

About the Kong Ha Award for Excellence in Air Quality Management

The Clean Air Asia Partnership established a biennial award to honor the memory of the late Kong Ha, who served as the chairperson of Clean Air Asia from December 2004 to April 2007.

The award serves as a tribute to persons who are responsible for the formulation of air quality management related policies and their day-to-day implementation in Asia. This, in the view of the Clean Air Asia Partnership, is the best way to honor Kong Ha, who through his deep commitment and knowledge, relentless enthusiasm, and strong sense of partnership was a key person in shaping and overseeing the implementation of mobile source emission reduction policies in Hong Kong.

Eligible for the Kong Ha Award are persons who are working and excel on day-to-day basis in respect to the formulation and implementation of air quality management policies. All fields of air quality management qualify: mobile, stationary and area sources of pollution. Potential candidates can come from local or national government, civil society or academic or research institutions in developing Asia. Candidates can be nominated by organizations or individuals. Self-nominations will not be accepted. The Kong Ha Award Committee, through its secretariat will also solicit the submissions of applications from worthy candidates.

Past Kong Ha Awardees

The Kong Ha Award was handed out for the first time at the BAQ 2008 conference to Mr. Shi Han Min, director of Beijing's Environmental Protection Bureau, for leading efforts to clean up the capital's air for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. The recipient of the Kong Ha Award 2010 was Mr. Ahmad Safrudin (better known as 'Puput') who was a key figure in the campaign for measures to address air pollution in Jakarta through advocacy programs and stakeholder involvement. In 2012, the Kong Ha Award was presented to Dr. Mukesh Sharma who was instrumental in the inclusion of new

parameters (ozone, arsenic, nickel, benzene and benzo(a)pyrene) to India's Revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards in 2009. More recently in 2014, the Award was given to Dr. B.M.S. Batagoda for his work in air quality management which helped Sri Lanka achieve tremendous results in improving air quality through wider and effective stakeholder participation.

Award Incentive

The Kong Ha Award consists of a cash prize of US\$ 10,000 and a commemorative plaque and is handed out at the biennial Better Air Quality conferences. Clean Air Asia will furthermore assist the prize winner to identify suitable learning opportunities to enable the winner of the award to deepen his or her knowledge and forge more partnerships.

Criteria

The winner is selected based on the following criteria:

1. Proven track record in getting things done
2. Ability to build strong multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of policy formulation and implementation
3. Technical excellence
4. Demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to working for better air quality and a role model
5. Creativity and innovation



Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana

2016 Kong Ha Awardee

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana – a scientist and practitioner who is deeply committed to better air quality and scientific excellence, and who has deep concern and passion for those affected by air pollution – is the winner of the 2016 Kong Ha award!

Dr Supat has been instrumental in, and responsible for, air quality improvements in Thailand and throughout Asia. He has worked tirelessly to institutionalize air quality management in Thailand and is an esteemed role model for air quality management scientists and practitioners in cities and countries across Asia. His commitment to educating and training young people is unparalleled and is based on his personal belief about the need to prepare future generations to safeguard the environment.

Dr Supat served in the Thai government for more than 30 years with the Office of National Environment Board, the Pollution Control Department (PCD), and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality Policy and Planning (ONEP). He was Director-General of the PCD for five years, and his last government post was Secretary-General of the ONEP.

As Director-General of the PCD, his responsibilities expanded to include not only air pollution, but also all other pollution issues at national and international levels, such as wastewater, solid waste, hazardous waste and chemicals.

Dr Supat has also long been involved in climate change mitigation, representing Thailand in negotiations on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in early

1990. As Secretary-General of the ONEP, he led the Thai delegation to COP17 /CMP7 in 2011 and was a member of the Board of the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization. He has also been a member of the Scientific Advisory Panel of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition since 2013.

Dr Supat has been involved in a range of international initiatives, networks, programs and conventions. He was Chair of the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (now Clean Air Asia) and Chair of the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network. He represented Thailand in a number of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Stockholm Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Basel Convention, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the UNFCCC, the ASEAN Haze Agreement, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), and the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in East and Southeast Asian Countries. He is currently Co-Chair of the Asian Co-benefits Partnership.

Dr Supat joined the Regional Resources Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) in 2012 as EANET Secretariat Coordinator. He is presently RRC.AP's Senior Policy and Technical Advisor. In 2015, he was awarded an EANET Award of Recognition for his involvement in and contribution to EANET since its inception in early 1990.

With his unbridled enthusiasm, relentless commitment, extensive knowledge and strong sense of partnership, Dr Supat truly embodies the spirit of the Kong Ha award and is a worthy recipient of this honor.