

Draft Concept Note

NEACAP Second Policy Dialogue

Blue Sky Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

14:00-17:45, 23 September 2025

Background

The North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP), a flagship initiative under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), is dedicated to addressing air pollution challenges in the North-East Asia through enhanced science-policy integration and regional cooperation.

Following the first NEACAP Policy Dialogue held on 23 September 2024 which provided a platform to discuss initial findings from the draft NEACAP Policy Analysis Report, the Second Dialogue will take place on 23 September 2025 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The event will be organized in conjunction with the 28th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-28) of NEASPEC, bringing together policy makers, technical experts, and representatives from international and regional organizations to deepen the regional discourse on clean air cooperation.

Objectives

The primary objective of the Second NEACAP Policy Dialogue is to engage policymakers and stakeholders from NEASPEC member States in substantive discussions that can inform concrete policy actions and strategic collaborations. The dialogue will also provide an avenue for outreach, disseminating the key messages and recommendations of the NEACAP Policy Analysis Report titled "*Success and Challenges in Addressing Air Pollution in North-East Asia: A Call to Strengthen Regional Collaboration*", a joint research effort under NEASPEC.

Specific objectives include:

- Showcasing national achievements in air quality management, highlighting key milestones and policy innovations achieved over the past decades.
- Facilitating knowledge exchange among experts, practitioners, and policymakers by sharing experiences, lessons learned, and emerging solutions.

- Identifying practical steps and future initiatives to inform the implementation of the NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030¹, including policy priorities and collaborative mechanisms.

In the next five years, the NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030 will build on the notable progress made in implementing the first five-year Work Plan (2021-2025) and will aim to further develop NEACAP to be a fully functioning platform facilitating strategic and effective cooperation in addressing air pollution challenges in North-East Asia, with the support of the NEACAP Science and Policy Committee and designated Technical Centers.

The Work Plan's envisaged outputs include: (i) strengthening information exchange through cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation to support member countries improve air quality; (ii) increasing technical collaboration and capacity building assistance through designated Technical Centers; (iii) strengthening collective and transformative actions through joint research focusing on coordinating strategy for improving air quality management and its synergies with climate strategies; and (iv) strengthening synergies with existing collaborative programmes and mechanisms (multilateral, regional, global) on air pollution through joint projects.

Participants and Structure

The dialogue will bring together a broad range of participants, including:

- Government officials responsible for air pollution policy
- NEACAP SPC members and representatives from designated Technical Centers
- Experts from academia and research institutions.
- Representatives of regional and international organizations and stakeholders working on air pollution and environment issues.

Session participants will be provided with session guiding questions for reference in preparing presentations and interventions.

¹ The draft NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030 was extensively discussed and finalized at the 7th Meeting of the Science and Policy Committee (SPC) on 14-15 July 2025 for approval at SOM-28. The draft will be disseminated to NEASPEC member States for early consideration as part of the SOM-28 document set.

Indicative Programme

Time	Sessions
13:30-14:00	<i>Registration</i>
14:00-14:15 (15 mins)	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office • Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia (as SOM-28 Country Chair)
14:15-14:30 (15 mins)	Scene Setting: NEACAP Policy Analysis Report – Highlights and Recommendations <p>The scene-setting presentation will highlight the key messages and recommendations of the NEACAP Policy Analysis Report "<i>Success and Challenges in Addressing Air Pollution in North-East Asia: A Call to Strengthen Regional Collaboration</i>".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Zbigniew Klimont (Report Project Lead)
14:30-15:45 (75 mins)	Session 1: Addressing Air Pollution – Country Achievements and National Perspectives <p>The session will feature presentations from NEASPEC member States on national efforts and best practices in addressing air pollution as well as highlight entry points for joint collaborations in the subregion, in line with the NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country presentations (50 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ China ○ Japan ○ Republic of Korea ○ Mongolia ○ Russian Federation • Interactive discussions and Q&A (25 mins)
15:45-16:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:15-17:30 (75 mins)	Session 2: Air Quality Management and its Synergies with Climate Strategies – Reflections and Collaborations <p>The draft NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030 acknowledges that the interlinkages between air pollution and climate are increasingly</p>

Time	Sessions
	<p>recognized as critical areas for integrated action. To this end, the moderated roundtable discussion will feature exchanges among multi-stakeholders on air quality management and its synergies with climate strategies, which is also a priority area of the Work Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderated roundtable discussion among stakeholders (60 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local government: Representative from Ulaanbaatar City Government ○ Partnership: Climate and Clean Air Coalition ○ NGO: Clean Air Asia ○ IO: GGGI ○ Private Sector: Clean Air Fund • Open floor and Q&A (15 mins)
17:30-17:45 (15 mins)	<p>Wrap-Up / Next Steps and Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) • Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia (as SOM-28 Country Chair)
17:45-18:15	<i>Networking</i>