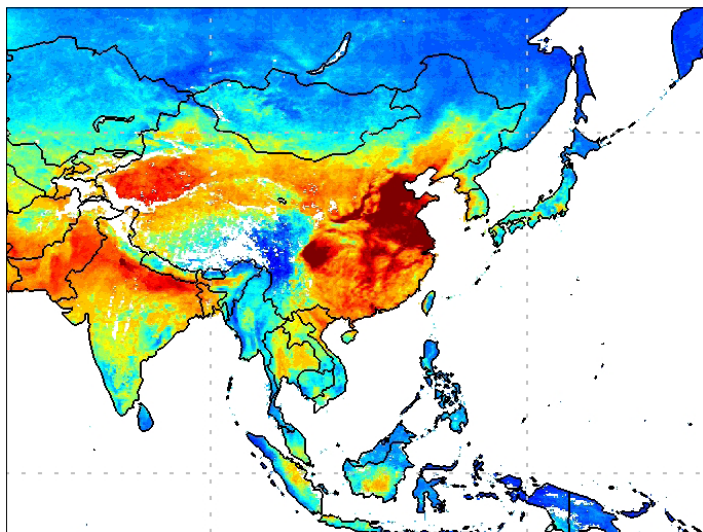
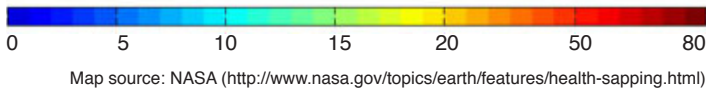


Mitigating Transboundary Air Pollution in North-East Asia

A challenge that requires subregional cooperation



Satellite-derived map of PM_{2.5} averaged over 2001-2006

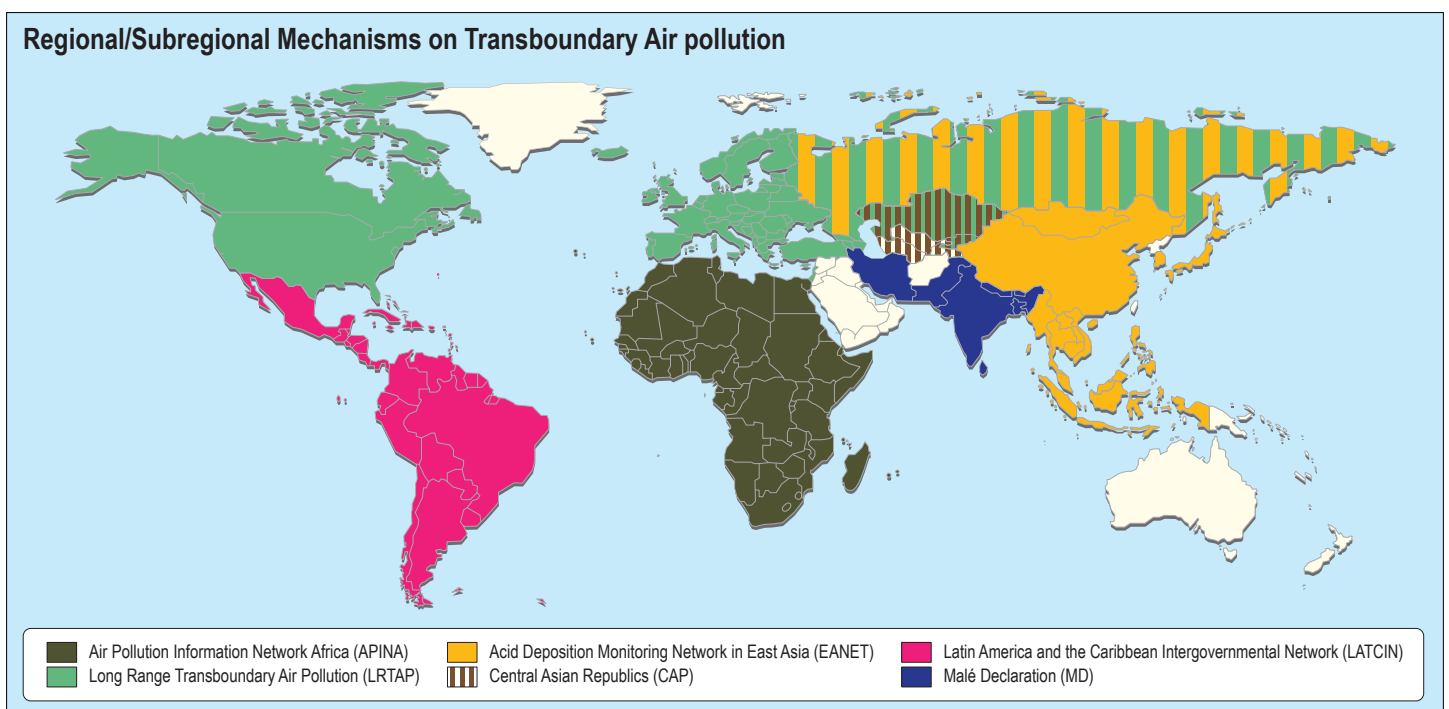


Transboundary air pollution (TAP) has been recognized as one of the most serious environmental challenges in North-East Asia (NEA) due to a range of factors such as geographical proximity of member countries, increasing energy consumption, and lack of technology as well as inadequacy of comprehensive regional framework in addressing the problem.

Having recognized the consequences of air pollution, the subregion has acted on the issue at national and local levels. There has been considerable progress in reducing some air pollutants, for example, China reduced SO₂ emissions from electric power generation by 31.4% from 2005 to 2010.

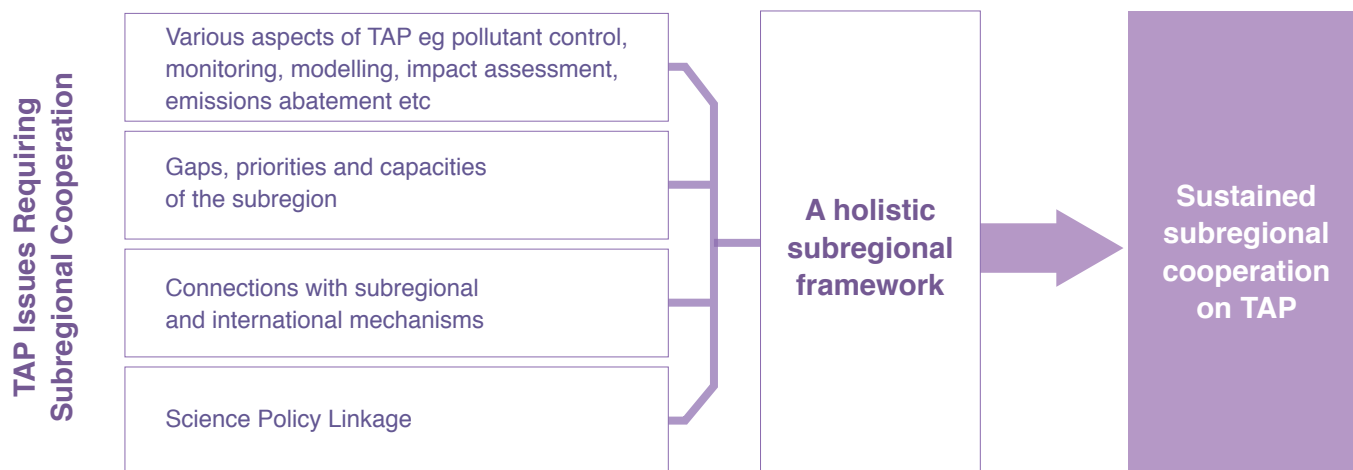
Aside from SO₂ emissions, however, North-East Asia also faces challenges of other air pollutants including fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Moreover, many NEA cities have recently experienced sharp peaks of extremely high level of air pollution, especially, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in relatively short periods of time due to the combination of increasing emissions of pollutants and unfavorable weather conditions. It has become evident that air pollution directly contributes to huge economic and health burden.

Regional/Subregional Mechanisms on Transboundary Air pollution

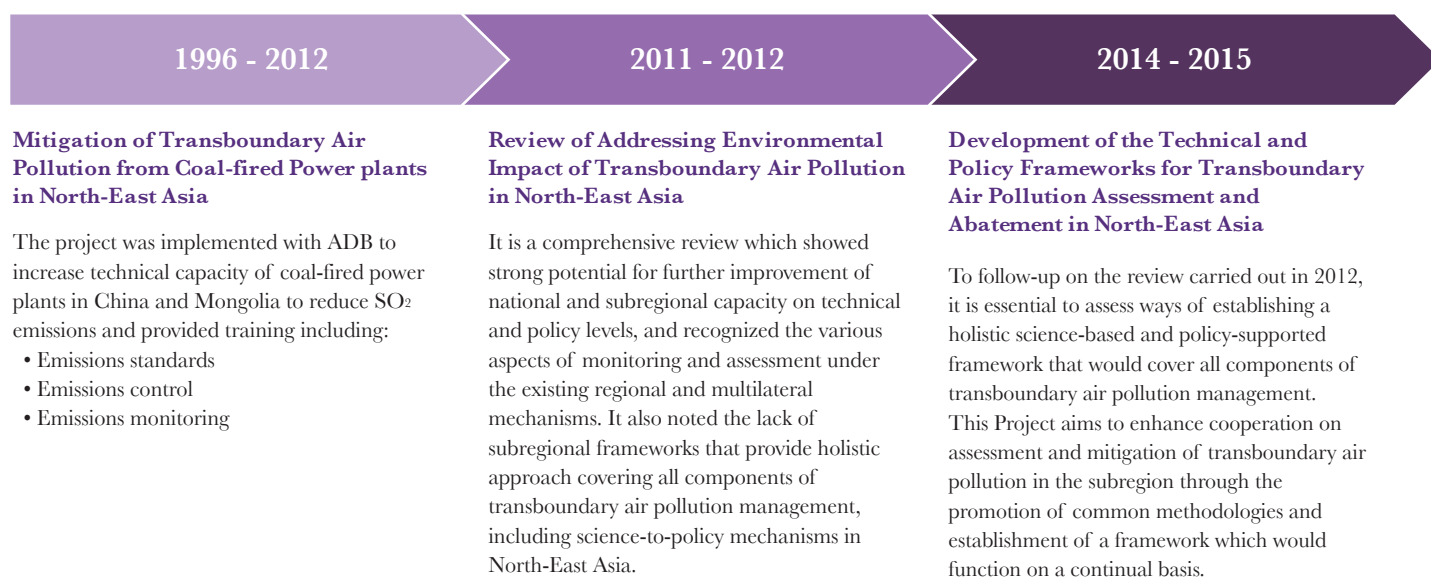


All NEA countries are sources as well as receptors of TAP. A holistic and systematic approach is needed to bring NEA countries to work closely with each other, and to provide the basis of sustained commitment on subregional cooperation. The NEASPEC TAP project in 2014 and 2015 therefore works on creating a subregional framework that addresses both science and policy aspects of TAP.

NEASPEC TAP Project Concept



NEASPEC has acted on the evolving needs in mitigating TAP overtime:



NEASPEC was launched in 1993 as a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation mechanism comprising all six North-East Asian countries, namely, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation.

UNESCAP-ENEA Office functions as the Secretariat.

Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) is held annually as the governing body and principal vehicle for the evolution of NEASPEC.

NEASPEC works on



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