UNEP/EAP-AP and ADB are administering the phase II of the project. The phase II will involve the use of the RAINS-Asia model to incorporate national energy poli-

cies and strategies in minimizing ARCEs. The main goal of this collaborative project is to utilize RAINS-Asia model in the development of policies and programs to reduce ARCEs in the region and to initiate mitigation measures.

As part of the project, the first regional seminar on "Acid Rain and Emissions Reduction in Asia" will be held on 16-18 March 1998 at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand. High-level policy makers and senior

technical experts from the region as well as international consultants and representatives of ADB and UN agencies are expected to attend the seminar.

Some of the main purpose of this first regional seminar are: (i) Possible modification of the RAINS-Asia model for local conditions, (ii) Discussion on technology, policy and development issues to reduce AR-

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

A. Primary Participating Developing Member Countries (DMCs) and Executing Agencies:

1. *People's Republic of China* (State Science and Technology Center)
2. *India* (Central Pollution Control Board)
3. *Indonesia* (Environmental Impact Management Agency)
4. *Thailand* (Pollution Control Department)

B. Other Participating DMCs/regions:

1. Bangladesh
2. Bhutan
3. Cambodia
4. Hong Kong, China
5. Lao, PDR
6. Malaysia
7. Myanmar
8. Nepal
9. Mongolia
10. Pakistan
11. Philippines
12. Republic of Korea
13. Singapore
14. Taipei, China
15. Vietnam

C. Participating Non-DMC

1. Japan

Further information on the activities of this project may be requested from:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **First Regional Seminar** on “**Acid Rain and Emissions reduction in Asia**” to be held on **16-18 March, 1998** at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand. The purpose of this seminar is to utilize RAINS-ASIA model in the development of policies and programs to reduce ARCEs in the region and to initiate mitigation measures.
- **First National Workshop** on Acid “Rain and Emissions Reduction in Asia” to be held in each of the primary participating countries:
People's Republic of China May 1998
India May 1998
Indonesia May 1998
Thailand May 1998
- A “**Round-Table Policy Dialogue**” regarding the rapidly increasing problem of regional and trans-boundary air pollution in Asia to be held on **19-20 March, 1998** at UNEP/EAP-AP, Bangkok, Thailand.

Please send your comments/suggestions to:

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