



New Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership Launched

08 August 2014, SAN FRANCISCO—The Cities Clean Air Partnership (CCAP) was launched today during a press conference hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). It was attended by the U.S. EPA Region 9, the Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration (EPAT) and Clean Air Asia.

Clean Air Asia is developing the CCAP, envisioned to be a 3-year program that will reduce air pollution and its impacts in Asian cities through a strategy of facilitating city-to-city partnerships in air quality management efforts as well as voluntary city certification. These partnerships will be aimed at fostering collaboration and learning among participating cities while the city certification will be aimed at creating incentives for cities to progress towards better air quality. The U.S. EPA, EPAT, South Coast Air District, Bay Area District and the California Public Utilities Commission are the initial partners in creating this new framework of cooperation, which will be an open initiative involving more participating cities and donors in the future.

The initiative comes at the wake of the rising costs of air pollution, which is now the “largest single environmental risk” according to the World Health Organization. WHO estimates on premature deaths caused by air pollution have doubled as air pollution was responsible for one in eight premature deaths in 2012, claiming over 7 million lives.

“We can only significantly impact upon and reduce the problem of air pollution through meaningful and effective partnerships among cities, which is the driving principle of the CCAP,” said Clean Air Asia Executive Director Bjarne Pedersen. This is a landmark initiative towards air pollution prevention and control in Asia. We are looking forward to both delivering real impacts under this pioneering initiative as well as bringing more partners onboard.”

The press conference was held at the Crissy Field, West Bluff Amphitheater of the Golden Gate National Park.

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Clean Air Asia was established in 2001 as the premier air quality network for Asia by the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and USAID. Its mission is to promote better air quality and livable cities by translating knowledge to policies and actions that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from transport, energy and other sectors. For more information log on to www.cleanairasia.org.

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