

KnowledgeAir: Capturing and Transferring Air Quality Management Knowledge in Asia

Since its inception, the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities has transformed from a loose partnership and network of organizations and individuals exchanging information on air quality management (AQM) to becoming the source or broker of AQM-relevant information in Asia. Despite CAI-Asia's previous website (www.cleanairnet.org/cai-asia) receiving high hits in search engines and its mailing list (CAI-Asia Listserv) having active communication exchanges between its 1200 members, these two knowledge platforms were not enough to maximize the current trends in Information Technology.

Objective

The Knowledge Air Project (Official title TA 6510: Capturing and Transferring Air Quality Management Knowledge in Asia) responded to the need for an improved knowledge transfer and sharing on air quality management in Asia. With the decision-makers and stakeholders who influence them as the main targets, KnowledgeAir completed two main components that will ensure access and effective use of knowledge on AQM and related issues: creation and maintenance of the **Clean Air Portal** and two **Communities of Practice (CoPs)**. Three policy case studies at the sub-regional, national, and city levels were also conducted using the Portal and the CoPs to demonstrate how information and communications technology (ICT) can help in policy formulation. This resulted in the **Policy Case Studies Report** as the main publication under KnowledgeAir, which was launched by ADB in November 2010.

Clean Air Portal (www.cleanairinitiative.org)



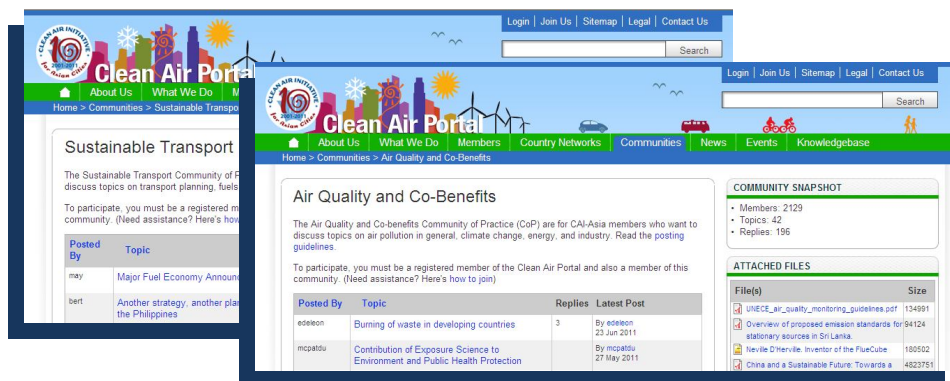
The Clean Air Portal (www.cleanairinitiative.org) and its associated websites provide information and data on air quality, climate change, energy and transport tailored to three key AQM stakeholder groups in Asia - policy/decision makers, practitioners, and the public in general. The Clean Air Portal allows search by country, by topic or by type of information (e.g. report, project, message, news, etc). The Portal also includes news, events, photos, videos and tools relating to AQM.

Associated websites of the Clean Air Portal include:

- CitiesACT (www.citiesact.org) - online database on statistics for air quality, climate change, energy and transport
- Green Freight and Logistics website - (www.greenfreightandlogistics.org) - access to information on policies and programs, technologies and logistics and data relevant to the freight sector, especially for developing countries
- Clean Air at Mega-Events (www.megaevents.cleanairinitiative.org) - website dedicated to documenting AQM related information that will provide guidance to cities hosting mega-events.
- Facebook (www.facebook.com/CAI.ASIA) - CAI-Asia's social networking account that allows CAI-Asia to directly disseminate to stakeholder individuals and organizations

Communities of Practice (CoP)

CAI-Asia's online Communities of Practice (CoPs) provide an effective forum for stakeholders and practitioners to share information which can be easily accessed and archived compared to traditional mailing lists. CAI-Asia currently maintains the Air Quality and Co-benefits CoP and the Sustainable Transport CoP. As

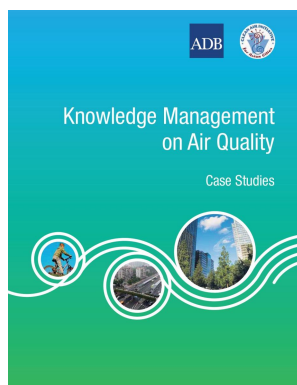


messages can be tagged with specific topics or countries, messages from CoPs can easily be searched and retrieved.

To test the Usefulness of the Clean Air Portal and the Communities of Practice, the project also implemented 3 policy case studies -

- city-level: Sustainable Transport Strategy for Kathmandu ;
- national level: Stationary Source Emissions Standards for Sri Lanka; and
- regional level: implementation of the Clean Air Scorecard in Southeast Asian Cities (Bangkok, Jakarta and Manila).

Policy Case Studies Report



The three policy case studies found that ICT can support the policy development process by improving participation in the policy process, shortening the timeframe for consultation, increasing transparency, maximizing stakeholder ownership and awareness, and providing opportunities to transfer policy making responsibilities to a younger generation of policymakers.

The Policy Case Studies report was launched in November 2010 at the Better Air Quality conference to government officials and other stakeholders, and presented to the media, including dissemination of the report itself, and will be further disseminated as part of ADB and CAI-Asia's future activities.

Knowledge Management Advisory Group (KMAG)

To ensure that the Portal effectively aligns knowledge management activities from different CAI-Asia members and other relevant institutions, thus a Knowledge Management Advisory Group was established. KMAG consisting of representatives from ADB, CAI-Asia, Clean Air Initiative of Latin American Cities, Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, GIZ, Institute for Global Environment Strategies, USAID and the World Bank.

Supported by: Asian Development Bank through the Japan Special Fund (JSF)

For inquiries: May Ajero, may.ajero@cai-asia.org

CAI-Asia, 2011. "Project Summary No. 19 – KnowledgeAir". Pasig City, Philippines.

<http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/KnowledgeAir>



CAI-Asia Center
Unit 3505
Robinsons-Equitable Tower
ADB Avenue, Pasig City, 1605
Metro Manila, Philippines
center@cai-asia.org

CAI-Asia China Office
901A, Reignwood Building
No.8 YongAnDongLi
Jianguomenwai Avenue
Beijing 100022 China
cpo@cai-asia.org

CAI-Asia India Office
257 Regus Elegance
Elegance Tower, Jasola
New Delhi – 110025, India
India@cai-asia.org

Country Networks
China • India
Indonesia • Nepal
Pakistan • Philippines
Sri Lanka • Vietnam